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Principal: Mrs Arlene Cambridge B.Ed. PQSH

25<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Our mid term holiday has crept up on us all so very quickly this year. We have had an exceptionally busy half term and have so many more busy days and weeks ahead.

The children looked amazing today in their costumes and outfits. Everyone had a blast with a bit of an impromptu Monster Mash disco in the hall. Yet again, we are thankful to all be on the one site and share these moments together. Thank you for the crispy bun pumpkins and Wonka chocolate treats 😊

During the half term holiday there will be further works carried out on our building. We waved good bye to the builders' onsite office last week which has left 2 to 3 spaces for those who are early for pick-ups to reverse in and park.

There are proposed changes to the road markings to give clarity regarding the originally planned one-way system.

Our blinds and splashbacks will hopefully be fitted over the next week with our much anticipated playground markings being painted in the next few weeks.

There is, again, a lot of information in our newsletter so please keep this in a safe place for reference. You can also access the previous letters on our website in the Parent section.

### **Reconstitution of the Board of Governors: Parent Governor**

Week commencing 4<sup>th</sup> November, a letter will be sent to all parents inviting participation in the election of parent governors to our Board of Governors, term of office 2024 – 2028.

### **Parent Teacher Meetings**

Thank you to everyone for attending the Parent Teacher Meetings this week. This is a very much valued time to discuss the progress and targets for your child; it was also great to get a few moments to say hello and chat with some of you.

### **Half-Term Break: Reminders**

School is closed to pupils from Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October-Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November inclusive. We return to our normal school routine on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November.

Ensure all school meals, including those entitled to Free School Meals, are booked for the days they are required on the system before 9am on Monday mornings.

Breakfast Club is to be booked by 12 noon on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> of November so set a reminder!

## **Absence and Illness**

We are certainly entering the season of colds, flu and tummy bugs. We know that illness happens and can't be helped and so, if your child is ill, they must remain at home so that they are not upset in school and so they do not spread the 'sicky germs'.

Medical 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.
- Stomach upset; they must remain at home and not return to school for a minimum of 48 hours following the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea

Remember to phone or email the office to let us know your child is absent then follow this up with a written note on the day of your child's return for our records. Thank you.

## **Healthy Eating: reminder**

We ask for your support with this as we work to promote and encourage healthy eating throughout the school.

- Morning Break Snacks should be healthy and not sugar filled ~ e.g. breadsticks, crackers, plain biscuits, baked crisps, chopped fruit or vegetables
- **No sweets or chocolate** for breaktime except on **Friday Treat Day**
- **No Nut Policy:** please respect this

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

## **School Uniform Review**

The Department of Education has asked schools to conduct a detailed review of school uniform policy. We will launch our review process at the school assembly on 8<sup>th</sup> November and our next step will be for the School Council to meet with the school principal to set out our consultation action plan.

Children parents, staff and governors will all be given the opportunity to consider and review our policy. Once we have concluded all the consultations, we will then work to use this to inform and develop our new School Uniform Policy.

## **After School Activities**

The After School's Activities have one further week to run after midterm.

The next block of clubs will run for 5 weeks commencing on 11<sup>th</sup> November; the bookings on ParentPay will be made live on 4<sup>th</sup> November.

Mondays:     Football  
Tuesday:     Irish Dancing  
Thursday:    Uplift Performing Arts

We are planning for a coding club during term 2: details to follow.

## Celebrating Success

Well done to everyone who has been getting involved in activities outside of school, we love to hear about and celebrate your success!! Do let us know as some of the children are not always as confident about sharing their news, or sometimes just forget. Our last two weeks have been busy.

- 😊 We had a reel of Irish Dancing awards won: Well done to all those who were competing on 12<sup>th</sup> October; we are very proud of you all!!
- 😊 Player of the Match and Football awards went to Saul, Verity, Harry, Rudi



Recently we have been following the racing endeavours of our Year 6 pupil Toby. We are so immensely proud to announce that he has been named as the Northern Ireland Karting Champion (Cadets). He then went on to be placed second in the Ulster finals last week! CONGRATULATIONS Toby 😊



**The library van** will be with us again on 12<sup>th</sup> November, please remember to return library books.

## iRock sign up

Please refer to Dojo for further information about the iRock music lessons. The team have said there are still a few places to be filled for them to justify holding the project in the school. Details about how your child can get involved with iRock lessons have been sent home and are also available on ClassDojo near the start of October's news feed.

## Dates for the Diary

### **November**

4 <sup>th</sup>	Return to School – Normal times
11 <sup>th</sup>	After School's Clubs Block 2
16 <sup>th</sup>	SEAG Paper 1
23 <sup>rd</sup>	SEAG Paper 2

### **December**

6 <sup>th</sup>	School Christmas Lunch
17 <sup>th</sup>	Nativity Christmas Performance (morning)
18 <sup>th</sup>	Nativity Christmas Performance (morning) Sing Christmas at The Rinkha (afternoon)
19 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Party Day
20 <sup>th</sup>	Last day of term: early close

### **January**

11 <sup>th</sup>	Open Day 10am – 11.45am
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Remember to check the School Website Calendar for key dates. Please note there is a change of date to Sports Day: the original date, 23<sup>rd</sup> May has now been identified as a School Development Day



## Samaritans Purse

Following on from our assembly last week, we are collecting a range of items for the Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child; we would be very grateful if you could send in some items for the Christmas boxes to school on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> or Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November please.

We have 50 shoe boxes to fill with gifts and items for children who have very little. The children in school will work together to pack all the items into the shoe boxes ready to be collected. Some ideas are listed below; more information can be found on the Samaritan's Purse website.



Mrs Wolfe, Mrs Thompson and Mrs Patton's classes will be collecting and filling boxes for 2- 4 year old boys and girls

*This is a guide so we get a spread of ages gifted; you can donate items that do not fall into the age bracket of your child's class if you wish.*

Miss Barnes and Miss McKee's classes are collecting for 5 – 9 year old boys and girls



Mrs Lowry's class are collecting for 10 -14 year old boys and girls



### **Please Do NOT include:**

Toothpaste, sweets, lotions and liquids; used or damaged items; seeds, gum, chocolate or food items; war-related items (e.g. toy guns, model soldiers, military vehicles etc.); religious or political literature; medicines, aerosol cans, knives, sharp or fragile items.

Accessories & other stuff	Personal Care	School Supplies	Toys & something special
Hat	Comb	Pens	Toy cars
Gloves	Hairbrush	Pencils & sharpeners	Animal figures
Sunglasses	Toothbrush	Crayons	Building blocks
Cap	Flannel	Felt tip pens	Skipping rope
T-shirt	Bar soap (packaged and/or in a container)	Ruler	Tennis ball
Socks	Sponge	Eraser	Yo-yo
Flip-flops	Reusable plastic containers: cup, water bottle, plate, bowl, blunt-edged utensils	Writing pads or notebook	Spinning top
Small backpack, handbag or drawstring bag	(Fill an empty container with non-liquid items such as sunglasses or flannel to make use of the space)	Solar calculators	Mini frisbee
Hair bows or clips		Geometry set	Fidget spinner
Friendship bracelets (woven with yarn or embroidery thread)		Glue stick	Finger puppets
Watch		Pre-inked Stampers	Slinky
Wind-up Torch	Non-liquid lip balm	Colouring books	Travel games
Necklace or bracelet	Nail clippers and file	Watercolour paint set (solid only)	Small musical instruments
Stickers	Stick deodorant	Safety scissors	Small puzzles etc
	Compact mirror	Craft kits	Football pump
			Doll
			Cuddly Toy

Enjoy your midterm holidays. Keep safe and we will see you on 4<sup>th</sup> November 😊

Yours faithfully,

Mrs A. Cambridge  
Principal