

Playground One Way System

The one-way system has served us well over the last 2 years and an unexpected benefit that we have noticed, is that the children are much more confident, coming into and going out of school ... there are fewer 'big people' and they are all walking in the same direction.

However, as we move towards a more normal school year we will begin the school year **without the one-way system** as a 'wee' trial. Should I find that the children are getting lost or feeling anxious due to the number of 'big people' then we can always re-instate the system. My priority always has been and always will be, the children.

Finish Times 2022/23

The finish times will be as outlined below.

Y1 & Y2	1.45 pm (Monday – Friday)
Y3	2.45 pm (Monday & Tuesday), 1.45 pm (Wednesday – Friday)
Y4	2.45 pm (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday), 1.45 pm (Wednesday)
Y5 – Y7	2.50 pm (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday), 1.50 pm (Wednesday)

The earlier start and the shorter lunch break have proved to be hugely beneficial to the pupils and the staff. At lunch time there are fewer first aid incidents and fewer issues to be resolved (which can take staff 20-30 minutes following a lunch break), allowing staff more teaching time and children more learning time. This affords us the slightly earlier finish time. The early finish (which lots of primary schools operate) on a Wednesday facilitates:

- Literacy & Numeracy Boost programmes for children in Y5, Y6 & Y7
- Pupil Voice and Eco school committee meetings supervised by a teacher.
- Year group planning for teachers, allowing them as partners to reflect on the lessons taught that week and to plan (along with classroom assistants) for the lessons that will be taught the following week.
- Subject curriculum leaders e.g. literacy, numeracy etc to review their curriculum area in terms of teachers' planning, lessons taught and also to meet with and advise teachers.

Uniform

Don't forget that uniform will return to our pre-covid arrangements and all children should wear full school uniform every day. A PE kit of navy shorts and a white t-shirt should be brought into school for PE.

Uniform Allowance / Free School Meals

You may be entitled to a uniform allowance and/or free school meals. Please take up your entitlement, particularly for free school meals as the number of free school meals in a school has a huge impact on the overall school budget. If you have any queries, please contact the Free Schools Meals and Uniform Allowance Helpdesk. The Helpdesk operates Monday – Friday from 9am to 4.30pm and can be contacted via email: mealsanduniform@eani.org.uk or by telephone 028 9041 8044. In addition, Mid and East Antrim are operating a school Uniform Scheme, please see the leaflet below.

I hope that you all have a lovely summer and enjoy spending time with family and friends. Thank you once again for your very much appreciated support and I will see you all in August.



School Uniform Scheme

We are seeking donations of unused and preloved uniforms for the Mid and East Antrim uniform scheme. You can drop off donations at our centres from Monday 20th June.

If you would like to donate, please bring your items to one of our Household Recycling Centres before the end of term.

If your school would like to arrange a group pick up, please call **028 9600 1333**.

Please make sure all items are in good, clean condition, are bagged, and are labelled with the school's name.



Items needed:

- Blazers / Shirts / Blouses / Ties / Polo Shirts
- Trousers / Shorts
- Skirts / Pinafores / Summer Dresses
- Sweatshirts / Jumpers / Cardigans
- PE Kits / PE Equipment / School Bags
- School Shoes / Trainers / Football Boots
- Coats / Waterproofs Jackets

Ballymena

- Waveney Road Household Recycling Centre

Larne

- Redlands Household Recycling Centre
- Glenarm Household Recycling Centre
- Larne South Household Recycling Centre

Carrickfergus

- Sullatober Household Recycling Centre

The donated uniforms will be available to those who need them, free of charge from Mid and East Antrim Community Advice Centre local offices, from Larne Market and Pop-Up shops in each town during the month of August. For all enquiries, call **028 9600 1333**



www.midandeantrim.gov.uk/uniform-exchange



Mid & East Antrim
Borough Council