



Coffee Morning

Patricia will be holding a socially distanced coffee morning for parents on Thursday 15th October at 9am. The theme will be self-care and promoting our wellbeing.

Parent/Teacher Interviews 19th -23rd October

A reminder that these will be done over the phone from Monday 19th of October to Friday 23rd of October. Your teachers will email you to let you know when to expect a call. In order to manage 3 dinner sittings, and children going home through different exits, FINISH TIMES for the week are as follows:

P.7s -	12:00
Nursery -	12:00
P.5 and P.6 -	1:00
P.1 –	1:10
P.2 –	1:20
P.3 –	1:30
P.4 –	1:40

CHILDREN WILL LEAVE THROUGH THEIR USUAL EXITS

Non Uniform Day

Friday 23rd October, £1 cash on the day per child, NOT through ParentPay. The theme is 'yellow' as this colour is deemed to be cheerful and improve your mood and counteract stress ☺

Mid Term Break

Mon 26th to Fri 30th Oct – School closed for the mid-term break.

Primary School Fund and Fund Raising 2020-21

Aside from non uniform days, in the current climate, we are unable to do any fund raising for school funds, this includes the SMARTIE tubes the Christmas Ballot, fireside quizzes, and likely the Summer Fair, all of which raise much needed money for our school funds. Our school fund is vital in funding many things, over and above the school's delegated budget, which is never enough to cover costs.

In place of fundraising, and combining this with our usual collection of school fund, we are asking parents to pay £5 per child in each term this year, a total of £15, per child, for the year.

This will be done through ParentPay and you can pay the £5 per term up until the following dates:

- Term 1 – By Friday 23rd October
- Term 2 – By Friday 29th January 2021
- Term 3 – By Friday 23rd April 2020.

You can also choose to pay the £15 up front for the year.

The parent consultation group has, in the past, asked if we would consider increasing school fund and decreasing fundraising events during the year, so this is an opportunity to try this out and see how it goes.

Thank you in anticipation of your support.



Mental Health Awareness Day Today



Today is Mental Health Awareness Day. We are making a great effort in school to focus on the emotional health and wellbeing of all our pupils and staff and so to mark this special day we will be doing a variety of activities. Being active plays a large part in maintaining good mental health and so children will take part in the daily mile, PE activities outdoors and active brain breaks in the classroom. Some classes will have extra reading or story time, take part in colouring, art or music activities. In school children are well used to talking about their wellbeing so this is maybe something to talk about openly at home too, particularly as we start embracing the 'Take 5 steps to wellbeing' ethos.

Mrs A McWhirter, PDMU Co-ordinator

School Council News

Ballykeel School Council is preparing to start work, with last year's P.4 to P.6 pupils continuing on in their roles from the year 2019-20. The current P.4s held their elections last week. The Ballykeel Councillors are:

- Mason-Bane Stewart (P.4HR)
- Johnathan Richmond (P.4T)
- Lexi McPeake (P.5MA)
- Abbie McCrory (P.5H)
- Eloise Rainey (P.6M)
- Benjamin Dickinson (P.6F)
- Cassie Cairns (P.7G)
- Freddie Glass (P.7H)

As well as carrying out school council duties, the members will also be 'Take 5 Pupil Champions' and will be working together to promote our school's mental health and wellbeing messages throughout the year. They are looking forward to getting started. Please keep an eye on the school website for updates on their hard work.

Mr J Hughes, Teacher in Charge of the Council



