

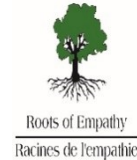
# IRVINESTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

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**APRIL/MAY 2023**

Dear Parent,

## **INDUSTRIAL ACTION**

Instructions have been given to teaching staff in all schools and colleges in Northern Ireland, to engage in **strike action for a full day** on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023. You may have seen coverage of this in the news and I wish to inform you about the impact this is likely to have at our school.

**The Board of Governors has determined that the school will be closed on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April for all pupils and will reopen on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April.**

Clearly this is a very difficult situation which will cause disruption. I would ask you, however, to be understanding. A strike by teachers is very unusual. All five teaching unions in Northern Ireland are joining in on this action; this is even more unprecedented. Taking strike action is not something that any teacher will undertake lightly. Those on strike have thought long and hard about their decision and will lose pay for the period they are on strike.

Some may say that teachers are on strike for more pay. This is **not** the full picture. Yes, our pay is less than any other jurisdiction in the UK and the Republic of Ireland, however our profession is taking a stand for our children, our grandchildren, and most importantly for the sustainment and security of our education system in Northern Ireland. The situation is bleak. The proposed cuts to our education system are massive – for example the Engage programme was withdrawn just before Easter with only 24 hours' notice to the teachers and the schools. This meant we had to say goodbye to Mrs McCutcheon, who has been supporting our pupils two days a week since the beginning of the Covid 19 pandemic. I have received notification today that the Extended Schools funding is ending at the end of June. This funding was invaluable to us as a school. We used it to buy in coaches, pay for clubs such as cookery club, basic skills club, Relax Kids, our school music therapist.... the list goes on. We are also aware that other support services for our children and teachers will be slashed to unrecognisable levels, and we cannot allow this to happen. Children seem to be absent in every decision coming from the EA or DE.

This goes against everything I believe in. We urge you to stand in solidarity with us and say, 'enough is enough' and demand that our politicians do better and fund fairly our children's futures.

I am also aware that bus drivers have been called to strike on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April, Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April, Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April. Please check with your bus driver to ensure your child will have transport to and from school on Tuesday and Thursday next week.

## **COMPETITIONS**

### **Hockey competition**

The boys' team and the girls' team won all their matches in Omagh at a hockey competition. They got through to the N.I. finals in Belfast at the end of March and represented our school with excellent sportsmanship. Well done and thank you to Amelia Dickey, Kim McKevlin, Lexi McKeown, Ellie Bonner, Chloe Armstrong, Isabel Guida, Kim Johnston, Isabelle Wallace, Molly Bonner, Brody Fallis, Charlie Bonner, Bailey Cobane, Jacob Noble, Nathan Thompson, Wilson Grey, Kyle Johnston, Joshua Irwin. The boys made it through to the quarter finals of the plate. Well done. Thank you to Gareth, Patrick, Louise, Claire and Gillian for providing transport and to parents who travelled to support pupils on the day. Thank you to Claire Guida and Mrs Bradshaw for coaching the hockey.

### **Rugby competition**

The boys' rugby team played really well in the competition in Omagh RC. They scored 18 tries with only 1 try conceded in the 4 games played. They have been selected to participate in the 2023 Primary School festival at the Kingspan stadium on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June. Thank you to Gareth Grey and Patrick Fallis for giving up their spare time to coach the rugby team, and travel with them on the day. Well done to the team - Leighton Shannon, Kyle Johnston, Charlie Bonner, Brody Fallis, Harry Reid, Ciara, McCusker, Amelia Dickey, Wilson Grey, Kyle Abercrombie, Jacob Noble, Cathair McCusker, Charlie Lily, Isabelle Wallace, Isabel Guida.

## **BOOK FAIR**

The annual school Book Fair raised a total of £2646.29. This was an excellent total and the commission amount of £1337.15 will be a very welcome addition to providing new reading resources in these days of tight budgetary restraints.

## **SCHOOL SALE**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to and attended the school sale. It was great to see a real buzz in the school and the hall was really busy. A total of £2040 was raised. Thank you to Mrs Woods, Mrs Gray and the PTA committee and all those who helped to make this such a success.

## **COMMUNICATION**

Our school jotter app is now up and running. Please ensure you have downloaded the School Jotter 3 app and have enabled notifications. If you have mislaid your personal code, contact school and we will sort this out for you. School Jotter 3 is now being used as a main means of communication. If you do not download it, you may miss out on important information and reminders. It is also important to check Google classroom and/or Seesaw for messages. Some classes still set homework / provide links to support your child's learning, through their online platforms, so get into the habit of checking please.

### **SUMMER UNIFORM**

All pupils **have the option** of wearing a Summer Uniform from 1st April to 30<sup>th</sup> September. SEE END OF LETTER FOR UNIFORM DETAILS. **Please remember to check jumpers etc for names as by this stage of the year the labels may have faded.** Also ensure that your child has a coat with a hood with them to school every day. All children go outside to play every day unless there is torrential rain.

### **SPORTS DAY**

We are planning to have Sports Day on the morning of **31<sup>st</sup> May**. Parents may come to watch their child/children. **Please bring your own deckchair to sit on.** Teachers will let their classes know what they need prior to this event. We hope to start at 9.30a.m. and be finished before lunch.

### **TRANSFER 2023**



The new SEAG Entrance Assessment is to be used by 62 academically selective schools in 2023. The registration process will be online and easy to use for parents / guardians wishing to register

their children. Registration opens on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023.

<https://seagni.co.uk/> Yr 6 parents please ensure you speak to Mrs Bradshaw to discuss registration, if you haven't already done so at the Parent Teacher meeting before Easter. If your child is going to do the SEAG test we need to politely ask for some reimbursement for the large amount of photocopying. Due to budgetary constraints I have absolutely no choice but ask for payment of £15 this term and a further £15 next term towards the photocopying costs.

The SEAG test consists of two papers – pupils sit both papers

Paper 1 - Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Paper 2 - Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Both papers assess English and Mathematics. Both papers have an identical format consisting of 3 Sections. They have multiple choice and free response questions. Pupils will be given 60 mins to answer the 56 questions.

The present Y7 parents will be able to find out if their son/daughter has been accepted to the school of their choice, by logging in to the online portal on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

### **THE KING'S CORONATION**

Our school has been successful in achieving a grant to take part in the King's Coronation and we hope to have a special day of fun and celebrations on **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May** prior to the coronation on the Saturday and the long bank holiday weekend. Plans are underway with the school council and Mrs Gray and more details will follow about what is planned for this event.

### **CASH FOR CLOBBER**

We are having another collection for Cash for clobber on **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June**.

Please fill **sturdy bin liners** with unwanted items and bring your bags into school either on Sports Day Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May or before 9.00 am on Thursday. Items such as **old clothes, bed clothes, curtains, towels, shoes and coats are all acceptable. No duvets please.**

### **STANDARDISED TESTS**

During this month of May, standardised tests will be taking place from Year 2 to Year 6. Please try to ensure that children do not have any unnecessary absences.

### **Y1 INDUCTION**

Next year's P1 intake will find out if they are successful in their application to school on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023 by logging on to the EA portal. To accommodate next year's Y1 induction programme we are sending **Year 1 and Year 2** home early on the following Wednesday afternoons in June - **7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>**. They should be collected at **1p.m.** If you have any difficulty with this arrangement, please let me know as soon as possible. There will be dinner as normal on these days.

### **END OF YEAR CELEBRATION EVENT**

An end of year celebration has been planned for Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June for Y7 and their parents at 10am. The Year 7 children are going to put on a show and further details will be issued in the next newsletter.

Cups received last year at Prize Day should be returned to school no later than **Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May**. Please ensure you have these engraved. If the cup was shared, ensure both names are engraved on the cup.

### **AFTER SCHOOLS CLUBS**

Please find list of clubs at the end of the newsletter. Return the booking form asap.

### **BANK HOLIDAY**

School will be **closed** on **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May, Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May and Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May**. The pupils will also be off on **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May** for staff training. School will reopen on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May for Sports' Day.

Milk money for the term will cost **£9.00 and it should be paid by Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April.**

If you require any further information about any aspect of school life,  
please do not hesitate to contact us at school.  
Thank you for your support as always.

Yours sincerely,

JE Read (Mrs)  
Principal

## SCHOOL CLOSINGS 2022 - 2023

### SUMMER TERM

Term Begins	18 <sup>th</sup> April
Early May Bank Holiday	1 <sup>st</sup> May
Coronation Bank Holiday	8 <sup>th</sup> May
Late May Bank Holiday	29 <sup>th</sup> May
Staff Training (SCHOOL CLOSED)	30 <sup>th</sup> May
Last Day of Term	30 <sup>th</sup> June

### **APRIL**

	18 Term begins P7 Shared Ed trip to Gortin Glens Dairy Food council P5&P6 School nurse for P1	19 Swimming P7 National Cycle training for P6 School nurse for P1	20 National Cycle training for P6 Musical Pathways P1-P4	21 National Cycle training for P6 School nurse for P1 P7 visit to Epos Bureau
24 RNLI Talk for P1-P7	25 Football blitz Bawnacre	26 Teacher Strike	27 Musical pathways P1-P4 P1 placements confirmed	28

### **MAY**

1 BANK HOLIDAY	2 Class photos P1, P2 & P7	3	4 JEP showcase event P7 Musical pathways P1-P4	5 P7 class assembly King's Coronation Event
8 BANK HOLIDAY	9	10	11 Musical pathways P1-P4	12
15 Tag rugby blitz	16	17 Farm safety awareness talk for P1-P7	18 Musical pathways P1-P4	19 P7 places 20 <sup>th</sup>
22	23 Greg Turley memorial 5 a side football	24	25 Musical pathways P1-P4 P7 Nature workshops Lisnarick	26
29 BANK HOLIDAY	30 STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY	31 SPORTS DAY		

### **JUNE**

	1 Musical pathways P1-P4 P7 Induction	2
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			day Castlederg High School Rugby team to Kingspan	
5 P7 SWIMMING	6	7 INDUCTION FOR NEW P1 INTAKE	8 Musical pathways P1-P4	9
12 P7 SWIMMING	13	14 INDUCTION FOR NEW P1 INTAKE	15 Musical pathways P1-P4	16
19	20	21 INDUCTION FOR NEW P1 INTAKE	22 Musical pathways P1-P4 P6 Big school day CHS	23 P7 Prize Day and Leavers
26 P7 class trip	27 Transition afternoons P1-P6	28 Devenish P7 induction day	29 Musical pathways P1-P4 House trip	30 Last day of term - early closing
<b>SUMMER UNIFORM</b>				
<b>Boys</b>		<b>Girls</b>		
Sky blue polo shirt with school logo Navy blue v-neck sweatshirt Grey long or navy/grey short trousers Plain grey or navy ankle/knee length socks Dark shoes/sandals with non-black soles		Sky blue polo shirt with school logo Navy blue v-neck sweatshirt Dark grey skirt or pinafore or navy/grey shorts Blue check summer dress Plain white ankle/knee length socks Dark shoes/sandals with non-stick soles		

## IRVINESTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL P4-P7 AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS FOR TERM 3 2022-2023

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
	3.00-4.00 p.m.	3.00-4.00 p.m.	3.00-4.15 p.m.	3.00-4.00 p.m.
17-21 April			Cycling P7	
24-28 April	Gardening P4-	Rugby		Rugby P6-7

	5	P6-7		
1-5 May			Cycling P7	P6 Test club
8-12 May			Cycling P7	P6 Test club
15-19 May	Gardening P6-7		Cycling P7	P6 Test club
22-26 May	Gardening P6-7		Cycling P7	P6 Test club Choir P4-7
29-May- 2 June			Cycling P7	Choir P4-7
5-9 June				Choir P4-7
12-16 June	Gardening P6-7			
19-23 June	Gardening P6-7			

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

	<u>Tick</u>		<u>Tick</u>
Gardening P6-7 ( <u>P4-5 has already started</u> )		Rugby P6-7	
Cycling P7		Test club P6	
Choir P4-7			

**P6 Pupils who wish to sit the SEAG test.**

**I enclose £15 towards the cost of photocopying tests and practice materials for the SEAG test.**

**Name of child:**

**Parent signature:**