

EDUCATION AUTHORITY SOUTHERN REGION

Principal

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PQH(NI)



DRUMHILLERY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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12 January 2023

Dear Parent,

Welcome back to a new term at Drumhillery! Already the diary for Term 2 is filling up fast so we wish to pass on some further information.

P1 Admissions

If your child is starting P1 in September 2023 you can apply for their place online at www.eani.org.uk/admissions from 10 January 2023 at 12 noon. The closing date and time will be 12:00 noon on 27 January. If for any reason you are unable to apply online, please contact the school office on 028 37568725 and we will be happy to advise you of alternative ways to enrol your child. If you know of anyone else in the community who intends to send their child to Drumhillery PS in September 2023 then please pass this information on.

We have recently updated our school prospectus and copies are available from the school office upon request.

Staffing

Mrs Geary has recently commenced her maternity leave and we send her all our best wishes. We are pleased Mrs McMullan can cover P3-4 in her absence.

Class Dojo has proven to be a very useful tool to aid communication between home and school. We'd like to remind all parents to check Dojo messages daily as our staff go to considerable lengths to create helpful and often detailed messages on school activities.

Sickness

I have attached a leaflet 'Do I need to keep my child off school?' which may be helpful for parents, due to higher levels of sickness around recently. A copy has also been uploaded to our website under Key Information-Downloads-Helpful for Parents. Please note that in many of the conditions listed, it is advisable to inform the school even when there is no requirement to keep your child off.

Please also inform the school of the reason for your child's absence as soon as possible so the correct attendance codes can be entered into our system. This can be done via Class Dojo or in writing.

School Fund

Thank you so much to everyone who has already forwarded school fund payments this year. Where some payments are outstanding, we have sent home a School Fund Envelope and would be grateful if payment could be forwarded to school by Monday 23 January. Our school fund is a vital source of income and assists to purchase resources such as reading books, online learning packages and Outdoor Play Equipment. As always we greatly appreciate the generosity of parents in supporting Drumhillery PS.

Healthy Break

Our school operates a 'Healthy Eating Breaktime' policy as part of the Boost Better Breaks Programme which aims to encourage healthier food and drink choices at break times. It's not possible to offer an exhaustive list of healthy break choices, however examples may include fruit, vegetables, crackers, breadsticks and so on. We have uploaded a copy of the 'Healthy Breaks for Schools leaflet to our school website, under Key Information-Downloads-Helpful for Parents and this includes many more ideas.

Suitable drinks are juice, water, or milk. We strongly discourage crisps, sweets, chocolate, sugary or fizzy drinks, cakes, biscuits, yoghurts with a higher sugar intake, salted nuts and so on. Continually snacking on foods and drinks which contain sugar over a period may lead to tooth decay. Eating snacks which are high in fat, salt and calories can increase the incidence of health problems in later life. We believe it is important to educate the children as early as possible of the importance of making healthy lifestyle choices.

School Uniform

Thank you for your continuing support for our school uniform policy. We take great pride in how the children are presented, within and beyond the school environment. Just a reminder that the guidelines are as follows:

- 1 PE Days** - plain navy jogging bottoms, school polo shirt, sweatshirt and plain navy or plain black trainers should be worn. If the PE days change or if there are additional school activities or afterschool clubs planned, for which PE clothes are necessary, you will be informed.
- 2 Non-PE Days** - for those days when your child does not have PE or other sporting activity during or after school then the following uniform is expected:

Boys	Girls
School Polo Shirt	Navy Skirt/Pinafore
School Sweatshirt	School Polo Shirt
Black Shoes	School Sweatshirt
Grey/Navy Socks (not trainer socks)	Black Shoes
Grey Trousers	White Socks (knee length)/Navy Tights

- 3 Special occasions** - Formal school uniform should be worn, and you'll be informed well in advance when this is necessary.

EA Library Van

We are pleased that library van visits will recommence on Wednesday 18 January. All pupils should bring library cards and any books to be returned on that date.

P3-4 Hockey Lessons

P3/4 will commence hockey lessons with Christine Russell on Wednesday 18 January, for 8 weeks. The cost is £1.50 per week or alternatively parents may find it more convenient to forward £12 as a one-off payment. School hockey sticks are available, or the children may bring in their own. Mouth guards and shin pads should also be worn.

Our recent **Christmas Charity Collection** amounted to the fantastic total of £400 and will be divided equally between Hope for Youth Ministries and Armagh Foodbank. Thank you so much for your generosity.

Piano Lessons

There are still a limited number of piano tuition places available (p3-7) so if you are interested in your child commencing lessons just contact our piano tutor, Mrs Ramsay, on 07835588080. Lessons are on Tuesdays and are priced at £6 each.

Burns Bros Football lessons commence on Monday 16 January and all reply slips should be returned by Friday 13 January. We've been encouraging the children to come along as the sessions are enjoyable and of a high quality.

Achievement Assembly

Well done to all our recent award winners! Certificates were presented at our Achievement Assembly on Friday 6 January, keep up the great work! You can view photos on our website.

November - Pupils of the Month P1-2 Nathan Clarke P3-4 Matthew Straghan P5 Scott Anderson P6-7 Myah Morrison	December - Pupils of the Month P1-2 Faith Jenkins P3-4 James Hall P5 Benjamin Clarke P6-7 James Straghan
Be Respectful Award(Nov): P1-2 Amy Clarke P3-4 Danny Clarke P5 Rebecca Chambers P6-7 Erin-Mae Zwecker	Be Caring Award(Dec): P1-2 Megan McIlveen P3-4 Archie Dickson P5 Sophia Hall P6-7 Lottie Potter

School Policies

It is a legal requirement to consult parents on our Child Protection and Anti Bullying Policies. Therefore, we have placed a draft copy of each on our school website under Key Information-Parent Consultation. Please read these at your convenience and free to suggest any changes necessary. The password to access the page is Madden10 and the consultation period ends on 7 February 2023.

Yours faithfully
K D Campbell
PRINCIPAL

Courtesy
Many thanks
K D Campbell

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