



## **School App:**

Please note that the School App is the primary means of communication within school and it is vital that you download it because in the event of an emergency or an emerging situation, this is how we will communicate with you.

The “App” which can be downloaded either by visiting the relevant App Store (Apple or Google) – see links below or by scanning the attached QR code.

Drumahoe Primary School App iTunes Links: <https://goo.gl/hQt1t2>  
Drumahoe Primary School Google Play Link: <https://goo.gl/V6aQ6y>



Please download the App and get all the latest school information straight to your smartphone and/or tablet. The App is the main part of our communication system and as we are trying to use less paper, memos and messages will now appear on the app and not in paper form in your child’s school bag. That is why it is vital that you have access to the school app as the main source of information.

## **P6 Gortatole Trip:**

Children in Primary 6 will be embarking on their trip to Gortatole on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2026. There will be a meeting for parents attending the trip in school on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April to discuss arrangements for the trip and housekeeping information. The meeting will take place in the Dining Centre at 2.15p.m.

## **Book Fair:**

A big thank you to all of you that supported the Scholastic Book Fair in school with a staggering £2256.33 worth of books sold. This means the school has £1353.80 to spend on books for the classrooms. We can’t thank you enough for supporting this initiative and investing in such an important aspect of our children’s education.

## **Lateness:**

I have noticed that the number of children arriving late into school has been steadily increasing over the past few months. I appreciate that some mornings, for a variety of reasons you may run a little late which is perfectly acceptable. School doors open at 8.45am, with classes starting at 8.55am. As a school we have a **statutory duty** to ensure your child attends school regularly and on time. Consistent lateness can have the following impact:

- Can be disruptive for the class that has settled
- Loss of learning time
- Teachers having to recap what has been missed
- Upsetting for the child who is late having to walk into class

We want to help families get their child to school on time. Here are some things you can try:

- Have everything you/your child needs for school prepared the night before
- Ensure that your child goes to bed reasonably early, so they are not too tired to get up in the morning
- Ensure your child has a good night’s sleep by minimising their use of devices at bedtime
- Have a consistent bedtime routine for your child
- Set an alarm to allow plenty of time for your morning routine in getting to school on time
- Bring your child to breakfast club (open from 8am)
- Contact school if you need support

I know you’re all incredibly supportive of our school and we can work together to continue to make improvements to punctuality.

## **Smart Phone / Social Media Survey:**

Many thanks to those of you that completed the Smartphone / Social Media survey. All of the responses reflected very clearly the principle that children in primary school should not have a Smartphone or access to social media, therefore we will amend our policies to reflect this. Once the policies have been reviewed, I will send them out for you to see and comment on.

There is a parent pact that you can sign on the ‘Smartphone Free Childhood’ website to show your support for children not having a smartphone until they are at least 14. The web address is [www.smartphonefreechildhood.org](http://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org). I appreciate those of you that have already taken the time to sign this.

As previously communicated ‘Smartphone Free Childhood’ are holding an information evening in the Guildhall on **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 p.m.** if you would like to find out more about the impact of Smartphones on Childhood.



### **Showstoppers:**

Tickets for Showstoppers are selling fast! Thank you to everyone who has purchased tickets for the any of the performances. I can promise you that you will be thoroughly entertained! There are only tickets available for the matinee on Tuesday as the evening performances have sold out. If you have requested tickets for Tuesday but not yet paid for them, please do so as soon as possible.

### **Passport & Driving Applications:**

A friendly reminder that due to the increasing number of requests to complete these applications and the subsequent pressure on the admin staff in school, it was decided to levy an Administration Charge of £10.00 per Application Form for this service. The money collected is deposited into the Kids Forum Fund which the Class Reps will decide how best the money can be used to improve the school.

### **School Holiday Date 2026 – 2027:**

The school holidays for the 2026-27 academic year are attached to this memo. You are notified well in advance of the school holidays and we would appreciate that family holidays etc. are arranged around term time dates. Please also note that teachers have been instructed not to provide work to any child that is on a family holiday, as per our attendance policy.

Please also note that there are 3 additional staff development days in the calendar for 2026-27. These additional days have been allocated to schools to prepare for the introduction of the new TransformEd curriculum which will be implemented in September 2028.

### **Term 2 Holidays:**

School will be closed **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March** for the St Patrick's Day holiday. School will remain closed to pupils on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March** to facilitate staff training.

The school will finish for Easter on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March for all pupils at 12.00p.m. It will then reopen on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 8.55am.

### **Other Summer Term important dates:**

- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May – school closed – Bank Holiday
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>, Monday 25<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2026 - school closed for the Whit Bank Holiday and Staff Development Days
- Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> – Friday 29<sup>h</sup> May 2026 – P7 Trip to Edinburgh
- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – provisional date for Sports Day
- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June – Fun Night BBQ
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June – House cross-country event
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June – reports go home
- Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June – P7 'Leavers Assembly @ 10am
- Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026 – School ends for summer at 12.00 p.m.

E Walker  
Principal