



SEPTEMBER 2022

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## DIARY DATES

### **School Holidays 2022 - 2023**

School Closed – Staff Training  
Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September

#### **Mid Term Break**

School closes @ 11:30am Fri 28<sup>th</sup> Oct.  
Closed Mon 31<sup>st</sup> Oct. – Fri 4<sup>th</sup> Nov.  
School reopens Mon. 7<sup>th</sup> Nov.

#### **Christmas Holidays**

School closes @ 11:30am Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec  
Closed Mon 26<sup>th</sup> Dec – Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Jan  
School reopens Mon 9<sup>th</sup> Jan

#### **Mid Term Break**

Closed Mon 13<sup>th</sup> – Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Feb  
School reopens Mon 20<sup>th</sup> February

#### **St. Patrick's Day**

School closes @11:30am Thurs 16<sup>th</sup>  
School closed Fri 17<sup>th</sup> March

#### **Easter Holidays**

School closes @11:30am on Thurs 6<sup>th</sup>  
April  
School closed Fri 7<sup>th</sup> April – Fri 14<sup>th</sup>  
April  
School reopens Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April

#### **Mid Term Break**

School closed Mon 1<sup>st</sup>–Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> May  
School reopens Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> May

Sports Day Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May  
School closed Mon 29<sup>th</sup>–Tue 30<sup>th</sup> May  
School reopens Wed 31<sup>st</sup> May

#### **Summer Holidays**

School closes at 11:30am on Thurs  
29<sup>th</sup> June

### **CHILD PROTECTION**

Should you have any concerns in relation to child protection matters, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Storey (Designated Teacher) or Mrs Devlin (Deputy Designated Teacher).

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We hope you enjoyed a lovely summer break and you are looking forward to the new academic year. It is wonderful to see the children back and hear all about their exciting summer adventures.

A very special welcome to our Primary One children and all those families who are new to our school, we look forward to getting to know you all and trust that this year will be a happy and successful one for us all.

There have been some changes to our teaching staff this year. We wish Mrs O'Neill and Mrs McNamee every blessing for their maternity leaves and we extend our best wishes to Mrs McCann as she takes up her new role as a classroom assistant in a post primary school. Our teaching and non-teaching staff for this year are:

P1 Mrs Devlin, Miss Cassidy and Miss Sands

P2 Mrs Storey and Miss Sands

P3/4 Miss Toner, Mrs O'Donnell and Mrs Madden

P4/5 Miss McColgan and Mrs McErlain

P6 Mrs Bujwid and Mrs McWilliams

P7 Mr McPeake and Miss Davidson.

We wish our new members of staff well and have no doubt their enthusiasm, skill and experience will support the children and add much to our school community.

The school gates open at 8:30am. Children should make their way to their own classroom in the morning. Our Foundation Stage parents are welcome to walk their children across the playground to the P1/2 cloakroom area.

A member of staff will be on duty to meet the children coming off the morning bus.

Please ensure you give the bus priority in the layby at all times and, with this in mind, be mindful of where you park if you are leaving your child into school.

Should your child be unwell and unable to attend school it is essential that you ring the school office on 028 7965 0130 and leave an attendance note detailing a reason for the absence.

If you wish to deliver something to your child, such as a forgotten lunch box or homework folder, it should be taken to the school office. A member of staff will then deliver the item to your child.

Should you have a concern or query about your child please bring it to the class teacher's attention by sending a note via Seesaw. Class teachers will update parents regarding their child's progress and attainment at the parent-teacher meetings which are scheduled for the end of Term One. A formal, written report will be issued in Term Three.

Our Parent Teacher Association, the Friends of Millquarter, do a fantastic job raising much needed funds to secure additional resources and equipment for our children to use. With their support we have been able to purchase new interactive panels for each classroom and are very much looking forward to using these. The Friends of Millquarter also provide our parents with an opportunity to get to know each other and play an active role in school life. We would encourage all our families to get involved! Keep an eye on Seesaw for further details. Mrs McNamee

### **UNIFORM LABELS**

Please ensure EVERY item of uniform is labelled with your child's name and class (including coats).

### **SEESAW**

Seesaw is a valuable tool for enabling parents to keep informed about school events and their child's learning. Parents should download the Seesaw FAMILY APP onto their personal device using the family code sent home with their child. The children access seesaw using a different 'home learning' code. The home learning codes do not allow users to see all announcements, so it is important that parents ensure they are using the 'Family App'

### **SICKNESS**

If your child is absent from school, please let us know by ringing the school office and leaving a message. Children who have a vomiting illness or diarrhoea should remain off school for 48 hours from the last episode. The latest advice from the PHA indicates that there is no need for most people to test for Covid anymore. Adults who do test positive isolate for 5 days and children for 3 days.

### **SCHOOL MONEY**

We use an online cashless system called EDUSPOT School Money to process all payments. Details of how to download and use the app are available on the website and a hard copy of instructions has been sent home to our new families. If you wish your child to receive a hot dinner at lunchtime, remember to book and pay for the dinner using the School Money app. Please be mindful that **all bookings must be made by midnight the evening before.**

### **HAIR CARE**

Parents are encouraged to regularly check their child's hair and treat when necessary.

### **CONSENT FORMS**

A pack containing information about using Seesaw and EduSpot School Money has been sent out to every family. Also included in this pack is a generic consent form for parents to complete and an Acceptable Use Policy Agreement to be read and signed by parents and children. Please ensure these forms are completed and returned to school as soon as possible.

### **NUT FREE ZONE**

We have a number of children within our school community with a nut allergy. We therefore respectfully ask that you **do not** send in foodstuffs containing nuts for your child's break/lunch.

### **MILK**

If you wish your child to receive milk at breaktime it can be ordered and paid for on the School Money app by Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September at the latest please. Milk can be ordered at the beginning of every term, the fee for this term will cover milk up until the Christmas holidays.

### **HEALTHY BREAK**

We are a healthy eating school and encourage the children to make healthy choices. Please ensure your child has a small healthy snack with him/her to eat at breaktime. Children receiving a school dinner will also need a small healthy snack to eat at breaktime.

### **FREE SCHOOL MEALS**

If you believe your child qualifies for free school meals please apply online at

[www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants/apply-for-free-school-meals-uniform-grants](http://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants/apply-for-free-school-meals-uniform-grants)

The number of children in receipt of free school meals has implications for our school budget. It is therefore important that, if you are eligible, you apply for FSMs even if your child does not intend taking them.

### **POST PRIMARY TRANSFER**

Primary Seven parents/guardians wishing their child to sit the Entrance Assessment for admission into post primary school next year are reminded that the closing date for registration is Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2022 at 2pm. The GL Assessment will take place on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Further advice and information can be found on the post primary school's website or the Post Primary Transfer Consortium <https://www.pptcni.com/>

### **AFTERSCHOOL CLUB**

The Homework Club for Primary Seven pupils wishing to sit the entrance assessment will start on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September and will run from 2:40pm-3:40pm. Parents wishing their child to attend should pay via School Money before the 6<sup>th</sup> September. We would also remind parents that children should be collected promptly at 3:40pm

### **MEDICAL CONDITIONS**

Please make us aware of any medical conditions your child may have. Medication should not need to be administered in school except in exceptional circumstances.

### **PE UNIFORM**

Our PE uniform is a plain white polo shirt, plain black leggings/tracksuit bottoms and our school jumper. P3-7 children may wear the P.E. uniform to school on PE days.

### **CONTACT DETAILS**

It is important that we have contact details for you. Should your address or phone number change throughout the year please ensure that these details are updated with the school office.

### **SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHER**

The school photographer is booked for Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September. Further details will be sent out via Seesaw closer to the time.