



Drumahoe Primary School – Parent Memo: September 2025



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 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. 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 continues to be on maternity leave, this is being covered by Mrs Duddy. Mrs Toland and Mrs Bratton also remain on maternity leave. Miss Hamilton and Miss McBrine / Miss Harris respectively will continue to provide maternity cover. Miss Harris will also be covering flexible working arrangements for Mrs Garden (Tuesday) and Mrs Bryson (Friday). As previously communicated, Mr Buchanan has been appointed to teach primary 7 this year and Mrs Donaghy has been appointed to teach in our FS / KS1 SPiM class. We wish all our new and returning staff all the very best and I know you will make them all feel most welcome to our Drumahoe community.

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. days. **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. Also ensure that water bottles and snack boxes have the owners name on them. With the recent wet weather, we have noticed that a number of children do not have raincoats in school. It would be very helpful if all children came to school with a coat, especially at this time of year. Any items of uniform that may become lost are kept at the front of the school.

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. Again we would ask that this is named to avoid confusion in class.

Prefects:

The Prefects for this half-term are: Harrison Neely, Emilie King, Callum Campbell, Ben McKinley, Kaylaa Duddy, Tyler McClelland and Reece Kee. 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.

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.

Grandparents Day

We are planning a day to celebrate Grandparents in school on **Friday 3rd October**. We appreciate that grandparents play a massive part in our school community and would like to show our appreciation to them for all that they do. More information will be sent out closer to the time. Anyone who plays a special part in the life of the children in school is very welcome to attend As the proverb says, ‘it takes a village to raise a child.’

Diary Dates – Term 1:

Flu Vaccination – Tuesday 7th October 2025
School Photographer – Friday 17th October 2025
Hallowe’en Fancy Dress Disco KS1 & KS2 – Thursday 23rd October 2025 (in the evening)
Hallowe’en Dress Up day (whole school) & FS Disco – Friday 24th October 2025
Parent/Teacher Meetings – w/b 10th November 2025
P1 Open Evening for new families – Wednesday 26th November 2025
Festive Morning / Evening (Santa’s Visit) – Wednesday 3rd December 2025
P1 & P2 Nativity (10.00 a.m. start) – Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th December 2025
Carol service – Thursday 18th December 2025 @ 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 26th September** 2025 for staff training
- School will be closed from **Monday 27th October to Friday 31st October 2025** (inclusive) for ½ Term
- School closes at noon for Christmas on **Friday 19th December** and re-opens on **Monday 5th January 2026**.

After School Clubs:

The week beginning 8th September will see the resumption of our After School Activities. They will be as follows:

Monday:	Craft Club - P2– 2.00 – 3.00 Craft Club - P4 & P5 – 3.00 – 4.00
Tuesday:	Dance – P1 - P3 – 2.00 – 3.00 Dance - P4 – P7 – 3.00 – 4.00 French - P1, P2 and P3 –2.00 – 3.00 (beginning 23 rd September) French - P4 – P7 – 3.00 – 4.00 (beginning 23 rd September)
Wednesday:	Brazilian Soccer - P1 – 2.00 – 3.00 Brazilian Soccer - P4 – 3.00 – 4.00 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.

Please see our weekly bulletin on Facebook on a Sunday. This will give you up to date information regarding after school clubs etc.

Car Park:

I would like to thank you all for your cooperation 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 the gates at the entrance to the school/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 Chestnut that came out on top. This year the following House Masters and captains will be trying to ensure they tie their colours onto the house tree:

Chestnut – Captains – Emilie King & Calvin Kerrigan;

Oak – Captains – Sam Scarpello & Zoe Allen;

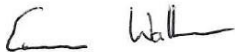
Spruce – Captains – Callum Pinder & Brooke Bradley;

Sycamore – Captains – Bryson Brace & Seren Powell.

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.

To commence the House Competitions this year, we will be holding our Tabloid Sports competitions on:- Wednesday 15th October - KS2 (P5-7) and on Thursday 16th October 2025 - FS (P1&2) & KS1 (P3&4). Pupils come into school wearing their P.E. Uniform and their house colour t-shirt. P1 pupils will be notified by their teacher of what house they belong to.

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



E Walker - Principal