

Killylea Primary School

Small School...BIG opportunities!

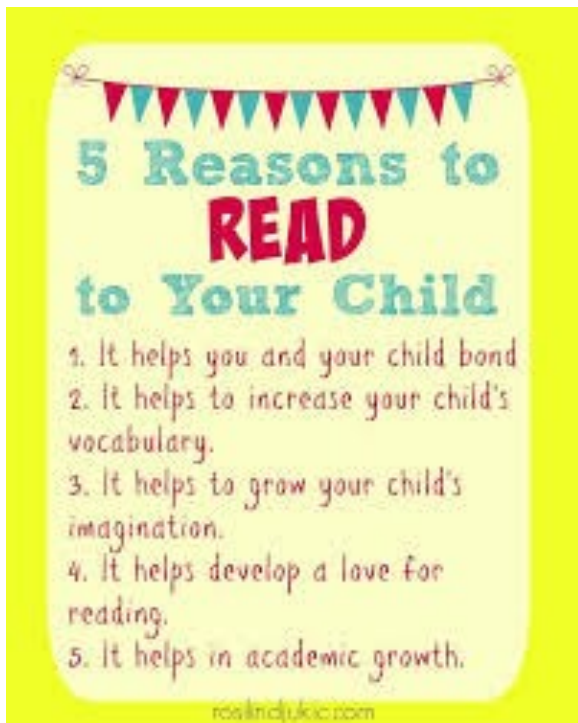


Newsletter

October 2024

POUNDS FOR BOOKS

This year we are fundraising for books for our class libraries to help inspire and embed a love of reading in our pupils. We encourage parents to support reading at home by ensuring reading homeworks are completed, reading to your child and visiting the library.



SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING



This year we will be developing our 3 year School Development Plan.

A crucial part of that is consulting with all our keys stakeholders [pupils, parents and staff] to find out what we are doing well and what we can develop or improve further.

Look out for opportunities after half term to participate. Your views are very important to us.

Extra– Curricular Activities - Autumn Term 2

MON	2-3pm	Boot Camp P1-3
	3 – 4pm	Boot Camp P4-7/ Chatterbox
TUES	2-3pm	Lego Club P1-3
	3-4pm	Lego/K-nex Club P4-7/ Chatterbox
WED	2-3pm	Movie Buffs P1-3
	3 – 4pm	Movie Buffs P4-7/ Chatterbox
THUR	2-3pm	Football P1-3 / Staylate
	3 – 4pm	Football P4-7/ Chatterbox
FRI	2-3pm	Staylate
	3 – 4pm	Chatterbox

NOTE CHANGES

Please note that due to staff availability

StayLate is NO longer being offered on Mon, Tues or Wed.

STAFF CHANGES

The Board of Governors have granted Mrs Lowry permission to reduce her days in school to 3 days per week from 1st November 2024 until June 2026.

Accordingly, the teacher in charge will be:

- Wednesday—Miss Graham
- Friday—Mrs Ewart



CASH FOR CLOBBER COLLECTION

We are raising funds for our Pounds for Books appeal through a Cash 4 Clobber collection. Please leave bags into school by Tuesday 5th November. The Hallowe'en holidays might be a good time to finally sort through those bulging wardrobes [we all have them!] Please send in : Shoes, clothes [any condition], blankets, old towels, duvet covers etc. We would be grateful if you could please share this with family and neighbours.



PARENTAL SUPPORT

We are all aware of the continuing financial pressures on everyone, including schools. We endeavour to take this into account when we ask parents to contribute to school funds, events and fundraising. Parental contributions through the School Fund and our annual sponsored walk are used to support our weekly Healthy Kids sessions and hockey coaching for all our pupils with the school topping up the difference. We are often asked why teachers do not take PE sessions and why we are “charging” parents for an area of the curriculum. We use the time pupils are at Healthy Kids for teacher planning and preparation time—this is a valuable time in hectic classroom environments with increasing individual pupil needs. The coaches are fully qualified and are able to offer high quality experiences for our pupils. We use our annual sponsored walk as an opportunity for families to raise the £25 per pupil cost. We feel this is good value for money and works out at 70p per session. P1 parents are asked to contribute £2.50 each month for the first year. NO child will be discriminated against if the parent does not wish to contribute but without sufficient parental support, we may not be able to offer these valuable opportunities for our pupils.

Throughout the year, we do not ask parents to contribute to costs of trips eg Well-being trip to Rossmore Park, Dyan Mill, Armagh Museum, hockey tournament etc. or for special events eg Wee Critters. All pupils in receipt of free school meals can avail of free Breakfast Club and 1 free extra-curricular club each week.

SHARING GOOD PRACTICE

Killylea PS continues to uphold its reputation as a sector leader in Outdoor Learning. This half-term, we have supported over 400 schools across N. Ireland by facilitating two teacher webinars on behalf of the Education Authority in “Developing Engaging Play Based Learning Opportunities”.



Feedback from the sessions included “...food for thought. Hope I can let go of the control and change some of my traditional ways”, “extremely well presented and informative session”, “I’m excited to start building on this”.

We also facilitated an outdoor play visit to watch our Foundation Stage pupils in action, with around 40 Early Years students from the SRC Armagh, who may be potential classroom assistants and teachers of the future.

SANTA SUPPER

Preparations are well underway for our main PTA fundraising event—our **Supper with Santa**. Tickets are well priced at £5 adult and £8 per child. Book asap via Parent Pay as spaces are limited. We will operate a queueing system on the night but while you wait there will be plenty of activities and food in the hall for a fun filled evening! Santa is kindly setting up his grotto outside in our P1 outdoor classroom and there will be additional entertainment outside with a magical sound and light



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

NOVEMBER

- Tues 5th - Amazing Journey—bible stories told through drama
- Cash 4 Clobber collection
- Wk beg 11th - **ANTI-BULLYING WEEK “Choose Respect”**
- Tues 12th** - **ODD SOCKS DAY**
- Sat 16th** - 1st Transfer Test [P7]
- Mon 18th - P6/7 Golf taster session
- Sat 23rd - 2nd Transfer Test [P7]
- Thurs 28th - PTA Santa Supper **[all pupils home at 1pm]**

DECEMBER

- Thurs 5th - Open Morning 10am
- Thurs 12th - Travelling Nativity 6.30pm [all pupils]
- Wk beg 16th - Non– uniform all week
- Wed 18th - Christmas Movie Day
- Thurs 19th - Christmas Parties
- Fri 20th - School closing at 11am