



# November 2020 Information Sheet

Learning, Caring and Achieving.

Dear Parent,

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank parents for their support during the past months, in what has been a successful start to a very different year. Everyone has had to be flexible and make adjustments in the interests of providing a safe environment for the children. Parents have been respectful of the various guidelines provided and we appreciate this. We're also delighted at how quickly and smoothly the children settled back into school after such a long absence.

There is some information we'd like to pass on just now:

## **Odd Socks Day**

As part of our Anti-Bullying Week (16-20 Nov) we are planning an 'Odd Socks Day' on Monday 16 November. This is to remind us that we are all unique and special and also to send an important message to pupils that everyone should be free from bullying and fear.

All we ask is that everyone (including staff!) wears a pair of odd socks next Monday to help us celebrate Anti-Bullying Week in a fun and positive way. Teachers will also provide a range of fun and engaging classroom activities next week to reflect the Anti-Bullying Theme. If you wish, feel free to make a £1 voluntary donation to support the ongoing work of the Northern Ireland Anti-Bullying Forum.

## **Mid-term reports**

Since face to face Parent Interviews have not been possible this term, we have decided to forward a brief written report on your child's progress to date. These will be sent out to parents on Monday 16 November and should you have any questions arising from the report, please contact your child's teacher. There is no need to return the reports to school.

## **Engage Program**

Over the past few months teachers have been assessing pupils to identify areas they need most support with. The Department of Education have devised a programme called 'Engage' to support children this year. It involves 1:1, small group or team teaching and the aim is to reduce any long term adverse impact of the COVID-19 lockdown on educational standards.

Each school has received funding to employ a substitute teacher on a part time basis for the 2020-21 academic year to offer extra support. Staff are currently identifying those children who are in a position to benefit most from this program and we hope to have a substitute teacher in school shortly to deliver the program. The key areas of focus will be Literacy and Numeracy. If your child is to be involved, we will contact you prior to the commencement of the program. More details will follow shortly.

## **Bug Club Online Reading Programme**

We're delighted how much the children have been enjoying our online Bug Club Reading Program. The children have definitely been motivated by the range of engaging titles on offer. I have placed some guidance on how to use the program on our school website, click on Key



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Information – Helpful for Parents section (please note we are just using the online version for home reading). If you require any assistance in the use of the program, please contact your class teacher.

We should point out reading books are still used regularly in school and teachers listen to all pupils read aloud. This is central to the development of core reading and comprehension skills.

## Online homework

In order to reduce, where possible, the number of books going home each day teachers are currently using Study Ladder to set homework. We greatly value your cooperation in ensuring your child has completed the set tasks each night. The children seem to be enjoying the tasks set so far.

## Piano Lessons

We are delighted that piano lessons will be recommencing shortly. Our piano tutor, Mrs Ramsay, will contact last year's pupils with the necessary arrangements. I'm delighted to hear some pupils continued lessons over lockdown and achieved fantastic grades. Well done!

Parents traditionally have appreciated the convenience of very affordable and high quality music lessons offered within the confines of the school day.

## 2020 Smarties Challenge

Our first fundraising event of the year will be 'The 2020 Smarties Challenge.' Each pupil will be given a tube of smarties to enjoy, which can then be filled with 20p coins over the coming weeks. All tubes are to be returned by Monday 14 December and one child will be chosen at random to receive a £25 'Kings Toys' Gift Voucher. All proceeds will go towards purchasing some much needed new reading books and ICT equipment for our school. Smarties tubes will be sent home on Friday 13 November. As always we appreciate your ongoing support for Drumhillery in these times of critical underfunding of schools.

## House Captains

Since election fever has been gripping the airwaves recently we thought we'd hold our own elections in Drumhillery. Congratulations to the following pupils who've been elected as House Captains/Vice Captains for 2020-21:

	<b>Captain</b>	<b>Vice-Captain</b>
<b>Longnancys</b>	Ella Straghan	Sonny Kerr
<b>Sheetrim</b>	Jack Anderson	Lily Zwecker
<b>Cavanagarvan</b>	Emily Shannon-Wright	Adam Giffin
<b>Derryhennett</b>	Anna Murphy	Aimee Gill



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## **Cash for Clobber**

We recently received a brand new clobber bank in school and are happy to receive good quality, used second hand clothing such as shoes, curtains, towels, sheets and blankets. Our school receives a cash donation for each bag collected so just something to bear in mind if you're planning a 'clear out' soon. If you need a ready supply of Cash for Clobber bags just let us know.

## **School Holidays**

Christmas Holidays will be from 21 December to 4<sup>th</sup> January inclusive, (unless notified otherwise). Term 2 will recommence on Tuesday 5 January.

The recent extended Half Term holiday means we will have to revise our 2020-21 School Holiday List. You will receive more information on this shortly.

## **Help required!**

Appreciate this is quite random but if anyone is free to help with some power hosing in school we'd really appreciate it, as we're cleaning up around our play area at the rear of the school. Many of you no doubt gained some practice during lockdown! Just contact the school at your convenience if you can help, even for an hour or so!

Yours sincerely,  
K D Campbell,  
Principal



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