

## October 2024 Newsletter



From Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October our Primary 7 children will be learning Mandarin each week. This has kindly been facilitated by Lumen Christi College. We are delighted to be able to offer this learning experience to the children.

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New Dinner Menu starting Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October:

[https://storage.googleapis.com/siteassetsswd/475/docletter/20240926114205\\_14\\_DINNER\\_MENU\\_STARTING\\_MONDAY\\_7TH\\_OCTOBER\\_2024.pdf](https://storage.googleapis.com/siteassetsswd/475/docletter/20240926114205_14_DINNER_MENU_STARTING_MONDAY_7TH_OCTOBER_2024.pdf)

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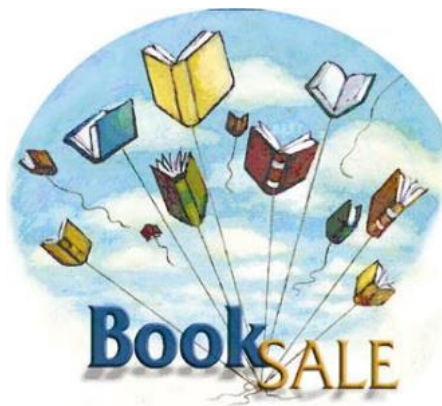


If shopping in TESCO please vote using the blue coins for our school fund raising project!



We are celebrating Maths Week Ireland throughout our school from Monday 14<sup>th</sup>-Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October. There will be a wide variety of fun and engaging maths activities, problem solving and investigations going on both in and out of school. Click the links below to access various resources to support Maths at home here:

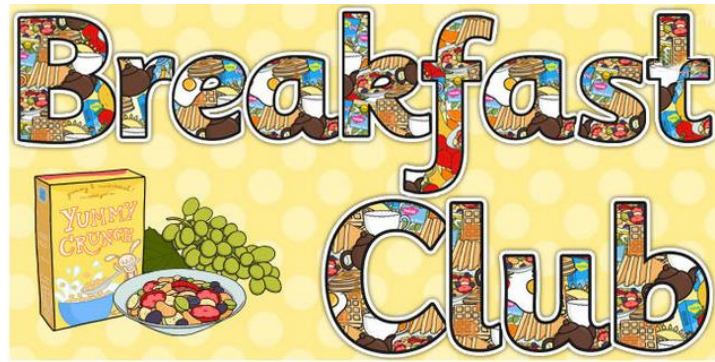
- <https://www.mathsweek.ie/2024/>
- <https://www.goodshepherdps.net/parents-area/useful-websites-and-resources/>
- <https://www.goodshepherdps.net/parents-area/educational-apps-to-support-learning/>



Our student council and eco council are also holding a 'bring and buy' book sale during Maths Week Ireland to support our financial capabilities curriculum and to reduce waste. All money raised will go to school funds.

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October:** have a clear out and donate children's books to the school office which are clean and in good condition.

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October:** Book Sale managed by our school councils. All books will be 20p each. All money raised will go to school funds. Any books not purchased will be used in our class libraries or will be donated to a local charity. Parents/Guardians also welcome to visit, browse and shop at: 9.15am-10am. This will be held in the school assembly hall.



- Nursery children are welcome to attend our breakfast club!
  - Breakfast club is open from 8.10am-8.30am.
  - **Please only send your child if they are independent when eating to ensure their wellbeing.**
  - Children should be accompanied by an adult to the canteen door.
  - Please enter the **school grounds via the upper nursery gate** and directly into the canteen via the steps located beside the school reception area.
  - The cost of this will be £1 per day, per child. This should be paid in cash each day to breakfast club supervisory staff. This charge covers the cost of food, cleaning supplies and staff.
  - Children will have a choice of toast, cereals, fruit juice and milk each day.
- 



We still have some availability for our afterschool clubs. Please contact the school office for further information.



We are now registered to be supported by Parentkind. Parentkind is a charity that supports schools financially and have teamed up with Asda, who is making millions of pounds available to donate to primary schools across the UK through their 'Cashpot for Schools' initiative. To support our school, all you have to do is opt-in through the Asda Rewards app, shop and scan in store or shop online at Asda.com.

Between 2<sup>nd</sup> September and 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024 – every time you shop with Asda using your Asda Rewards app, Asda will donate 0.5% of the value of your shop to your chosen Primary school. Also, every time somebody opts-in to support our Primary school, Asda will give an additional £1 to the school Cashpot. Plus, it doesn't stop there – Asda are also giving £50 to every school to get them started.

### It's as easy as 1,2,3

1. Download the Asda Rewards app, register and opt-in to Cashpot for Schools (make sure you have the latest version of the app installed)
2. Choose our Primary School – either searching by name or postcode
3. Shop instore across Asda and George, or online at Asda.com and start filling your Cashpot as you shop

Asda does the rest, all money raised will be donated to schools to spend on the things they need the most.

Remember, anyone can sign up – so start spreading the news and raising funds for our school. This initiative is on top of the existing Asda Rewards benefits you get as a shopper – so you won't lose out on any of your own earnings or Cashpot, so everyone is a winner!

For more details, visit [asda.com/cashpotforschools](https://asda.com/cashpotforschools)

**Thank you for your support!**

# Attendance Matters!

As you are already aware it is essential that your child attends school regularly and maintain a pattern of good attendance throughout their school career.

Excellent attendance at school is important to allow children to fulfil their potential. Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning.

In school we have an obligation to monitor children's attendance very closely and to report attendance percentages to the Education Welfare Officer on a regular basis.

Punctuality is essential as each time a child is late to school they are marked late and when they arrive after registration has closed (09:00am)- this impacts on their attendance.

If your child's attendance is causing concern, we will follow the agreed procedures in school:

- The class teacher will inform you of your child's attendance percentage (below 90%)
- If attendance continues to cause concern, then you will receive a letter from DTCP in school
- If attendance continues to cause concern, then you will be invited to a pre-referral meeting in school. Our EWO Mrs Aine Hudson may be in attendance
- If your child's attendance is 85% or below/causing concern, we are obliged to make a referral to EWS.

It should be noted that holidays must **not** be arranged during the school terms. Sufficient notice of school holiday dates is given to parents/guardians in order for holidays to be arranged during these times.

We as a school, want to help support you in improving your child's attendance in order for them to reach their full potential.

If you need to discuss any issues surrounding absences or support strategies that can be put in place to improve attendance, during the school year, please contact Mrs McCafferty or Mrs Harley at the school.



## EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS –

Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning.

Attendance percentages can be misleading.

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

For some parents, 90% may seem like an acceptable level of attendance, but the reality is that 90% attendance means that your child will miss half a school day each week or 19 days of school during the school year – that's nearly 4 school weeks.



Give your child the best start in life – every school day counts.

**Please ensure that you contact the school office in the morning if your child is not able to attend school. Attendance updates will be issued to parents/guardians for the month of September in due course as we continue to monitor attendance and offer support where needed.**



Please ensure that you download the Schools NI App which is linked to our website. Click on the ? on the app and ensure that notifications are turned on. This is our central method of communication.



**Teaching and learning starts at 9am every day.** It is important that your child is punctual for school. School gates open from 8.45am. Breakfast club is open from 8.10am. No need to book in for the breakfast club- £1 a day per child, all welcome!

### Safeguarding Information



**In the interests of health and safety we now ask that children do not bring any shellfish products or nut products to school for either break or lunch. This includes Nutella.**



We would like to take the opportunity to remind parents/guardians that **no cars are permitted inside the school grounds at any time** unless this has been pre-arranged with Mrs McCafferty or you are a blue badge holder- spaces are very limited. Please share this information with grandparents and childminders as refusal often causes offence.

**Please ensure that the school gates are kept clear. Cars should not be parked on the yellow zigzag lines outside the school gates at any time.** Please talk to your child about general road safety. Enter and exit the school using the pedestrian gates only. Once your child is collected from school, please keep them beside you at all times. These measures are in the interest of everyone's health and safety. Thank you!

### **Members of the Schools Safeguarding team are:**

The Chair of the Board of Governors (Mr P. Duffy)

The Designated Governor for Child Protection (Dr M Gormley)

The Designated Teacher for Child Protection (Mrs Maria Harley)

Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection (Mrs S. McCafferty).

Other members of Safeguarding Team:

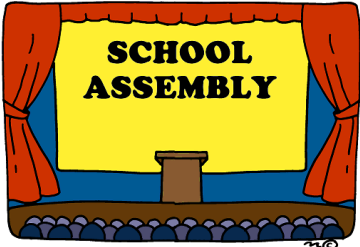

Mrs P. Houston/Mrs R Warne /Mrs Kyle/ Mrs A Kivlehan/Mr D Herron.


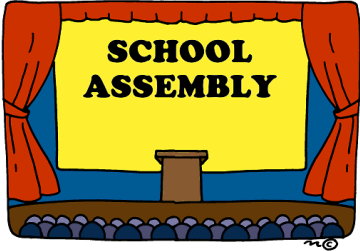

School policies can be found on the school website under the 'My School' section. There is also a wide range of support information for parents in the 'Parents Section' of the school website. This is updated regularly.

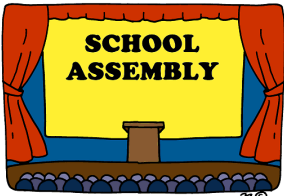


The school holiday lists can be accessed here:

[https://storage.googleapis.com/siteassetsswd/475/docletter/20240220014414\\_63\\_Holiday\\_List\\_PARENTS\\_2024\\_2025.pdf](https://storage.googleapis.com/siteassetsswd/475/docletter/20240220014414_63_Holiday_List_PARENTS_2024_2025.pdf)



Date	What's On?
<b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Children of Fatima Prayer group P4-P7
<b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September</b>	After School Mini Professors P1 & P2: 2-2.50pm, P3 & P4: 3-3.50pm Week 2
<b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September</b>	After School R9 Sports P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 2
<b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October</b>	After School Singing lessons P1 & P2 2-2.45pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-3.45pm Week 2
<b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October</b>	Derry Schools' Football Association Soccer Match
<b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October</b>	After School Guitar Lessons P5, P6 & P7 Week 2
<b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October</b>	After School Dance P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 2
<b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October</b>	Primary 6 swimming week 4
<b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October</b>	After School Maiden City Soccer P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 2
<b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October</b> 	P4BD/RD Class assembly @9.30am in the assembly hall. Parents/Guardians welcome to attend
<b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October</b>	New Dinner Menu starts today
<b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October</b>	After School Mini Professors P1 & P2: 2-2.50pm, P3 & P4: 3-3.50pm Week 3
<b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October</b>	After School R9 Sports P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 3
<b>Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October</b>	After School Singing lessons P1 & P2 2-2.45pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-3.45pm Week 3
<b>Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Derry Schools' Football Association Soccer Match
<b>Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Primary 6 swimming week 5
<b>Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October</b>	After School Guitar Lessons P5, P6 & P7 Week 3
<b>Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October</b> 	World Mental Health Day- wear a yellow item of clothing or accessory to school today with your school uniform
<b>Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October</b>	After School Maiden City Soccer P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 3

Date	What's On?
<p><b>Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October</b></p> 	<p>NAPCE Awards ceremony in Birmingham- We have been shortlisted for 'Pastoral School of the Year UK 2024'</p>
<p><b>Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October</b></p> 	<p>P4RC/JG Class assembly @9.30am in the assembly hall. Parents/Guardians welcome to attend</p>
<p><b>Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October-Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024</b> <b>Maths Week Ireland</b></p>	
<p><b>Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October</b></p> 	<p>School photographer in school</p>
<p><b>Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October</b></p>	<p>After School Mini Professors P1 &amp; P2: 2-2.50pm, P3 &amp; P4: 3-3.50pm Week 4</p>
<p><b>Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October</b></p>	<p>After School R9 Sports P1 &amp; P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 4</p>
<p><b>Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October</b></p>	<p>After School Singing lessons P1 &amp; P2 2-2.45pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 &amp; P7 3-3.45pm Week 4</p>
<p><b>Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October</b></p>	<p>Derry Schools' Football Association Soccer Match</p>
<p><b>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October</b></p>	<p>Primary 6 swimming week 6</p>
<p><b>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October</b></p>	<p>After School Guitar Lessons P5, P6 &amp; P7 Week 4</p>
<p><b>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October</b></p>	<p>Donations of books welcome for book sale</p>
<p><b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October</b></p>	<p>After School Maiden City Soccer P1 &amp; P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 4</p>
<p><b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October</b></p>	<p>Donations of books welcome for book sale</p>
<p><b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October</b></p>	<p>Book Sale in assembly hall 20p per book- for school funds Parents welcome from 9.15am-10am</p>
<p><b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October</b></p>	<p>After School Mini Professors P1 &amp; P2: 2-2.50pm, P3 &amp; P4: 3-3.50pm Week 5</p>
<p><b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October</b></p>	<p>After School R9 Sports P1 &amp; P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 5</p>

Date	What's On?
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	After School Singing lessons P1 & P2 2-2.45pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-3.45pm Week 5
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Derry Schools' Football Association Soccer Match
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Primary 6 swimming week 7
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	After School Guitar Lessons P5, P6 & P7 Week 5
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	After School Maiden City Soccer P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 5
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October 	P5SM Class assembly @9.30am in the assembly hall. Parents/Guardians welcome to attend
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October	P7 Parent/Teacher meetings- individual times given
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October	After School Mini Professors- NOT ON THIS WEEK
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October	After School R9 Sports -NOT ON THIS WEEK
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> October	P7 Parent/Teacher meetings- individual times given
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> October	After School Singing lessons P1 & P2 2-2.45pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-3.45pm Week 6
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> October	Non-uniform or Halloween costumes £1 donation/ £2 per family in aid of school funds Parky the Magician visits the school School clubs run as normal Full school day as normal
<b>Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October-Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November</b> <u>School Closed for the Halloween Holidays</u>   <b>School Reopens on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024</b>	

Thank you to our entire school community for your continued support of the school.