



# DROMORE ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NOVEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

### Burns Skill School

As part of our Burns Skill School 'Five Star Package' the Y4/5 class will be taking part in Burns' specifically tailored Healthy Kicks workshop this term. These lessons commenced on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November and will run for 5 weeks.

### Y4/5 Fire Visit

A big thank you to Firefighter Sloan, from Warrenpoint Fire Station, who came into school on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October to reinforce fire safety and the importance of planning an escape route in the event of a fire.

### Ulster Rugby Good Relations Programme

We are delighted to have been accepted to participate in the Ulster Good Relations Programme for 2019/20. The programme aims to increase understanding and awareness of own and different cultures and traditions. Each school involved will participate in digital workshops, a visit to Kingspan Stadium, tag rugby training sessions and a rugby blitz at a local rugby ground.

The first session will take place with Y6/7 on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November and the class will be using Bloxel Builders on iPads to design a simple rugby game, including character design and game layout.

### ANTI BULLYING WEEK

The week beginning the 11<sup>th</sup> November marks Anti-Bullying Week. The theme this year is 'Change Starts with Us' and all classes will take part in activities during the week to highlight ways of preventing and responding to bullying. We will also be holding an **ODD SOCKS DAY** on Tues 12<sup>th</sup> November to celebrate what makes us all unique. Through the work with Art of Brilliance, the children have been exploring how even a small change can make a big difference. Whether it is verbal, physical, online or in-person, bullying has a significant impact on a child's life well in to adulthood. By making small, simple changes, we can break this cycle and create a safe environment for everyone. Because, together, we can challenge bullying.



### BOOK FAIR

The Scholastic Book Fair will be in school from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December to Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December. This is a fabulous opportunity to select some books for your child or perhaps to buy some Christmas presents. It's also a great way to support your school as any commission earned will be used to buy new reading books and to add to our Accelerated Reader Library. The book fair will be open as follows:  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> Dec: 2-3.30pm  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> Dec: 8.45-9.00am and 2-3.30pm  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> Dec: 8.45-9.00am and 2-4pm  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> Dec: 8.45-9.00am and 2-3.30pm



### School Council News

Our school council members, Ashley, Laura, Brody, Amber, Eddie and Jake have been actively sourcing a basket swing, new trim trail and climbing equipment for the garden area of the playground. We look forward to these being installed in the New Year and the School Council hopes to hold a number of fund raisers in the coming months.

### AUTUMN FAYRE

Thank you to everyone who attended the Autumn Fayre this year, it was a lovely family event and it was great to see so many past pupils return to visit. We would like to particularly thank the PTA for all of their hard work in organising the event and to the local shops and businesses for providing raffle prizes. Details of the next PTA event will follow next week.

## Poetry Workshop

Y6/7 will also be working with the other schools in our Extended Schools cluster this term to create a joint Poetry Book. Declan Carville, a local poet, visited the school yesterday, Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November to begin the drafting process and on Wed 20<sup>th</sup> November the children will work with the Art Department at St Mark's to illustrate their poem.

## Weather Policy

Watch out for a letter next week for parents explaining the factors considered when closing the school due to bad weather/and how to know if the school will be closed.

## SECONDARY SCHOOLS

This month, our Y6/7 pupils will travel to Newry High School on Wed 13<sup>th</sup> November and to St Mark's High School on Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> November for a taster event. Staff from St Louis will also visit the school to talk to the children on Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Nov about their Open Night. Details of local open nights can be found at [www.thetransfertutor.co.uk/school-open-days-nights-2019](http://www.thetransfertutor.co.uk/school-open-days-nights-2019) and I would encourage you if your child is in Y6/7 to visit prospective schools to assess their suitability for your child.

## The Amazing Journey

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November volunteers from the Baptist Church will be in school to present "The Amazing Journey". This presentation is designed for Primary school pupils and uses creative story-telling, colourful displays and Bible characters to introduce children to the key stories and message of the Bible. As part of the Amazing Journey experience, pupils will also have the chance to participate in some activities and may even have the opportunity to try on a Bible-time costume!



## CLASS PHOTOGRAPHS

All monies must be in by Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November to purchase the class photographs. Framed copies are currently available to view in school.

## STEM WORKSHOP

On Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October Y4/5 & Y2/3 had a really enjoyable morning with Kevin from Sentinus. The pupils explored the concept of 'forces' by decorating their own paper rockets before launching them in the playground. We were amazed at the great heights some of our rockets reached and the speed at which they travelled.

## PTA CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

The PTA plan to hold a Christmas Hamper raffle. We would value your support in helping the PTA collate items to make up hampers. Tickets will go on sale at the beginning of December.

## Art of Brilliance Programme

The Y5-7 pupils have now completed 2 days of the programme and have formulated their 10 point plan to make our school even happier! Paddy will be back on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November to hear about how the children have been getting on with their 'brilliant' school plan and to monitor progress, before the BIG moment, an Art of Brilliance Happiness Inspector visits the school on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November. The children would like to invite you to a pre-inspection assembly so that they can tell you about what they have been doing and to update you on our progress towards our targets. **Parents are invited to assembly on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November at 9.15am. All are welcome!**

## POPPY APPEAL

Poppies are available to purchase in the school for a donation to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Other suggested donations are: Reflector or Zip Pull 50p, Silicon wristband £1 Snap bands £1.50

## UPCOMING DATES:

Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Nov – 'Amazing Journeys'  
Tues 12<sup>th</sup> Nov – ODD SOCKS DAY  
Wed 13<sup>th</sup> – Y6/Y7 Newry High School  
Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Nov – Y4/5 Last swim session  
Wed 27<sup>th</sup> Nov – Parents invited to assembly at 9.15am  
Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Dec – Xmas Art at St Mark's High School  
Mon 9<sup>th</sup> Dec – Scholastic Book Fair  
Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Dec – School Production