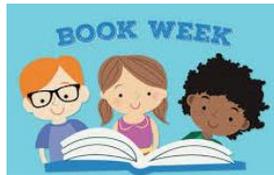


W/B 16th MARCH 2020

- 16 – 20th Walk to School Week
- 17th No School Canteen. Please see note sent home
- 20th P6/7 SU Trip to Castlewellan

BOOK WEEK

Our Book Fair and 'World Book Day' on Friday were hugely supported and we thank parents for all the family input throughout this week.



A huge total of £2745 was raised which will allow us to update our class and school libraries. This is our highest total yet.

The 'Vocabulary Parade' costumes worn last Friday were amazing and many pictures were taken! We hope you got to see class photos on Seesaw. The quality and creativity of the costumes was commented on by parents as being the best they'd seen! We would agree. Thank you for all the effort put into these. Not only was it a great fun day, it was a great learning day of Literacy for all.

We are so thankful to have such supportive parents, for all our events in school.

Thank you to Mrs Arbuckle, Mrs Mason, Dr. Holland and all our assistants who helped at the fair.

MENUS

Parents please note that we send the canteen menu home for children to be aware of what is being served each day. We have a few children presenting for a school meal at present but they do not like what is on offer.



The canteen cannot provide alternatives and children can end up eating very little to last them throughout the school day. Please check the menu each night and send a packed lunch if there is nothing on the menu to suit your child.

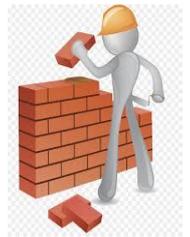
A copy of our current menu is available on our school website. Thank you.

P6/P7 SU WEEKEND TO CASTLEWELLAN CASTLE
20th – 22nd March 2020

A reminder that the balance of payment (£76) must be given to Mrs McDowell by tomorrow, 13th March. All Code of Conduct and Medical Forms must also be returned to her by then.

BUILDING UPDATE

As Parents are aware, we are to have a new extension built in school funded by DE School Enhancement Programme. The focus of this SEP is to remove the need for mobile classrooms for P5-7.



To keep you updated I can tell you that the process of administration on such a project is lengthy – but the design team has now been appointed. This team will visit us next term to see the building we have and their task is to design the new structure, to suit our needs, and in line with the DE Building Handbook.

This will be an exciting time for school and once designs are agreed – we will inform you of what has been decided.

The building of such a structure will take time also and some changes to our normal routine will need to be made to accommodate the work to be carried out. As is always our hope, we plan to function as normally as possible in this building work time. We will keep you informed as decisions are made.

SUPER FUND RAISERS!

Thank you to all parents who have helped us with the 'Coin Trail' so far. The P7 pupils are gathering the donations every day and buckets are filling up fast.



We plan to spend this money on new reading material to encourage the reading of books in school and home. Your generosity, as always, is much appreciated.

BUSINESS INITIATIVE

In partnership with LIDL, in the Business Partnership Network, we send our thanks to our local store for providing some free resources to school. These are greatly appreciated.

**MUSIC FESTIVAL**

Well done to all the pupils who took part in the Music Festival this week. There was a great buzz around school.



Thank you also to all parents and staff who helped to prepare for the festival pieces. Choir class tomorrow and then we will send you all the results next week.

IMPORTANT NOTICE



A meeting of COBRA with the Prime Minister is taking place today. At the time of print, we are aware that COVID-19 has been escalated to the 'delay' stage which may mean closures in many schools across the country. As yet we do not have any directive from the Department of Education on this. We will keep you informed.

At present we are preparing for what MAY lie ahead for us. A school closure, over a long period of time, will require us to be able to correspond with parents and pupils digitally. Please prepare at home for this by:

1. Ensuring we have an up to date contact number in our school office, if you have changed your mobile recently.
2. Ensuring you have connected to our Seesaw App with your child's class teacher. Everyone has been requested to do this on a number of occasions.
3. Ensuring you have our school website address saved to check for any messages posted.
4. Ensuring you have a working computer/device in your home for us to connect with your child and carers for remote learning guidance. *It is essential this is a priority as we may not be able to Link with you at home in any other way.
5. Ensuring you have emergency childcare arrangements in place, should this be necessary at short notice.

We appreciate how difficult this will be for many.

Please note that we will contact you directly re: any changes in school routines. Any other information you may hear/read may not have any impact on us in Ballyclare Primary School at present.

* We have put plans in place to continue learning as much as possible, using Seesaw. Via this app, class teachers will communicate with you on a daily basis. A remote learning guide will be sent home tomorrow, Friday. Please ensure you download the Seesaw Class app in preparation as detailed in this guide. Contact school if you need any help with this.

NO closure will take place until you hear from us, after a directive from the Department of Education.

This information is all PREPARATION ONLY.

Mrs K. Mulligan

Principal