

Annalong Primary Matters

September 2023

www.annalongps.com

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am delighted to welcome back all our pupils. I hope you had a great summer despite the weather. I would like to particularly welcome the Nursery pupils, P1 pupils and other new pupils who are starting our school for the first time. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of a few things that will help the continued smooth running of the school as well as inform you of forthcoming events.

P Chambers

Class Organisation

Primary 1 – Mrs Stevenson

Primary 2 – Mrs Black

Primary 3 – Mrs Hanna/Mrs McKibbin

Primary 4 – Miss Edwards

Primary 5 – Mrs Beattie

Primary 5/6 – Mrs R Cunningham/Mr Chambers

Primary 7 – Mrs Freel/Mrs R Cunningham

Term Dates

Half-Term – Monday 30th October-Friday 3rd

November

Term Ends – Wednesday 20th December at 12

noon

The full holiday list can be found on the Annalong PS App (Parent Area) and on the school website.

You can subscribe to the school calendar on the website which will transfer all the important dates to your phone.

Change of Details/Circumstances

If your **contact details or other circumstances have changed** i.e. change of address, mobile number or child's medical details, then please contact the school using the communication slip within the App or by emailing:

pchambers413@c2kni.net

School Fund

Over the years we have asked parents for a voluntary contribution to school funds to assist

with paying for essential resources. As you are aware with budgetary constraints this income is very important to the school. We would ask for a contribution of £20 per family. This is a voluntary donation and can be paid via the random payment section in the school app.

The **Annalong Primary School App** is now used to book activities, pay for school meals, communicate with, and notify us of absences. The App will be our main form of communication with parents. Please make sure you have ticked to receive notifications and chosen your child's class.

Download the App from the App Store and use access code 11111 to log on for the first time. If you continue to have difficulties, then please contact the school.

School Meals

School meals are available to all children.

The prices remain at £2.60 for Primary children and £2.50 for nursery children.

Please book using the above App for **both paid and free meals**. There is an option to specify either on the App.

If you believe that you are entitled to free school meals and/or help with school uniform, please contact the school. Eligible families and the school stand to benefit from each successful application.

As there is a **transaction charge** each time you use the App to pay for meals or other activities, the cost to the school is reduced when you pay for that week's meals in one transaction.

Small Talk NI sessions will begin with Nursery and P1 pupils on Monday 18th September and these classes will receive information about what these involve.

The **After School Programme** begins on Tuesday 12th September for Primary 4-7 pupils with Kickon Soccer returning to provide coaching at a cost £2.50 per session.

2-3 club will resume on Monday 4th September for P2 and P3 pupils from Monday-Thursday each week at a cost of £2.50 per day.

Homework

Reading, spellings, tables/number facts will begin on 18th September for P4-7 pupils, and Monday 25th September for P1-3, written homework will also begin on Monday 25th September for P4-7 pupils. Please speak to your child's teacher if you have any concerns about your child's homework.

School Uniform

Children are expected to wear their school uniform every day unless advised otherwise. Trainers are only allowed to be worn on a day when PE is timetabled. **Please could you make sure uniform and in particular jumpers are named.**

PE Days

P1 – Monday and Friday

P2 – Tuesday and Thursday

P 3– Tuesday and Thursday

P1-3 Pupils can wear trainers into school on their PE day.

P4 – Wednesday and Friday

P5 – Monday and Friday

P5/6 – Thursday and Friday

P7 – Wednesday and Friday

P4-7 pupils may wear their PE kit into school on their PE days.

RSE

You may be aware that new legislation has been passed which will make changes to the RSE curriculum in Post Primary schools. This does not affect Primary schools, however, I can assure you that nothing will be taught in Annalong Primary School that goes against our Christian Ethos.

Attendance

The class register is marked twice daily. A mark is given for AM attendance (morning) and for PM attendance (afternoon). If a child has a pre-arranged medical appointment, which lasts no more than half a day, they will be given a present mark. Please can I remind you to ensure children

are in school for 9am to ensure minimum disruption to classes. You must provide a reason why your child is off using the absence form on the school app in the Parent area.

Guidance states that pupils should be off school for a minimum of 3 days after a positive Covid-19 test or symptoms but please ensure they are well enough to return to school. If pupils suffer from diarrhoea or vomiting they should remain at home for 48 hours after their last bout of sickness.

Social Media

The school has a **Facebook and Twitter account** to further help communication with parents and the local community. Please use the school app to communicate with school as messages will not be monitored on social media

Queries/Concerns

Just to remind you that most day-to-day queries/concerns can be answered by the class teachers. If you need to see a teacher about a more serious issue, please make an appointment to see the teacher or Mr Chambers at an appropriate time.

Mr Chambers will be available after school Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and during school on Monday - Wednesday.

School Contact Details

Email: pchambers413@c2kni.net

Phone – **02843768336** or use the **Communication form on the School App.**

Please remember that we are a nut aware school. Products containing nuts or traces of nuts must not be brought to school.