



# EBRINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

March 2022 Newsletter

## World Down Syndrome Day

We will be having our '**Odd Socks Day**' on **Monday 21 March 2022**, in recognition of World Down Syndrome Day. **Foyle Down Syndrome Trust is one of our nominated charities for the year and we are asking each pupil to bring in £1 on the day.** We have developed links with FDST in recent years, and have had some of their young leaders engage with our school pupils in school on healthy living projects. Our current P6B class will attend a celebration event in the Guildhall on this day, along with the Mayor. The Mayor will then also visit school after the event to meet some classes.



## SchoolMoney App

We have had an increasing number of families who have not booked dinners on time on the SchoolMoney system. Please remember, **meals should be booked the previous day before required (system closes at 11:59pm).** Also please ensure meals are paid for at the correct time to avoid large 'monies owing' amounts to develop.



As we have increased our range of after school activities, there seems to be a little confusion with online bookings. Please ensure you book EITHER the activity that your child is to attend OR ordinary after school club, if not attending the activity. A number of families have double booked on the system, and have been charged twice.

Booking for after school clubs needs to be done by the Thursday night (8:00pm) prior to when the provision is required.

If your child is booked for after school club, any absences need to be reported to school to ensure that staff in the club are aware your child is not attending.

There can be no refunds for block bookings if your child is absent from school, or you/ your child decides to no longer attend a club. As I am sure you understand, we have a number of external facilitators brought in for this and costings need worked out at the start of a session block.

## School Closure-St Patricks Day

A reminder that **school is closed this Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> March** for St Patrick's Day. School opens again on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March.



## Ukrainian Appeal

I wish to say a huge **THANK YOU** to our school community for the amazing support of our Ukrainian appeal last week. I was truly overwhelmed with the generosity of so many at a time when many of our own families are facing various cost of living pressures.

We managed to fill a minibus with all the items, which were then transferred to CFC Interiors and we have been informed that they have been transported onwards to Poland.



## School Times:

**A REMINDER** that school starts for pupils at 8:55am, with doors open from 8:40am.

I am seeing a worrying trend of increasing numbers of pupils arriving at the front office between 9:00-9:15am. They are very often the same pupils with little or no reason for being late. This means that we have pupils who could be missing 1+ hour of teaching each week.

Please ensure that all pupils are in school, ready for learning by 8:55am.



## School Website

Please remember to check out the school website for calendar dates and events. As we have now uploaded our 2022-2023 calendar, please ensure you are reading the dates off the correct academic year



[www.ebringtonps.co.uk](http://www.ebringtonps.co.uk)

## Car Parking

Without wanting to sound repetitive, can we please ensure safe and responsible driving on the school grounds, with all drivers being observant of pedestrians and vehicles. I am aware of one minor incident and a number of near misses in recent weeks.

**A REMINDER** that the lower school car park for 'park-up' traffic should be limited to blue badge holders, parents of SEN pupils who require being taken to class, registered childminders or any family who have made contact with school regarding a particular issue and have supplied car make and registration. All other traffic on site should be 'drop-off only'. All other parking should be at the Nelson Drive entry. I would like to remind parents that we are one of a very limited number of schools who allow parent vehicle access on site. I would also like to encourage more active travel, as we approach Easter and the summer term.

There should be **NO PARENTAL TRAFFIC** in the staff parking area down towards the Nursery. Text reminders have gone out to parents, but there are still a number of parents who seem to ignore this. A number of registrations have been recorded in recent days. Please refrain from continuing this to save embarrassment of being approached by staff.

This is an area for staff vehicles (which only leave after all pupils have left class) and for pedestrian access at morning and home times. This is an area where we have a considerable number of young pupils exiting classes onto school grounds. We have had a couple of close calls of cars missing/ not seeing pupils. **I DO NOT want to be having to make a call to emergency services due to an accident involving any member of our school community.**

I would like to thank all parents who continue to follow school guidelines.

### **Walled City Passion Event**

We are just delighted to share what Ebrington has been waiting for.... for too long... The opportunity to sing again as a choir 🎵🎸🎹

In recent weeks, Ebrington Choir were especially chosen along with a number of other schools to take part in the Walled City Passion event. They braved the elements as they had their visual recording in a rather wind-swept Ebrington Square, as well as joining with Foyle College for the audio recording which was used for all schools to perform to!

We are very proud of all the boys and girls involved. Our school community can check us out on RTE One on Easter Sunday at 10.30pm and also BBC iPlayer and RTE Player in Good Friday at 4.30pm.



### **Covid Guidance and Illness in Schools**

I want to ensure parents that we are continuing with the majority of ongoing mitigations to ensure the safety of our school community. As society guidelines have eased, we have seen a marked increase in positive Covid cases, and this has resulted in increased pupil and staff absence, putting further pressures on school to ensure continuity in the curriculum and learning and teaching. The last 3-4 weeks have been especially challenging. Could I please remind you all of the importance of not sending your child to school if unwell. If displaying Covid symptoms, we recommend LFD/ PCR testing. We still have all the other normal 'sickness' bouts also.

***Thank you for your continued support at this challenging time.  
Mr Guthrie***