



## Drumahoe Primary School – Parent Memo: September 2024

It has been wonderful seeing all of the pupils returning to school and I trust your children have settled well and will have a fun filled year at school. Thank you to all our parents/carers for ensuring the children look super in their uniforms and for helping to make the return to school run so smoothly.

### **P1 & New Starts:**

A very big welcome to our new P1 and later this month, Reception, pupils who have embarked on their “magical journey” through primary school. We also extend a very warm welcome to all the new pupils throughout the school who have also recently joined us, especially those in the ASC and LSC. We would also like to say a massive welcome to the pupils in the Preschool, it’s great to have all our Drumahoe family back from the summer holidays safe and well.

### **Staffing:**

On behalf of the Board of Governors, I would like to point out the following staff changes: Mrs Fiona Hilburn (nee. Dixon) has returned from her career break and is teaching P5/6. It is lovely to welcome Mrs Hilburn back to Drumahoe.

### **Uniform:**

It has been great to see all of the children looking very smart in their uniforms. To help this continue all year please ensure that pupils adhere to the regulations for proper footwear and clothing for school. PE uniform consists of a white polo shirt, black shorts (black tracksuit bottoms or leggings are also acceptable) and a change of gym slippers (kept in school) on their designated P.E. day. **Earrings are not permitted**, except for children with pierced ears, who may wear studs on those days when they do not have swimming or P.E. On swimming and P.E. days studs **should not** be worn. Please also ensure that pupils wear **black** training shoes with their P.E. Uniform. Other items of uniform i.e. sweatshirts, polo shirts, ties etc. are held as stock items in school and can be purchased from the Front Office. Please note that red jumpers should be purchased from school only.

Please ensure that all items of clothing (school uniform/P.E. Uniform) and footwear (P.E. Slippers) have the owner’s name clearly marked upon them. It is very difficult to identify the owners of items when they all look the same. Any items of uniform that may become lost are kept at the front of the school.

### **PTA Meeting:**

Please note that there will be a PTA meeting in school on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30 p.m. to arrange fundraising events for this year. New members will be made very welcome. Without the support of our PTA, it would not be possible to hold many of our annual events that raise vital funds for the school. Please read PTA newsletter from the Chair of the PTA that was sent on the school app today.

### **Packed Lunches / Healthy Break:**

The various lunch-box trolleys assist the school in making the dinner-time arrangements run very smoothly. To ensure that these arrangements remain effective, it is necessary that all lunch-boxes are clearly marked with the owner’s name on the **outside** of the box. Please also ensure that you try to make your child’s mid-morning break and packed lunch as healthy as possible.

### **Water Bottles:**

In the interests of health & safety, if your child brings a water bottle to school, which we encourage, could you ensure that it is clearly named & periodically cleaned to avoid any potential health risk.

### **Prefects:**

The Prefects for this half-term are: Layla Neely, Sarah-Jane Nutt, Amelia Moore, Madison Kilgore, Tommy Wright and Eli Cooke. The work that the Prefects do around the school is greatly appreciated by everyone and it is pleasing to see how the senior pupils respond to their responsibilities.

### **Class Information Leaflets/Meet the Teacher:**

Each teacher has prepared and distributed their information leaflet detailing how their class operates. Please take time to go through this with your child so as there is no confusion as to what is expected from their class teacher. Each class will also be organising a ‘Meet the Teacher’ afternoon to give you the opportunity to hear directly from your child’s teacher what the class expectations are and also to give you the opportunity to ask any questions you may have. Each teacher will notify you directly of the time and date of their meeting.

### **P6/7 School Trips:**

This school year the P6 Residential Trip has been provisionally booked to visit Gortatole Outdoor Centre in Co. Fermanagh from Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> until Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February. Further details will be issued in due course. P7 will visit Edinburgh once again this year in May.

### **Breakfast Club:**

The Breakfast Club has recommenced and operates from 8.00 a.m. – 8.45 a.m. each morning. This Club is very successful, averaging over 30 pupils every morning. Children can come and purchase a “Breakfast Special” – choice of cereal, toast and tea/juice for £2.00 per day. As well as a hearty breakfast the children are also provided with a wide selection of educational activities.

### **Diary Dates (provisional):**

Hallowe'en Fancy Dress Disco – Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024  
Parent/Teacher Meetings – w/b 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024  
P1 Open Evening for new families – Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024  
Festive Morning / Evening (Santa's Visit) – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024  
P1 & P2 Nativity (10.00 a.m. start) – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024  
Carol service – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024 @ 1.00p.m.

### **Holiday List Confirmation:**

The following Holiday List has been confirmed with immediate effect for this term:

- School will be closed on **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024** for staff training
- School will be closed from **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024** (inclusive) for ½ Term
- School closes for Christmas on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December** and re-opens on **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2025**.

### **After School Clubs:**

The week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> September will see the resumption of our After School Activities. They will be as follows:

Tuesday:	Dance - P1 – P3 – 2.00 – 3.00 Dance - P4 – P7 – 3.00 – 4.00 French - P1 – P3 – 2.00 – 3.00 French - P4 – P7 – 3.00 – 4.00
Wednesday:	Brazilian Soccer - P2 & P3 – 2.00 – 3.00 (places limited to 16) Brazilian Soccer - P4 – 3.00 – 4.00 (places limited to 16) Hockey – P6 & P7 – 3.00 – 4.00
Thursday:	Maiden City Football - P5 – P7 – 3.00 – 4.00

We are always looking to diversify the range of activities we can offer after school. If you have an activity you would like to see added and know of someone who can facilitate this, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

### **Car Park:**

I would like to thank you all for your co-operation on the use of the car park. As we begin our new school year, please remember to display good road manners and continue to be courteous to one another when using both the main school Car Park and the Car Park between the MUGA & Play Park. I have also instructed the teaching staff that **no child is to cross the Car Park unaccompanied** and that parents **must collect** their child from the class line at the front of the school. Please also be mindful of children crossing at the gates at the entrance to the school and MUGA car park where there is no School Crossing Patrol. This is a school and children can act unpredictably at times, therefore I would ask that you exercise due caution when approaching the school and when on school grounds. Many warnings are issued throughout the year with regard to the car park and unfortunately these continue to be ignored by a very small minority of people. We will always try our best to ensure that the children are safe when they are on the grounds of the school and need your support to ensure this continues.

### **House System:**

Following on from the tremendous success of previous House Competitions, we have again split all the pupils in school into four houses which have an associated House colour: Chestnut (Red); Oak (Blue); Sycamore (Yellow) & Spruce (Green). Pupils remain in the same House they were in last year. Siblings will always be in the same House and any new pupils have been divided as equally as possible to ensure both an age and gender balance in each House. After a very closely fought year it was Oak that came out on top last year. This year the following House Masters and captains will be trying to ensure they tie their colours onto the house tree:

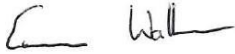
**Chestnut – Miss Thompson; Captains – Adam Caldwell & Evie Hughes;**  
**Oak – Mr Scott ; Captains – Noah King & Morgan Allen;**  
**Spruce – Mrs Bryson; Captains – William Snodgrass & Lucy Brennan;**  
**Sycamore – Mrs Hegarty; Captains – Marcus Gillen & Anna Brown.**

Congratulations to those pupils elected as House Captains and also to all of those P7 pupils who stood for election and gave such rousing leadership speeches to their respective Houses.

**School Development Plan:**

Every three years, the school must plan, in consultation with stakeholders, for how to continue to achieve success for our pupils. Your input into this plan is vital to ensure that the school remains at the heart of our community and our children continue to achieve to their full potential. A survey will be issued to parents this week, and I would really appreciate it if you could take some time to complete this online. The responses received will form a large part of the discussion around the school development plan and will let us know how you would like the school to move forward over the next three years.

Many thanks for taking the time to read this month's memo.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E Walker', written in a cursive style.

**E Walker - Principal**