



Welcome to The Messenger as we fast approach the Christmas season and the busy term ahead.

**P1 Admissions for Sept 2022, Open Afternoon 7<sup>th</sup> December** - If you are a parent who has a child ready to begin school in September, please come along to our Open Afternoon between 3-5pm on the 7<sup>th</sup> December. Alternatively, if you are aware of anyone who has a child in this age group, please let them know. Appointments to attend can be made by phoning the school office. Visiting families will have the opportunity to tour the school, see our facilities and meet the staff. Applications will be online as in previous years. More details will be posted on the school website later in November. We look forward to welcoming you and your child to our School.

**Jewellery** – Children are only permitted to wear stud earrings which, for health and safety reasons, **must** be removed for PE. It is the parent's responsibility to remove the earrings before the child comes to school.

**Healthy Eating** – Please encourage your child(ren) to eat healthily at break and lunch time. Breaks should be bread based, with fruit or vegetable snacks. Drinking water in class helps with concentration, therefore only water is permitted to drink during the day. Pupils should bring water (not fizzy or flavoured) to school in a CLEAR bottle. Bottled water can be bought in school at a cost of £2.50 each. Please note that we are a **Nut Free School**.

**Confidentiality** - Please note that School Staff are unable to discuss anything from a school level to parents outside their workplace. We would also encourage limited personal dialogue about your child at the school gate between teachers and parents to ensure the utmost confidentiality for your child. Should you have a concern, please ask the teacher to ring you, or they will organize a meeting. Appointments to speak to your child's teacher can be made by phoning the School Office.

**NSPCC Safeguarding** - Our School has signed up for the NSPCC Safeguarding Programme for P1 to P7 classes which will be rolling out in Assembly in the New Year. During October and continuing into November, the School has been visited by the PSNI who has spoken to the children on the topics of Fireworks, PANTS (NSPCC Campaign), Bullying and Cyber Bullying. The children have greatly enjoyed these visits and we look forward to their continuation.

**Shopping Online through [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk)** – Please use Easy Fundraising as you shop online especially in the Christmas rush as we purchase a little more than usual. By using this site or App, money is donated to our School each time you shop. Please register with [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) and select Maghera Primary School as your cause. Next time you shop online do it via the Easy Fundraising page. The School does not receive any personal information such as where and what you have purchased. Help raise funds for School and it won't cost you a penny!

**Covid-19 REMINDER** - Should your child exhibit any Covid symptoms, dry cough, temperature, loss of taste and smell, or feel generally unwell, do not send your child to School. Parents should also remember to socially distance and preferably wear face masks when delivering and collecting children at the School gates to minimize infection. We ask that you help to prevent spread of Covid 19 in School and community, and as such, minimize disruption with School.

PHA are now completing all Track and Trace in schools. You will therefore not be contacted by the school and asked to isolate and test. If this is necessary, you will instead be contacted by the PHA. A 'warn and inform' letter from the School will notify you if a positive case has arisen.

**Site Safety** Due to Health and Safety concerns parents **should not** park in the Staff Car Park. Please collect your child at the School gate and not in the carpark. At drop off times in the morning, P1 and P2 pupils should be walked to the School gate, or to the class door if they are late, to ensure a safe handover for your child to staff members. Thank you also to parents who have refrained from smoking at the School gate, in line with EA regulations.

**Christmas Hamper Appeal** Our Parents Support Group has decided to continue our very popular annual Christmas Hamper Raffle. It would be greatly appreciated if you could please donate food items in support of the Christmas Hamper School fundraiser. The finished Hampers will be raffled, and the monies gained through this will be used to purchase ICT equipment for the School.

*We would like to express our thanks and gratitude to parents and families who collected and donated to our recent Sponsored walk, raising the grand sum of £2,080.*

*Thank you also to those who kindly donated to the Poppy Appeal, and those brought into School filled shoeboxes in response to the Operation Christmas Child collection.*

*On a different note, thank you to Mrs Agnes Lamont and Mrs Deborah Graham who has kindly donated her time and gardening expertise in maintaining the School gardens.*

*Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated as always.*



### DIARY DATES

3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Daily Mile Santa run, wearing Christmas Jumper/Santa hat
7 <sup>th</sup> December	P1 Enrolment Open Evening by appointment only (in line with Covid Regulations) between 3pm and 5pm
10 <sup>th</sup> December	Cinema Trip for P1 to P3
14 <sup>th</sup> December	All School Panto visit to Millennium Forum to view Sleeping Beauty
16 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day at a cost of £1 for Cancer Fund for Children

### Christmas Performances –

9 <sup>th</sup> December	P1/P2 and P3/4 Performances
15 <sup>th</sup> December	P5/6 and P7 Performances