



# Weekly Bulletin

[www.cliftonvilleps.co.uk](http://www.cliftonvilleps.co.uk)

## Monday 8th December

### DINNER MENU WEEK 2

#### OPEN DAY

On Wednesday night, last week, the school held its Open Night and it was such a delight to welcome new families and to showcase the work that goes on in the school. All the pupils who took part in the event did a fantastic job and it was a pleasure to welcome back some past pupils to be our guides for the evening! Our wonderful choir sang at the beginning of the evening, our guitarists played, we had arts and crafts, Mandarin and French and even 's'mores' at the fire pit in the outdoor classroom. We would like to thank Mrs McKibben and Mrs Millar, and the help they received from all the staff, in organising such a great event.

Please inform anyone that is considering us for Nursery or Primary One for **September 2026** of the date and timings. Applications will open online on **7th January 2025, at 12 noon** and will close at **12 noon on 21<sup>st</sup> January**. We now have **52 full-time Nursery places**, and our admissions criteria will be released on 10<sup>th</sup> December.



#### PTFA GO WONKA STYLE!

We would like to thank the PTFA for all their work in organising the prizes and selling the Wonka Bars. All the pupils loved the fun of finding the golden tickets!!

#### CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am -	P1 and P2 Nativity
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am -	P1 and P2 Nativity
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December at <b>9.15am</b> -	P5, P6, P7 Christmas Carol Concert
Friday, 12 <sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am -	P3 and P4 Christmas Carol Concert
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December-	Christmas Pantomime (see details below)
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December-	Christmas Disco

**Please note** that coffee and tea will be served after the Christmas Carol Concerts, and we would love you to stay. Also, after the Nativity or the Christmas Concerts parents, if they would like, may take the participating children home.

#### CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME

We will be going to the pantomime 'Peter Pan' on **17th December at Girdwood**. On this day pupils should come to school at normal time. If the weather is good the pupils will walk down to Girdwood Community Centre. If the weather is bad, we will make the decision before the event that pupils should be dropped off at Girdwood.

School will finish early that day, and **pupils should be collected from Girdwood at 11.50am for P1-4 and 11.55am for P5-P7**.

This pantomime will be put on by Mr Hullaballoo and his team of actors. The cost per child is £6.00 and £5.00 each if there is more than one child in the family. Payment is through the School Money website. Tickets for this event should be purchased by **Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> December**.



## DIARY DATES

### DECEMBER

#### NATIVITY PLAY

**TUES 9<sup>TH</sup> &  
WED 10<sup>TH</sup>**

#### PANTOMIME

**17<sup>TH</sup>**

### JANUARY 2026

**FLU  
VACCINATION  
7<sup>TH</sup>**

### CASH FOR KIDS

We are delighted to be receiving a donation from Cash for Kids. It is not too late to apply if you are struggling this Christmas. If so, contact the school office or email us at [info@cliftonville.belfast.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@cliftonville.belfast.ni.sch.uk). All information will be treated sensitively and discreetly. Like last year, it would be useful if you provide the age and gender of your child(ren) so that we can ensure that we match the presents with them. There is no guarantee that we can help everyone who needs it so please apply early.



### CHRISTMAS BREAK

Our Christmas holidays will be from **Monday 22nd December to Friday 2nd January** inclusive.

**On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December school will end at 12 o'clock.** There will be no bus on this day. School will recommence on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January at normal time.

### THE FLU VACCINATION

The 'flu vaccination will be administered in school on **7<sup>th</sup> January 2026**. Please watch out for the consent form to be completed and returned, in your child's schoolbag, over the next weeks. There has been an increase in pupils with 'flu-like symptoms in the school and we would encourage you to keep your children off school until they feel better. Please see the useful document from the PHA at the end of the bulletin.

### PARENT FOCUS GROUP

Early next year, we will be creating a Parent Focus Group to look at specific areas of school life. On the first occasion, the group will be looking at Integration. If all goes well, we will then repeat this with other groups of parents, for other areas, over the next couple of years. To ensure impartiality and to also select randomly, we will be using a number generator for each class. Each class will have two children selected and then a letter or text will be sent to invite a parent to attend a focus session on a specific date. If that parent declines, then the process will be repeated. It is hoped that by selecting two representatives, at random, from each of our classes that we will have a good core group of parents to create healthy discussions around areas of school life.

### CANCER LIFELINE

As you know, Cancer Lifeline is our chosen charity for the year, and we will be running a sponsored walk in March 2026. However, Cancer Lifeline is also running a Christmas Ballot with some fantastic prizes to be won, including a Christmas Food Hamper, a Christmas Drinks Hamper, and a £50 M&S voucher. Ballots are only £1 each and gives you a chance to win something lovely in the run-up to Christmas.

More importantly, every ticket purchased helps support people in North Belfast who are impacted by cancer and provides vital emotional, practical, and wellbeing support to local individuals and families during what can be an incredibly difficult time.

If you'd like to buy a ticket or find out more, please contact Cancer Lifeline on 02890 351 999 or speak to the school office. Thank you for helping us spread a little hope and kindness this Christmas.

### UNIFORM

You may have seen that the government is currently providing guidelines to schools on uniform.

At Cliftonville IPS, we have always tried to make our uniform as cost effective as possible and except for our tie, sold at cost price, the rest can be purchased at local shops and supermarkets. With regards to our PE kits, we have never taken commission from either the online supplier or local supplier G & J Geddis and this is to ensure that they can offer this as cheaply as possible. We await further guidance from DE before consulting with you, to ensure that any changes we suggest, have your support. In the meantime, a copy of our current uniform policy is available on the school website.



## And finally.....

The school choir have been very busy over the last week. They sang beautifully at St. Annes Cathedral in the carol service. They also performed at our Open night on Wednesday and at Clifton House on Friday. We would like to thank all the pupils in our choir for all their wonderful singing and Mrs Finlay for all the work she puts into training the choir.

Please remember to purchase a ticket for your child for the pantomime and remind them about maintaining good behaviour in school during this exciting time!

## Do I need to keep my child off school?



<b>Chicken Pox</b> Until all spots have crusted over	<b>Conjunctivitis</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Diarrhoea &amp; Vomiting</b> 48 hours from last episode	<b>Glandular Fever</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Hand, foot &amp; mouth</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Impetigo</b> Until lesions are crusted & healed or 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
<b>Measles or German Measles</b> 4 days from onset of rash	<b>Mumps</b> 5 days from onset of swelling	<b>Scabies</b> Until after first treatment	<b>Scarlet Fever</b> 24 hours after commencing antibiotics	<b>Slapped Cheek</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Whooping Cough</b> 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
<b>Flu</b> Until recovered	<b>Head Lice</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Threadworms</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Tonsillitis</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed		

Christmas Ballots - £1 each

help is at hand...

**CANCER**lifeline

1<sup>st</sup> prize - Food Hamper  
2<sup>nd</sup> prize - Drinks hamper  
3<sup>rd</sup> prize - £50 M&S Voucher

Win Prizes & Change Lives