



Ballykeel Primary School & Nursery Unit

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Dear Parent,

A reminder that school is closed next week. I hope that you have a lovely break and I also hope that the weather improves so that everyone can get out and about. The children have been terrific since their return after lockdown, they settle so well and so easily back into school life.

It's hard to believe that when we return there are only 3 weeks and 2 days left of school until the summer holidays. We plan to make it fun and enjoyable for the children, and in particular for the P.7s who will be moving on to secondary school in September.

Each class will do their own sports day and the teachers will post pictures on the website for you to see. The prizes usually given out on prize day will be done in individual classes, but we plan to have a special day for the P.7s incorporating their prizes, barbeque, inflatables and a disco and games as well. We have managed to secure a day trip for our P.7s to go to Woodhall in June where they will get to experience some of the activities they would have done if they had of being going on the usual residential.

We are also having an outdoor health and well being day for each class which will focus again on taking care of ourselves both mentally and physically. We also plan to have a barbeque at lunchtime for each class during June. I am delighted that we are now officially a 'Take 5 School.'

The school term dates for 2021-22 are now on the website, from which you will see that the new term starts on Wednesday 25th August.

School Fund

In the absence of fund raising we are incredibly grateful to those parents who have paid school fund this year, so many of the extra things we do and purchase could not happen if it wasn't for this. This year has included:

- *Prizes and treats for pupils of the month and classes of the month*
- *Juice and biscuits each day for the Power Hour clubs*
- *The resources for class and club activities such as baking and gardening*
- *Prizes for accelerated reading*
- *Trophies, engraving and prizes for prize day including a new school tie for each P.7 pupil. Subsidising transport to and from Woodhall.*
- *Upkeep of areas in the school such as the Secret Garden and the pond*
- *Donations to charity*
- *The purchase of resources such as reading books for class libraries*

So much time, thought and effort goes into doing many extra things for our children. Fundraising takes so much time and effort on the part of staff that, moving forward, we hope to reduce the need to do this by continuing to collect that little bit extra in school fund each year. *Every* child in the school benefits greatly from the money collected through school fund and if you haven't paid, it's not too late! Through ParentPay is the easiest way for the school, but should you be experiencing difficulty with this, it can be sent in with your child.

Have a lovely break and we will see the children back on Monday 7th June.