



Drumahoe Primary School – Parent Memo: October 2024



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

PTA:

Please find along with this memo a note of the PTA fundraising activities for this half-term. Also, the PTA has registered for the ASDA 'Cash Pot for School.' You may have seen this advertised on TV and means that if you shop with ASDA, 0.5% of the money you spend on your shop will be donated to the school to buy sports equipment etc. It's really simple to donate, just follow the steps below:

- 1. Download the Asda Rewards app** Sign up for Asda Rewards and download the app on your smartphone. Opt into the Cashpot for Schools campaign through the app and watch your Cashpot start to fill up as you shop.
- 2. Choose your school** Nominate Drumahoe Primary School to donate to.
- 3. Shop in store across Asda and George, or online at Asda.com** Asda will donate a percentage of your shop to us each time you shop with them.
- 4. Asda does the rest** The money raised will be donated to spend on what we need most, including books, tech or sports equipment.
- 5. We'll support your chosen school from the beginning** Asda will start the school off with a £50 donation. Asda's campaign will run until 30 November.

Thank you for your support with this initiative!

Halloween Disco:

This year the arrangements for the Halloween Disco are as follows. Children in P3 and P4 children will have their disco from 6.00 - 7.00pm and P5 – P7 children will have their disco from 7.30 – 8.30pm on **Thursday 24th October**. Children in Reception, Primary 1 and 2 will have their disco during school day on **Friday 25th October**. All children can come to school in their Halloween costume on **Friday 25th October**.

The children are free to come to the disco at night dressed up or not but those that do will earn house points for their houses. The children will also be charged an entrance fee and included in this will be a bag of sweets etc. for the children to enjoy during the disco. These are the provisional arrangements; more details will be sent out closer to the time.

Thank you to all of you that have contributed costumes for our Halloween costume sale. Just a reminder that the PTA will be selling costumes after school from **Monday 14th October until Wednesday 23rd October**.

Free School Meals:

Just a little reminder that if you feel you are eligible to apply for support for School Meals or towards uniform costs, then please complete an online application using the Education Authority's website. This benefits the school in terms of the funding we receive. At the moment the school does not receive the same funding as other local schools, for example Extended Schools funding and we would really like to be able to avail of this in the future. For more information and access to the online form please use the following link: <https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants>

Harvest:

We will be holding our Harvest Service in school on **Friday 18th October 2024**. Our service will be led by the Reverend Hibbert from Glendermott Presbyterian church along with children in Primary 4. This year we are once again supporting the work of the Pantry Project run by the Churches Trust. If you would like to donate any items such as tinned fruit / rice / custard / Spaghetti / potatoes / beans / Biscuits / Pasta / Rice / Pasta Sauce / Cereal / Tea / coffee / jam, then please send in a donation with your child on the day.

Christmas Cards:

This year we are again fundraising for the school through the purchase of Christmas Cards designed by the children. We appreciate all your contributions to all our fundraising efforts throughout the school year, especially during these difficult times. Any contribution you can make is very much appreciated.

Manchester United Foundation:

Just to let you know that the school is once again working alongside the Manchester United Foundation. Children in Primary 7 are working with Martin to build not only their fitness skills but also developing their teamwork and health and well-being skills.

Parent/Teacher Meetings:

Our parent meetings will take place this year on the week beginning **11th November 2024**. The format will be the same as last year in that you will be offered either a face-to-face meeting or a telephone conversation. The school will also be closed earlier during this week to facilitate the meetings. More information will follow closer to the time.

Safeguarding / Child Protection:

Just a little reminder that if you have any concerns regarding safeguarding or child protection then please note that these should be passed onto Mrs Hegarty in the first instance. If she is not available, then Mrs Walker or Mrs Johnston should be notified.

Questionnaires

Thank you very much to those that responded to the parent questionnaires for the School Development Plan. Your responses are vital for shaping the future of our school and I want to thank you all very much for the positive feedback we received and the ideas for the future. We will very soon communicate to you the future plans we have for the school.

Donations

We are running short of a few resources in school and would be very grateful if anyone could donate any of the following:

- Old Board games (with all the pieces)
- Lego
- Jogging bottoms that would fit our Primary 1 and 2 children
- If you could also please check at home if you have any reading books belonging to school. We are running very low and as you can appreciate, they are very expensive to replace.

If you have any of the items above, please leave them with Mrs Glenn in the front office.

Uniform

Please, please, please ensure that your child's jumpers are clearly labelled with their names. We are only a short way through the school year and already we have so many jumpers that have been misplaced.

Classroom Visits

As a school, one of our main aims is to make your child as independent as possible. One way you can really help with this is to allow your child to make their way into their classroom independently in the morning. Children should be able to hang up their own coats and make their way into the room by themselves. If you do have a query for your child's teacher, please send them a message via Seesaw or Google Classroom. Alternatively, an appointment can be made for you to speak to your child's teacher by contacting the school (02871302284) and arranging a time that is suitable for both to meet. Thank you.

Gardening Help

If you or anyone you know has an interest in gardening, we would love to hear from you. We would love a team of volunteers that could come into school regularly to help keep our outdoor areas looking as good as new. If you are interested, please contact Mrs Glenn in the office.

Drumahoe Road

Last Friday, our lollipop man had a lucky escape when patrolling at the Faughan Bridge. When he was out on the road, crossing two children who thankfully were still on the footpath waiting to cross, a car drove passed him with excessive speed. Thankfully no-one was seriously hurt but poor Herbie was very badly shaken. Herbie was able to see the car registration and the incident has been reported to the PSNI.

Our entire community is responsible for the safety of our children. Please ensure that you and everyone you know is aware of the 30mph speed limit that is in place in the village. As the school is in a school safety zone, 20mph should be the maximum speed travelled when passing the school in the morning at drop off and in the evenings at pick up time.

I know that the traffic in Drumahoe has increased noticeably within the last year, with a number of cars using the Faughan Bridge to access the main road A6 road. I intend to raise this matter with local political representatives to explore what else we can do to ensure our children stay safe going to and from school.

After School Activities

Just a reminder that the following clubs will run after school throughout October:

Monday – Craft Club

Tuesday – French
Dance

Wednesday – Hockey
Brazilian Soccer School

Thursday – Maiden City Football (P5 – P7)

Diary Dates:

Flu Vaccination – Thursday 24th October 2024

Hallowe'en Fancy Dress Disco – Thursday 24th October 2024

P1 Open Evening for new families – Wednesday 27th November 2024

Breakfast & Festive Evening (Santa's Visit) – Wednesday 4th December 2024

P1 & P2 Nativity (10.00 a.m. start) – Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th December 2024

P3 – 7 Carol Service (1p.m. start) – Thursday 19th December 2024.

Autumn Term Holiday List Confirmation:

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

- School will be closed from Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November 2024 (inclusive) for ½ Term
- School closes for Christmas on Friday 20th December (½ day) and re-opens on Friday 3rd January 2025.