



# McKinney PS Newsletter

## October 2021

### Dates for the Diary



Date	Event	Details
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> October 3 – 4.15pm	Good News Club  (David Cowan, CEF) For Key Stage 2 (P4- 7 pupils)	Every Wednesday until further notice.  Please inform your class teacher via Seesaw if you wish them to be collected at 3pm and walked over to the church hall by GNC staff.
Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup> October	Primary 1 Curriculum Meeting	P1 parents will receive a link via Seesaw on Wednesday. Grab a coffee and enjoy a virtual meeting packed with ideas to help your child to enjoy their P1 experience.
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Donations	Each year, we offer parents the opportunity to drop off tinned and long life foods for local food banks. Please drop contributions at reception.
Starting Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	Booster Clubs	Booster Clubs (Cohort1) will begin as per notes below.
Starting Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	October IEP meetings with parents	Staff will be contacting parents of children with a current IEP.
18 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Maths Week	Details to follow from each class teacher.
Starting 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Parent Interviews	We have planned for telephone interviews with parents between Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October.  <b>School will close for all pupils at 2pm all week.</b> Some discussion around possibility of face to face interviews but awaiting guidance from EA. Details to follow.
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Pumpkin Competition	See below for more details of our Family Fun Activity.
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Harvest Assembly	10am A special school assembly to celebrate the traditions of Harvest with the theme of THANK YOU. Winners from our pumpkin competition announced. More details to follow.
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	School closes at 2pm for half term holiday	Wrap Around will close at <b>2pm</b> to facilitate staff training event.

Dates for the Diary:

## Additional Support

We would like to welcome :

**Miss Amy Coulter** to the Nursery Team. She is with us on Sixth Form Work Experience and we are very fortunate to have her for three days a week in Nursery up until Christmas.

**Miss Nicole Orford** to the Key Stage 2 team as Classroom Assistant. She joins us after many years as an assistant, leader and manager within Sleepy Hollow. Ms Orford will also be involved with Breakfast and Wrap Around Club.

**Mrs Sarah Faulkner** to her new role as SEN Assistant in Primary 4. Ms Faulkner is a valued, familiar face in Key Stage 2 and she continues to contribute to high quality teaching and learning while having a bit of craic.

**Ms Julie Ann Price** to her new role as SEN Assistant in Primary 3. Ms Price was successfully appointed to this new role in the past week. Well known as our Breakfast and Wrap Around Coordinator, Ms Price is really excited and looking forward to her new role.

**Mrs Louise Simpson** to Primary 3. She joins Mrs Dickey as a Classroom Assistant and the pupils are very excited to have a Marathon runner in their class. The pace of our Daily Mile may just have went up a level or two!

**Mrs Davison** to Primary 2. She joins Miss Trimble and Mrs Suffern in P2 as a SEN Assistant and we look forward to seeing her continue to deliver one to one support.

**Ms McNaul** to Primary 1. Ms McNaul has moved rooms and brings all of her warmth and charisma to the P1 room. We wish her well in her new permanent role as Foundation Assistant.

## Free School Meals

We believe that most applications have now been processed by the EA FSM department.



**It is really important that all parents who qualify for FSM apply – even if you have no intention of using the service.**

Each child who is in benefit of FSM significantly increases the amount of funding the school receives and if we can apply for special services. We are currently narrowly missing out on important funding which would benefit not only your child but every child who attends the school.

Please consider completing the form if you qualify – it only takes a few moments but could make a huge difference for every pupil in our school.



While we encourage children to have a school meal, we understand that this may not suit all children. Therefore, children have the option of bringing a packed lunch to school if parents prefer.

We ask that this follows our healthy eating principles with **no fizzy drinks or chocolate**. It should be provided in a wipeable lunch box and all containers should be easy to manage for your child.

We remind parents that children can bring diluted juice as part of their break and lunch time snack. We ask that parents provide only water in water bottles which can sit on the desk or at the side of the classroom for consumption during lessons.

### Ear rings

We remind parents that stud ear rings are permitted in school but need to be able to be removed by the child for PE / outdoor activities.

Children who have recently had their ears pierced can bring a plaster in to school for PE until such times as their ears have healed.

Any questions or clarification, please speak with Mr Dunlop directly.

### Communication

In McKinney Primary we feel that communication between home and school is so important. We are always happy to chat to parents if they have any concerns or need to keep me informed about any updates.

We ask that communication on our Seesaw App is between the hours of **7.30am and 6.00pm**. Please use it for informal communication – anything important / urgent should be sent via email / telephone.



Staff are unable to respond during the teaching day but we will try and reply to any messages before the end of the day.

If you need to speak to a member of staff urgently, please contact us on the school phone number 028 90825375 and Mrs Lindsay will pass on your message / arrange a return phone call / meeting.

All parents are now linked up to our Seesaw App and most have given consent for photographs to be shared into this private group. Can I please remind you that any photographs that are shared on Seesaw should not be posted / shared on social media sites.

Our school website is now building momentum – we have policies, newsletters and updates all attached so if you can't find something, most things will be on our website.



### Pumpkin Competition

Last year we introduced a family competition to build a scarecrow. I still see a few 'hanging around' some local gardens !

This year we would love all of our families to join us by buying a pumpkin and decorating your it in whatever way you wish. Please send us a picture of your family working on the pumpkin for a special picture montage.

We will have prizes for the following categories :

Best Carved pumpkin.

Best Decorated pumpkin.

Most Creative idea.

All entries should be in school from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October with 'expert' judges making their decision on Thursday 21st October.

## Additional Support for Pupils

During the normal school day, staff plan and provide a wide range of activities to meet the needs of each child.

Additional support includes provision for children on our Special Educational Needs (SEN) or Social, Behaviour, Emotional Wellbeing (SBEW) registers and Booster Groups.

Children on our SEN / SBEW register will continue to receive additional support with an Individual Education Plan or Action Plan.

In addition to this provision, I am pleased to announce that our **Booster Groups** will commence shortly. It is a coordinated programme of support for children in a particular area of numeracy or literacy.

I have asked staff to identify a number of children in each class who would benefit from some additional support, based on May assessments and classroom observations.

Each child will work alongside a teacher or a classroom assistant completing a 6 week programme, specifically designed to meet the needs of your child. We plan for programmes to commence in October with a second and third cohort taking place later in the school year.

Your class teacher will be in contact in the coming days, if your child has been chosen for the first cohort. Parents of children identified for later cohorts will be informed at the Parent Interviews later in October.

They will also let you know what has been planned and **ask for your permission to proceed**.

Sometimes the programme will be designed for an individual and other programmes will be for small groups of similar ability and with the same focus.

Depending on the activity planned, your child may be asked to work with a teacher / classroom assistant in the classroom or in a communal area outside of the classroom.

We hope that you will help support your child by helping with any additional tasks set for your child to complete.

Have a great Autumn ... your next Newsheet will be in November.

All other updates will be sent via Seesaw and our website.

As always, if you have a question or concern, please contact a member of staff by email [ddunlop460@c2kni.net](mailto:ddunlop460@c2kni.net) or phonecall 02890825375.