



OCTOBER 2022

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## DIARY DATES

### Halloween Fancy Dress

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October

### Mid Term Break

Sch Closes @ 11:30 Fri 28<sup>th</sup> Oct

Closed 31<sup>st</sup> Oct – 4<sup>th</sup> Nov

School reopens Mon 7<sup>th</sup> Nov.

### Cycle to School Week

3<sup>rd</sup> October – 14<sup>th</sup> October

### P7 Parent Teacher Meetings

WB 17<sup>th</sup> October

### Flu vaccination

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October

### Library Van

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October

### Maths Week

17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> October

### P6 Shared Education Trip

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October

### FREE SCHOOL MEALS

*If your circumstances have changed and your child/ren would qualify for Free School Meals please apply on the EA website as soon as possible*  
[www.eani.org.uk/fsm](http://www.eani.org.uk/fsm)

### OFFICE HOURS

The school office hours have been reduced. The office is open:

Monday 8 – 1pm

Tuesday 11am – 4pm

Wednesday 11am – 4pm

Thursday 11am – 4pm

Friday 8am – 1pm

If your child arrives after 8:40am in the morning, they should enter via the front door.

It has been a very busy first month in Millquarter with the children settling in very well to school life. They are all trying very hard and enjoying being back together without bubbles in operation! Weekly assemblies are up and running and our Primary Seven children took the first class assembly at the end of September. Our past pupils, the P7 class from last year, starred in a special TV series for TG4 - 'Scealta na gCorn' which aired last week. A clip of it can be seen on the school Facebook page.

We send our congratulations to St. Ergnat's on their many successes of late (U14A, U16A & U18A championships as well as U15A County Feile, All-Ireland Feile and Senior Ladies Championship). We hope to host a celebratory day very soon. Well done everyone!

The pupil elections for various committees are pending and will be announced shortly. The children have the opportunity to become: **School Council Representatives, Eco-Committee members, Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, Digital Leaders, Road Safety Officers and Wellbeing Champions.** We look forward to hearing who is elected and what their plans are for the year ahead.

We have received word that funding has been made available by the Department to continue the Happy, Healthy Minds Pilot. Parents who feel their child would benefit can apply online to have their child assessed for weekly sessions of talk/play therapy. A link to the referral form was issued to parents last week via Seesaw.

## CYCLE TO SCHOOL WEEK

Last year we were awarded the Gold Mark for Sustrans Active Travel and we are keen to continue promoting active travel in Millquarter. This year, as part of cycle to school week, children and their families are encouraged to make a pledge to cycle to school. Visit <https://www.bikeability.org.uk/cycletoschoolweek/> to make a pledge and be entered into a prize draw to win a new Frog City 61 bike! Pledges must be made by Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October. Children who are cycling to school are reminded of the importance of wearing a helmet and high visibility vest. Bikes should be parked against the fence next to the dinner hall throughout the day. Pupils who are cycling home will be released to their parents or after the bus has departed and the traffic has cleared a little.

## HALLOWEEN FANCY DRESS

On Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October the children are invited to come to school in fancy dress as part of our Halloween celebrations (no scary masks as these frighten the younger children). We will have a catwalk show in the morning with the opportunity for everyone to walk the runway and admire the wonderful costumes on display. A £1 fee is payable via School Money for those wishing to enter the fancy dress competition. This is one of our annual charity fundraisers with the monies raised this year going to the Sands NI charity. Voluntary donations can also be made via the School Money app. School will close for mid term holidays at 11:30am on this day.

### **PE UNIFORM**

The children are looking resplendent in their school uniforms. Please ensure only plain black bottoms/leggings and a plain white polo shirt is worn on PE days with a school jumper. PE uniform reduces peer pressure to have the latest/most expensive sportswear and also promotes a sense of unity and pride in our school. Your cooperation in sending your children into school in their PE uniform on the designated PE day/s is greatly appreciated.

### **SHOEBOX APPEAL**

The Christmas Shoebox Appeal is an annual campaign sending gift filled shoeboxes from Ireland to children affected by poverty. This year we will be collecting shoeboxes for Team Hope. Team Hope is a Christian, International Development Charity working to help children affected by poverty in Eastern Europe and Africa. For ideas on what to include in your shoebox or to read stories of the amazing difference the shoeboxes make visit [www.teamhope.ie](http://www.teamhope.ie) Filled shoeboxes should be sent to school on or before Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November.

### **LATE CLASS**

Late Class is an after school service that enables P1 and 2 children to remain in school for an additional hour and travel home with older siblings or be collected at 2:40pm. The children engage in supervised play inside and out during this time. If you would like your child to avail of this service places can be booked on the School Money app.

### **BE BRIGHT, BE SEEN!**

With the darker mornings and evenings closing in the children are encouraged to wear high visibility vests or reflectors when travelling between home, bus stops and school to help motorists see them more clearly.

### **SAFEGUARDING TEAM**

Should you have any concerns in relation to child protection matters, please do not hesitate to contact school. Mrs Storey is the Designated Teacher and Mrs Devlin the Deputy Designated Teacher. The Safeguarding Team also includes the Principal Mrs McNamee, Mr Boyd the Chair of Governors and Mrs O'Neill the Designated Governor for Child Protection.

### **PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS**

Parent teacher meetings will take place in school, week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> November for P1 – P6 children. Appointment times shall be sent out prior to this. P7 meetings are scheduled for the 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> October and appointments have already been issued to parents.

### **IEPS**

If your child has an Individual Education Plan the class teacher will discuss these with you. Please ensure all documents are signed and returned to school as soon as possible.

### **BUS PASSES**

If your child/children are eligible for a bus pass, please apply for one. The statutory qualifying distance for primary school children is 2 miles between home and school and there must be no similar schools within closer distance to your home address. Further information can be found on the EA website [www.eani.org.uk](http://www.eani.org.uk)

### **HEALTHY BREAK**

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

### **WATER**

The children are encouraged to bring a flask/bottle of water to school everyday to help keep keep them hydrated and ready to learn.

### **POST PRIMARY TRANSFER**

The GL Assessment will take place on 12<sup>th</sup> November for Primary Seven children that are registered to sit the Entrance Assessment.

### **FLU VACCINATION**

The school nursing team will be in on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October to deliver the flu vaccine to the children with parental consent granted. Consent forms were issued a few weeks back and should have been returned to school whether or not consent is given. Any outstanding forms should be sent in on the morning of the 7<sup>th</sup> October.

### **DOGS**

Parents are reminded that in the interest of pupil safety, dogs should not be on school grounds. This includes drop off/collection times.

### **SHARED EDUCATION**

We are in our sixth year of Shared Education with our friends in Groggan Primary School. The funding for the CASE Shared Education project is due to end in March. We are very grateful for the opportunities, experiences and resources the programme has afforded us over the years. This year our focus throughout the school will be on animation as part of UICT as well as Literacy and Numeracy development. The children will have opportunities to come together and share outings/school trips.

### **PUPIL WELLBEING**

The teaching staff have completed training in the Solihull approach and we will be continuing to use the Neuronimo programme with each class this year again.

Wishing you all a safe and enjoyable Halloween break!