



McKinney PS Newsletter

November / December 2021



Dates for the Diary

Date	Event	Details
Wednesdays 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.
Monday / Thursdays	Booster Clubs	Booster Clubs (Cohort1) will continue on Mondays and Thursdays.
Thursday 11 th November	Remembrance Day	11am – minutes silence across the school site. Whole school activities on the theme of 'Memories'.
Monday 15 th November	Odd Socks Day	Pupils to come to school wearing odd socks – part of our whole school activities linked to Anti-Bullying week.
Friday 19 th November	Children in Need Day	Pupils to come in their sports clothes. Bring a £1 donation in a named / sealed envelope. Pupils will be taking part in a '100 mile walk' for Pudsey.
Tuesday 23 rd November	PTA meeting	Informal meeting to discuss some ideas for the Christmas season. 7.30pm – assembly hall. All parents welcome.
Friday 26 th November	NI Centenary Celebration	Tree planting and 100 year celebration event – more info to follow.
Tuesday 30 th November	Open Evening 4.30 – 7.30pm	For prospective new parents in Nursery, P1 or a place in P2-7. Booking system to be in place. Individual tours will also be facilitated upon request.
Monday 1 st December	Christmas Lunch for pupils	See this week's booking form for how to pre order your child's Christmas School Dinner.
Tuesday 9 - 10 th December	Junior Christmas Concert	Involving Nursery to P3 pupils. Plan A – limited number of tickets for 2 performances in school hall (with possibility of a live stream) Plan B – recorded performance to be distributed at cost price
Tuesday 14 th December	Senior Christmas Service	P4 – 7 pupils will perform in a traditional Christmas Service with readings, songs and drama. Details to follow.
Monday 20 th December	Santa Trail	P7 pupils will create a Santa Trail for the pupils to navigate their way around, solving riddles and finding clues to find Santa in his grotto.
Wednesday 22 nd December	School closes at 12 noon for all pupils.	There will be no afternoon wrap around provision on this day.

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.

Communication

In McKinney Primary we feel that communication between home and school is very 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.

We have a number of interviews that were unable to take place during Parent Interview week.

Please contact the office and we will be able to arrange a time to meet you.

Car Park Safety

Only parents who have prior approval from the school are permitted to use the staff car park.

Please continue to use the church car park respectfully - we are their guests and we are very grateful for the use of the church property in order to make our journey to and from school significantly safer.



Pumpkin Competition

Thank you for all of your brilliant contributions to the pumpkin competition. The children loved to see them all on display in the hall.

Obviously everyone was a winner but the judges picked the following to award prizes to:

Best Carved Pumpkin.	Jack Coulter
Best Decorated Pumpkin	Bonnie-Bell Armstrong
Most Creative Idea	Jack Harper

Outdoor Learning

We have secured a £10,000 grant for the development of the school grounds in relation to planting trees, hedges and pollinating plants. We hope to begin to plant as soon as possible and with more than 300 items including 30 fruit trees for an orchard, we could do with a lot of support to get the trees into the ground.

We also have just received our Northern Ireland Centenary tree. It is an oak tree and will be planted in the school grounds later this month.

Phased reintroduction of After School Clubs (November 2021)

	2 - 3	3 - 4	
Monday	P1 - 3 Monkeynastix * (Group 1) Booster Clubs P1 - 3 Lego Club*	AQE Club P4- 7 Lego Club*	
Wednesday	P1 - 3 Football Club*	Good News Club P4 - 7	
Thursday	P1 - 3 Science Club* Booster Clubs	AQE Club P4 - 7 Science Club*	
Friday	P1 - 3 Monkeynastix * (Group 2)	P4 - 7 Football Club*	

All clubs cost £2 per session - apart from Booster, AQE and Good News Club.

* These clubs require preregistration via online booking form.

Absences

We have had a visit from our Education and Welfare Officer and he has asked for the following information to be relayed to parents.

"Please ensure that you provide a reason for your child's absence. Whilst telephone calls to school are helpful and appreciated, I would stress the importance of sending in a written note, which will be held on file should there be any queries by the Education Welfare Officer.

Attendance is checked monthly in school.

Schools are obliged to refer those pupils falling below 85% (unless they have had a prolonged illness) to the Education Welfare Officer.

Also, a record of "lates" is kept on the school's internal computer system and these are also examined by the EWO."

NI 100 years - Friday 26th November 2021.

The Department of Education has provided a tree to plant in the school grounds to mark the Centenary of NI.

Whilst details have not yet been finalised, we want to give you time to have a think about what children would have worn to school in 1921.

It would be our plan that all pupils would come to school dressed appropriately for the day.

We hope to have our centenary tree planting event taking place around 1.30 - 2pm.

All other updates will be sent via Seesaw.

Our website has a full list of dates and updates with news stories from the pupils and staff being updated weekly.

www.mckinneyps.co.uk

As always, if you have a question or concern, please contact a member of staff by email ddunlop460@c2kni.net or phone call 02890825375.