



# EBRINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

## January 2024 Newsletter

### Happy New Year

Welcome back to school. We hope you enjoyed the break and feel refreshed and ready to start another busy term. May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a prosperous and peaceful New Year.

### Christmas Carol Service & Concerts

Our school Carol Service and all the school concerts were a great success during December. It was wonderful to be able to welcome so many of our parents, family and friends to these events. Thank you for your generous donations at the end of each. In total, we raised the fantastic amount of £ 1611. This is a fantastic amount, and will be shared between 'Time for Ewe', a charity set up in memory of Alex Smallwoods and the Royal Belfast Children's Hospital for sick children.

### A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION-Punctuality/Attendance.



In most cases, our pupils come to school on time every day. In making sure they do, you are helping to establish good practice for the future. Patterns of lateness and absence that start in primary school can end up in truancy in post-primary school and "hard to break habits" for the work place. So please make sure you HELP your child by:

- Being firm about bedtimes.
- Encouraging them to prepare the night before, those items they will need for school the next day.
- Making sure they are in time to have breakfast and to leave the house promptly.

**REMEMBER: SCHOOL COMMENCES AT 8.50 am. Pod doors are open from 8:40pm. If a parent needs to speak to a teacher, in the morning time as school is starting is not the appropriate time to do it. Please ensure you come earlier to school with your child if a message needs passed forward.**

**Please see % attendance figures. An attendance report will shortly be issued for each pupil.**

100% Attendance		0 days missed	Excellent
95% Attendance		9 days of absence 1 week and 4 days of learning missed	Satisfactory
90% Attendance		19 days of absence 3 weeks and 4 days of learning missed	Poor
85% Attendance		28 days of absence 5 weeks and 3 days of learning missed	Very poor
80% Attendance		38 days of absence 7 weeks and 3 days of learning missed	Unacceptable
75% Attendance		46 days of absence 9 weeks and 1 day of learning missed	Unacceptable

## Primary 6 & 7-OPEN NIGHTS

Could I remind parents of Yr 7 and Yr 6 pupils that our local post-primary schools are holding "Open Nights" and "Information Days" for parents and pupils this month. Further details on the Transfer Procedure for both P6 parents & P7 parents will follow shortly.



**Lisneal College-Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January**, principal address 6:30pm and 7:00pm

**Lumen Christi College-Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January**, 4:00-6:30pm

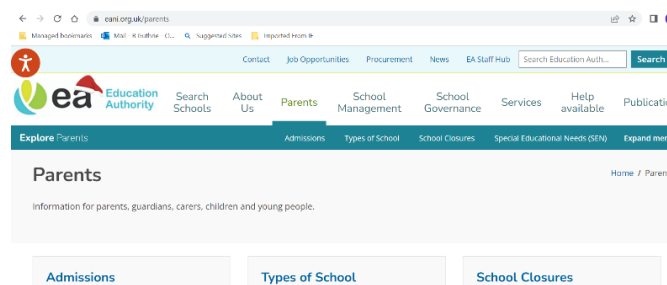
**Foyle College-Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January**, 6:00pm arrival for P7s, 6:45pm arrival for P6s

**Oakgrove Integrated College- Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January** 4:30pm-6:00pm

## Application Portals-Nursery, Primary 1 and Year 8

Application portals are now open for all pupils to apply for a place in Nursery, Primary 1 (current Nursery) and Year 8 (current P7)

The EA Admissions 'portal' can be found at [www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions](http://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions), and will open for applications for both Ebrington PS and Ebrington NU from **9<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> January 2024**.



For parents new to this process, this means parents making the application directly to EA, without involvement of school. An account needs to be set up with the portal and can be done prior to 9<sup>th</sup> January.

**Could I also make clear that, even if your child has attended our Nursery Unit, you MUST make an application for the primary school.** Please do not be confused by wording on the online portal about 'reception class'.

**Post Primary Applications (our current Primary 7 pupils) for school year beginning September 2024 will open on Tuesday 30 January 2024 at 12 noon.**

For our current Primary 6 pupils, we will be holding a post primary transfer meeting in school before the end of February. I know some parents are keen to understand the process, particularly those who haven't been through it before. It is most beneficial to have our current P7 pupils through the application process, as more accurate information should be available at the later stage.

## Primary 2 'Extended Hours'

**REMINDER:** P2 pupils now stay in school on a Monday-Thursday until 3:00pm, but continue to finish on a Friday at 2:00pm, as is the case for the rest of the school.

## Parent-Teacher interviews

A letter with more detailed information will be issued home this week regarding parent interviews for our pupils, coming up in the next few weeks. Please complete the appropriate time slots that would suit you and return to the teacher, once received.



## Regular hair checks

I would encourage parents to carry out regular hair checks for 'visitors'. Often, on return to school after a break, there may be a good chance of these visitors appearing. They can be removed by wet combing with a special fine-toothed comb. You should try this method first:

- wash hair with ordinary shampoo
- apply lots of conditioner (any conditioner will do)
- comb the whole head of hair, from the roots to the ends

## After Schools Clubs

Under no circumstances can pupils any longer be added on to the after-school lists during the week, due to appropriate adult: pupil ratios, because of a late/ forgotten booking.

Please ensure that you book at the correct time, by 11:59pm on the Sunday night for the following week.

This will save any embarrassment of a refusal when phoning in to the school office staff.

During the autumn term, we had far too many parents phoning on a daily 'ad hoc' basis, looking to book for that day. This simply will no longer be accommodated.



## School Christmas Raffle

Our school Christmas raffle this year brought in a profit of £1036. Thank you to everyone who supported the raffle by either donating items for prizes or by buying tickets. This money will be used to purchase some essential items for throughout school.



## Car Park

I wish to pass on a huge THANK YOU to so many of you who have followed our guidance with regards to parking and drop off. I know it places a small additional pressure of time in the morning for some families, but it has been fantastic to see the vast majority of parents keeping the lower area free for drop offs, pedestrians, staff cars, taxis and those with mobility issues who have previously contacted school-both in the morning and afternoon. Please continue to follow this.

**\*\*REMINDER\*\***

**NO parent cars should be driving down the side of school towards the Nursery, as this is an exit for pupils at various points of the school day.**

**NO cars should be parked on the double yellow lines within the school site.**

