

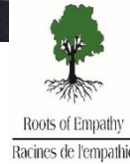
# IRVINESTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

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## NOVEMBER 2022

Dear Parent,

### **DITCH THE DARK DAY**

Thank you for your support on our Ditch the Dark day. Due to the success of this event, the Eco team have decided to revive the Walk up the hill Wednesdays. We are asking parents to drop their child at the school gate, where staff will be waiting to supervise. Parents are welcome to walk further than the school gate if it suits their busy morning schedule. These small efforts are to help encourage our pupils to adopt a healthy lifestyle and increase their level of exercise. Lots more activities have been planned for the rest of the school year.

A local resident rang on the morning of the Ditch the Dark day to congratulate the pupils on their efforts.

### **RELAX KIDS**

Mrs Gray has recently been trained on Relax Kids. She is starting a programme this week for all classes in the afternoons. This will be funded through Extended Schools. This programme supports the mental health and wellbeing of young people, so they can navigate life feeling calm, confident and creative and lit up from within. The lessons are designed to support children to build good emotional health through relaxation and meditation exercises. They use a unique 7-step system that works through children's natural energy system to lead them into a relaxed state where they are ready to learn. There are many benefits for children including improved concentration, self-esteem and confidence. The lessons are fun and engaging and will provide children with a toolkit of strategies to use in their everyday lives.

### **CHRISTMAS**

This year we are having our P1-P4 Christmas show in school on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 7p.m. and on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 10 am. Our Key Stage 2 pupils will not be involved in the P1-P4 show, unless they are a member of the school choir. Instead, Key Stage 2 will host a Christmas carol service on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7p.m. The school choir will also sing at the Carol Service. Tickets will be on sale for both events from 21<sup>st</sup> November - £3 adult, £2 children. These will be sold on a first come, first served basis so please order and send money using the proforma below. Gary our professional videographer will

professionally record a DVD of the P1-4 production which will be sold at a cost of £10. Year 1 children will share their Christmas Santa list as usual. We are hoping that Santa will come and visit us before the end of term.

P1-P4 are going to a Christmas show in the Ardhowen Theatre and P5-P7 are travelling to the Millenium theatre to see Cinderella. A charity Christmas Jumper Day will be held on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December. This year money raised on the Christmas Jumper Day will go to the N.I. Air Ambulance.

**Microsoft word** is available to download onto your child's laptop for free. If you would like information about this, please let us know and we can send you a help sheet which explains the process step by step.

### **PTA**

If you are interested in becoming involved in the PTA please return the proforma below and a committee member will get in touch.

The PTA would like to encourage you to name our school P.T.A. on the easy fundraising website - [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk). With no expense on our part, every time you shop on-line, money is raised for school. Donations are available through 3,700 on-line brands and retailers. Check out the website and /or download the mobile app and choose Irvinestown Primary School Parent Teachers Association. Thank you to all who have signed up so far.

### **ANTI-BULLYING WEEK - MONDAY 14<sup>th</sup> TO FRIDAY 18<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2022**

The theme this year is "Reach out". During this week children will take part in activities encouraging them to have a better understanding of bullying. We are having an odd-socks day on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November. Just come to school in uniform but wear odd socks / tights. This is to help us think about and celebrate what makes us unique.

Our full Anti-Bullying Policy is available from school and on our School Website. In addition, information about the different forms of Bullying can be found on the Northern Ireland Anti-Bullying Forum website.

### **POPPY APPEAL**

The poppies have arrived in school. In addition to poppies, a limited supply of sharpeners, slap bands, rubbers and reflective badges are all available. If you would like to contribute towards the Royal British Legion Poppy appeal, please send in money with your child. Suggested donations as follows: Poppy - any donation, sharpener/rubber/keyring 50p, metal badge/slap bands/rulers/wristbands £1.

Two pupils from P7 will be laying the wreath at Derryvullen Church on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November on behalf of our school.

### **ASSEMBLIES**

It is just great to welcome back our parents to class assemblies. So far, we have had the P3, P5 and P2 classes lead our assemblies. This month it is the turn of P4, P6 and P1. Assemblies start at 9.15 and should last around 15-20 minutes. Please do not park on the hill as we have a couple of late buses who struggle to get past parked cars.

### **BREAKFAST CLUB**

Reminder: Breakfast club is available in school from 8.30 - 8.45am. If pupils want to avail of breakfast club, they must be in school **at 8.30a.m.**

## **Information for Y7**

Dates for familiarisation mornings for AQE and GL assessments (Y7 transfer)

**Enniskillen Royal Grammar- 12<sup>th</sup> November**

**Dates for tests:**

- **GL 12 November**
- **AQE 19,26 November, 3 December**



Some pupils in P7 have applied to sit the AQE test in November. They have worked really hard to prepare and we wish them every success. Be organised, arrive on time, keep calm and try your best. Your school motto has got you this far and will carry you through on the



day. 'Never settle for less than your best.'

## **WINTER UNIFORM**

Please remember that pupils are expected to wear FULL WINTER UNIFORM- shirt and tie (not polo shirt), grey or navy socks etc. Please note the polo shirt is not to be worn with the school tie. Ensure that ALL pupils have a suitable coat with a hood EVERY day. It is only in extreme weather conditions that pupils will remain indoors at break and lunch time. PLEASE, PLEASE LABEL ALL ITEMS OF CLOTHING.

## **CASH FOR CLOBBER**

We are having a clothes collection in school on 10<sup>th</sup> November. Please send unwanted clothes, paired shoes, bags etc. to school before 9.15 a.m. They can be left in the hall from 3pm on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November.

## **SWITCHING ON THE TREE LIGHTS**

The school choir has been invited to the switch on of the tree lights in Irvinestown on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November between 4.30-5.30p.m. We will be singing with St Pauls PS in a joint choir. Members of the choir will get a letter about this.

## **OPEN DAY**

This year we are planning to hold an Open Day in school for parents of prospective pupils. This will be an opportunity for prospective pupils and parents to come along and see our school. It will be held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023, the day the portal opens for applications. As well as a face-to-face event this year, we will also produce a virtual Open Day, which will be uploaded onto our website before the Christmas holidays. This was extremely well received last year, and many have said we should keep this going. The online Open Day presentation will include a tour of the school, information about school and also

some input from the children. We would appreciate if you could let us know of any pre-school children that we could put on our mailing list. See proforma below.

### **DIGITAL ADMISSION APPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN STARTING P1 IN SEPTEMBER 2021**

The Education Authority (EA) uses an online application process for admissions for primary school. A portal for places for the September 2023 intake in which parents can apply online for a place is currently being updated. The Go Live date for the new digital admissions is **Tuesday 10th January 2023 at 12 Noon**. The closing time and date for applications will be **12 Noon on 27th January 2023**. Applications after 27<sup>th</sup> January will be considered as late.

### **ANNUAL REPORT**

The Board of Governors Annual report is on the school website.

### **FREE EVENT AT CASTLEDERG HIGH SCHOOL**

Nature, Camera, Action! @ Castlederg High School,  
7.30pm Friday 18th November (Free event with refreshments)  
Castlederg High have been making their name as a school that promotes environmental issues and they are lucky enough to be getting a special visit from world renowned wildlife photographer, Doug Allan. Doug is one of the world's best known and respected cameramen. His images have been published in numerous magazines and books, and he's contributed memorable sequences to classic BBC series like The Blue Planet, Planet Earth, Frozen Planet, Ocean Giants, Forces of Nature and many others and he will be visiting Castlederg High during the day on the 18th and will be doing a special presentation for the CHS community in the evening at 7.30pm.

Doug's book will be on sale on the night

Freeze Frame - a Wildlife Cameraman's Adventures on Ice - £25

Doug's awards include eight Emmy's and five BAFTA's. He has twice won the underwater category in the Wildlife Photographer of the Year and is an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society and the Royal Scottish Geographical Society. In 2018 he was awarded the RSGS Mungo Park Medal for his outstanding contribution to geographical knowledge through exploration.

Sir David Attenborough described Doug as a man with a fusion of dogged endurance, determination, a great affinity with the natural world and a desire to get to places that others do not go.

This is a fantastic opportunity to meet with Doug and learn of his incredible career and adventures! You will be made very welcome.

Yours Sincerely,

JE Read (Mrs)  
Principal

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**ASC AFTER SCHOOL CLUB**

**SDD STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY - STAFF ONLY AT SCHOOL**

**UPDATES WILL FOLLOW EACH MONTH**

NOVEMBER				
	1 HOLIDAY	2 HOLIDAY	3 SDD STAFF ONLY	4 SDD STAFF ONLY
7 ASC COOKERY P5	8 ASC BASIC SKILLS	9 ASC SOCCER P4/5 P2,5,7 RUGBY Trevor Lucy Photographer	10 ASC CHOIR Y4-7 Musical Pathways P1-4 Cash 4 clobber Cycle skills P5-7 PTA meeting	11 Year 4 assembly Road safety P1+2
				SAT 12 GL TEST ERGS -AQE ORIENTATION MORNING
14 ASC COOKERY P4 Football P1-4 Live lesson KS2 Anti-bullying	15 ASC BASIC SKILLS	16 ASC SOCCER P4/5 P2,5,7 RUGBY KS2 Anti-bullying workshop	17 ASC CHOIR Y4-7 Musical Pathways P1-P4 Strule Arts theatre Ulster Orchestra P5 & P6	18 Year 6 assembly
				SAT 19 AQE PAPER 1
ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 14-18				
21 ASC COOKERY P4 Football P1-4	22 ASC BASIC SKILLS Annual reviews	23 ASC SOCCER P4/5 P2,5,7 RUGBY Enniskillen Castle Museum P4	24 ASC CHOIR Y4-7 Musical Pathways P1-P4 Sustrans Carbon footprint P5	25 Year 1 assembly
				SAT 26 AQE PAPER 2
28 ASC COOKERY P4 Football P1-4	29 ASC BASIC SKILLS	30 ASC SOCCER P4/5		
DECEMBER				
			1 ASC CHOIR Y4-7	2

				Musical Pathways P1-4 MILLENIUM FORUM CINDERELLA P5-7	<b>SAT 3</b> <b>AQE PAPER 3</b>
5 ASC COOKERY P4 Football P1-4	6 ASC BASIC SKILLS FLU JAB ACTION MENTAL HEALTH P5-7	7 ASC SOCCER P4/5 Tom Sweeney	8 ASC CHOIR Y4-7 Musical Pathways P1-4 FLORENCECOURT VICTORIAN CRAFTS P7 P1-4 Ardhowen theatre	9	
12 Football P1-4	13 ACTION MENTAL HEALTH P5-7 P1-4 CHRISTMAS SHOW 7p.m.	14 P1-P4 CHRISTMAS SHOW 10 a.m.	15 Musical Pathways P1-P4 Christmas disco	16 Christmas Jumper Day Christmas dinner	
19 Football P1-4 P5-P7 CAROL SERVICE 7p.m.	20	21 LAST DAY OF TERM! EARLY CLOSING			

**Interested in becoming involved in the PTA?**

Name:

Contact Number:

Pupil's name:

I am interested in joining the PTA committee	
I am interested in helping with the PTA events	
I give permission for my contact details to be passed on to the group and for my details to be included in the PTA What's app group	

### **Pre-school children**

The following Pre-school children are interested in receiving a prospectus and an invitation to our Open Day.

Name of child	
Name of parent	
Address	
Contact No	

### **Tickets:**

I require the following tickets and enclose the correct money-£3 per adult ticket, £2 per child.

		No of tickets	Total
P1-P4 Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> - evening 7pm			
P1-P4 Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> - morning 10 a.m.			
Carol Service Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> December – evening 7 pm			

I have enclosed £