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Principal: Mrs Arlene Cambridge B.Ed. PQSH

20<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are absolutely delighted with our new school building. The children and especially the staff have been working so very hard to bring our building to life and it is beginning to feel like home. We still have so much to do and will be putting out the occasional shout for assistance via ClassDojo; all help is much appreciated and we are grateful to those who have already helped with dump runs and moving of resources.

### **Important Documentation**

Thank you to everyone who has returned forms to school this week.

All outstanding GDPR agreements, Data Collection Forms and flu vaccination forms must be back by Monday morning please.

**Free School Meals and Uniform:** There are a few eligible families not receiving their Free School Meals entitlement as they have perhaps forgotten to apply or think they don't need it all the time. Please remember to apply for this if you have not already done so. While you may not wish to avail of the service fully, by applying and registering, you help ensure the school receives the funding it is entitled to. This could make a big difference to our funding to support your child.

<https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants>

### **Safeguarding and Pastoral Care**

We work extremely hard together to keep our school community safe. Our Safeguarding Team lead the staff and Governors to keep updated with changes in legislation and to ensure our own procedures are robust and fit for purpose.

Our Policy was reviewed and ratified in October 2023 and is available in full via the website.



Mrs Wolfe  
Designated Teacher  
for Child Protection



Mrs Lowry  
Deputy Designated Teacher  
for Child Protection

## Attendance

The Department of Education require every school to closely monitor each child's attendance. We are legally bound to report attendance that falls to 85% to the Education Welfare Service who in turn will contact you to ascertain any concerns and offer support. Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning. Attendance percentages can be misleading; 90% may seem like an acceptable level of attendance, but the reality is that 90% attendance means that your child will miss almost 4 weeks of learning in school.

The school is legally required to highlight and act upon recurrent lateness.

Attendance	Number of absences	Department of Education grading
100%	0 days absence	Excellent
95%	9 days of absence Equates to 1 week and 4 days of learning missed	Satisfactory
90%	19 days of absence Equates to 3 weeks and 4 days of learning missed	Poor
85%	28 days of absence Equates to 5 weeks and 3 days of learning missed	Very poor

## **Absence and Illness**

Illness cannot be avoided so if your child is ill, they must remain at home. Guidance states if a child has Covid, they should stay at home for 3 days from onset of symptoms or from time of positive lateral flow test. This is now to be treated as any other viral illness.

For upset tummies; allow a minimum of 48 hours following the last bout of sickness before your child returns to school.

If your child is unwell, you must phone the school on the first day of absence and follow this with a letter on the day they return. *Communicating this information through ClassDojo is **not** sufficient as we are required to provide evidence of 'reason for absence' should the Education Welfare Service query attendance.*

## ClassDojo

ClassDojo is a means of sharing school and class news giving you an insight into what is happening. Please be respectful of everyone's privacy and do not share photos of other children sent on Dojo on any other forum; we want to keep everyone safe. **It is important you do not use Dojo as a means of sending urgent information to school** as it is not monitored during teaching time and we do not want to miss anything; thank you. As I am sure you will understand, staff will not be responding to ClassDojo messages before 8:30am or after 4:00pm nor at weekends as part of taking care of their own well-being.

## PE kit

Final orders for PE Kit at the current prices should be in school by 12 noon on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September. Order through ParentPay.

## Caring for our Environment



This year's Beach Clean takes place on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 10.30am in Browns Bay. Details have been shared on Dojo including a participation form to complete prior to attendance. It would be a good idea to take a pair of gloves with you 😊

### **Recycling: Clothes Bank**

Our clothing bank is still operational and is currently located behind the church at the old Senior Campus. This helps raise invaluable funds for the school. Bedding, towels, shoes (paired in a bag), clothes secured in a bag, can all be put in the bank.

### **Healthy Eating**

- Children should bring a transparent, sports lidded bottle filled only with **fresh water** each day NOT juice.
- Morning Break Snack ~ e.g. breadsticks, crackers, baked crisps, chopped fruit or vegetables
- No sweets or chocolate except on **Friday Treat Day**
- **No Nut Policy**: please respect this

**ALLERGIES:** Please note we have pupils with **nut allergies and egg allergies** in school. Please do not send these food items into school.

### **Breakfast Club**

In response to parental requests, we are starting our new Breakfast Club on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September. Children can be dropped off from 8am onwards and will be offered a breakfast of cereal, toast, juice and milk. Bookings should be made via the ParentPay app by 12 noon on the previous Friday.

Cost: £2 per day (£3 if late booking; this is to be done through the office)

Children to enter via the community entrance to the front, left of the building. Ensure the school office is informed of any allergies.



### **Music Lessons**

We are so very excited to be able to offer piano and singing lessons in school this year for children in Years 4 - 7. Please look at the sign-up information in ClassDojo.

Unfortunately there was not enough interest to allow us to bring the music service into school for violin lessons. We will continue to look at alternative arrangements.

### **Afterschool Clubs**

Clubs starting next week are

- Monday: Football  
Tuesday: Irish Dancing  
Thursday: Uplift

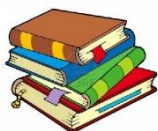
These can be booked and paid for via ParentPay.

## MacMillan Cancer Fundraiser Event



We are holding a Coffee Afternoon to support the work of the MacMillan Cancer charity on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 2.15pm - 4.00pm. Pupils will go home early to allow us to get set up for the Coffee Afternoon. Dismissal will begin at 1.45pm with the bus pupils leaving at 1.55pm. Some senior pupils will be asked to remain as volunteers.

We would welcome donations of cakes and buns and ask that these are in school on Wednesday afternoon. Home bakers; please make us aware of any nuts in the recipe. Thank you!! We look forward to seeing you there.



**The library van** will be with us again on 8<sup>th</sup> October. If you have not already registered your child for a library card, please return the application form that was sent home this week.

## Our Build Update

We still have a lot to do with our new building and have workmen onsite daily. Well done to the boys and girls for their excellent manners and good behaviour.

## A Fond Farewell

Today we said a fond farewell to Miss Hawthorne who is stepping into a whole new career path. Thank you for all your hard work and we wish you all the very best as you start this new venture. You will be missed so very much by all at IPS.



## Dates for your Diary

25 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 1 Parent Information Session 6.00pm
26 <sup>th</sup> September	MacMillan Coffee Afternoon
27 <sup>th</sup> September	School Development Day: No pupils to attend
30 <sup>th</sup> September	Miss Barnes' class visiting The Viking Workshop in Larne Museum
8 <sup>th</sup> October	iRock School of Music Assembly
9 <sup>th</sup> October	Mrs Lowry's class visiting Sentry Hill for a Victorian Experience
16 <sup>th</sup> October	Flu Vaccinations
18 <sup>th</sup> October	Samaritan's Purse Assembly
24 <sup>th</sup> October	School Photographs: individual and/or sibling groups
28 <sup>th</sup> October	School Development Day: No pupils to attend

Yours faithfully,

Mrs A. Cambridge  
Principal