

# IRVINESTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Principal  
J E Read - B.Ed.,  
Adv. Dip., PQH (NI)

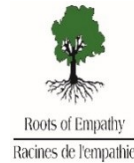
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**I**nclude **P**repare **S**ucceed

**Motto: Never settle for less than your best**

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**JANUARY 2024**

Dear Parents,

A very happy and healthy new year to all of you and your families.

## **OPEN DAY**

I hope you all have had a chance to watch our new Open Day Video uploaded onto our school website and social media platforms before Christmas. If you have not yet seen it please check out our school website open day page <https://www.irvinestownps.co.uk/open-day> or watch on YouTube and share on your own social media <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ccUO1W8D5nE>

We are holding 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 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 between 3.30pm and 4.30pm**, the day the portal opens for applications.

Choir members should stay in school. (They will be given a snack at 3)  
**They should be collected at the main school gate at 4pm.**

## **DIGITAL ADMISSION APPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN STARTING P1 IN SEPTEMBER 2024**

The Education Authority (EA) uses an online application process for admissions for primary school. A portal for places for the September 2024 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 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 12 Noon**. The closing time and date for applications will be **12 Noon on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024**. Applications after 26<sup>th</sup> January will be considered as late.

The QR code on the graphic below can be scanned using a camera phone and will link directly to the EA website. The web address can also be copied into the browser if preferred.



**Key Dates**  
September 2024 to June 2025 school year

**12 December 2023**  
Admissions Criteria published

**9 January 2024**  
Applications open at 12noon

**26 January 2024**  
Applications close at 12noon

Scan here for more information

www.eani.org.uk

ea Education Authority

## **STRIKE ACTION**

The school workforce will form part of a day of mass action which will bring Northern Ireland to a standstill next Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January to involve teachers, classroom assistants, nurses, transport workers and civil servants.

**School will be closed all day on THURSDAY 18<sup>th</sup> JANUARY as all staff - teaching and non-teaching have been called to strike.**

General Secretary of the Ulster Teachers' Union, Jacquie White, said it was "unfortunate" there had been no moves to seek resolution over the Christmas and New Year break.

*"UTU, alongside the four other main teaching unions in Northern Ireland, has therefore been left with no option but to formally inform our employers of our decision," she said.*

*"It is with the heaviest of hearts that each and every member feels cornered into this action given that our long-running pay claim began in 2020. Alternative lesser actions have unfortunately made no difference in securing Northern Ireland teachers' parity with their counterparts elsewhere in GB."*

*"With newly qualified teachers' salaries here an astonishing £8,000 below those just a few miles away in, for instance, Scotland, we can no longer allow our profession to be treated so contemptibly.*

*"Despite the fact that funding for the public sector pay claim has been identified within the offer made by the Secretary of State, there appears to be no political will - or plan - to deliver.*

*"Meanwhile teachers continue to hold together a system which is crumbling beneath the weight of long-term under-investment, a system which is short-changing our children and risking our future socio-economic success as a country."*

She said the authorities must start to listen to the cries from within the profession that it is *"haemorrhaging its best people"* and failing to attract new teachers.

*"For too long now we, as teachers, have been papering over the cracks and doing our very best to make a broken system work," she added.*

*"The savage nature of cuts in recent times is having an undeniable ripple effect that goes a long way beyond the classroom.*

*"Our industrial action is about advocating for a better future for our children who are being denied essential services.*

*"We do not want to be in this position, but we intend to fulfil the commitment we made before Christmas and engage in further action until this issue is resolved.*

*"We call on the Department of Education, local politicians and the Secretary of State to deliver a mechanism for resolution."*

### **P1-P3 CHANGE OF MORNING ENTRANCE**

**P1 and P2 should come into school via the front door in the mornings.**

**P3 should come in via the side gate outside P7 along with the P4-7 classes.**

Staff will be on hand as usual to direct and help the children.

### **SUSTRANS - WALK UP THE HILL WEDNESDAYS**

We will be continuing with our walk up the hill Wednesdays. These small efforts are to help encourage our pupils to adopt a healthy lifestyle and increase their level of exercise.

### **ATTENDANCE**

The best attendance in school in December was P1 who had 97.4% attendance. Well done!

We believe regular attendance at school is crucial to allow every child to fulfil their potential. We are committed to providing an education of the highest quality for all our pupils. We believe high attainment depends on good attendance. Attendance is recorded twice daily on sims.net.

A full attendance requires a child being present for the entire day. If a child is sent home due to illness, they will be marked absent for the afternoon session. If they go to an appointment this will also be marked as an absence.

### **PUNCTUALITY**

At the beginning of the year, many of us start with new year resolutions. With this in mind we would like to remind you that our school day starts at 9.05 am and that all children should be in school for this time. Our assemblies begin at 9.05 and we have noticed that there are quite a few children who are entering school late. Children who arrive after 9.15 receive a late mark.

### **BREAKFAST AND SNACK**

Reminder – the school, kitchen is no longer providing breakfast or snacks at this time, due to ongoing action short of strike. Pupils need to bring their own snack every day, as the kitchen will not be selling fruit or bagels until further notice.

Monday and Friday are fruit days. We are a health promoting school so snacks should be healthy for example pancake, crackers, cheese, yoghurt and remember snacks must be **NUT FREE**. Check ingredients of cereal bars please, as many contain nuts. Remember **no Nutella**.

## **MONEY RAISED**

Christmas Jumper Day - N.I. Children's Hospice £258

Commission from Trevor Lucy £228

School Disco £231

## **DONATIONS**

We were very grateful to receive some additional awards of money prior to Christmas which allowed us to provide some extra Christmas treats for the children. A sum of £500 was granted from Moy Park Ltd which allowed us to provide a fun day of activities facilitated by Dramatize.

We also received a cheque of £100 from Irvinestown Credit Union as a thank you for supporting them with their Savings Scheme. Children can start to save with the Credit Union at any time. Please contact Mrs Stewart in the Office for application forms and information.

## **MUSIC TUITION**

The bill has come into school for violin and brass tuition. This works out at £121 per pupil who avails of this tuition and can be paid in weekly/monthly instalments or in full before the Easter holidays. Bills have been issued to the pupils.

Please note pupils who withdraw from this tuition during the school year, are still liable for the payment. Pupils in receipt of free School Meals are exempt from payment.

## **SCHOOL SWIMMING PROGRAMME**

Our swimming programme will commence on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 with **Year 6 NOT** Year 5 as in the December newsletter.

Swimming costs will be £4 per session payable weekly.

All pupils in P5-7 received a letter on Friday regarding swimming.

## **DINNER & MILK MONEY**

Dinner money remains at £2.60 a day or £13.00 per week – Paid at beginning of week.

Milk money for the Spring Term will cost **£10.50**

## **P4-7 AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS**

The letter about clubs will be issued this week. Please ensure you return the booking slip asap and write the relevant dates on your calendar or diary.

## **WORLD BOOK DAY**

WBD is on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March. This is an annual event. All pupils in school are asked to dress up as a character from a book. Please use, reuse, recycle and be creative. There is no need to buy expensive outfits. Just think about what you have at home and work around that.

## **INTERNET SAFETY WEEK**

Keeping safe online is a huge issue nowadays. E-safety is ongoing in school, but on the week beginning 5<sup>th</sup> February we are hosting an internet safety week. All classes will be learning how to stay safe online.

## **P7 PUPILS - APPLICATION FOR POST-PRIMARY - SEPTEMBER 2024**

**The application process for Post-Primary is on-line. Online applications will open at 12 noon on Tuesday 30 January 2024 and will close at 12 noon on Thursday 22nd February 2024.**

SEAG RESULTS are due on **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January**. We wish all our P7 pupils' success with their results.

ERGS, Omagh Academy, St. Michael's College and Mount Lourdes require these results. The other schools do not.

OPEN EVENINGS	
Devenish College	Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2024 @ 7pm
Enniskillen Royal Grammar School	Thursday 1st February 2024 at 6.30 pm Cooper Crescent site
Castlederg High School	Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2024 @7pm
Erne Integrated College	Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 10am-1pm
St Mary's College	Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2024
Omagh Academy	Thursday 1st February 2024 at 6.30 pm
Mount Lourdes Grammar School	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January 2024 @ 7pm
St Michael's College	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2024 @7pm

## **SENSORY WALL**



In school we are hoping to develop some sensory walls for our playgrounds and garden areas. We require some items to help with this e.g., small wheels, tubing, taps, locks with keys, barrel locks, lids, door handles, pool noodles, artificial grass etc. If you have anything you think might be useful, please contact your child's teacher and they will let you know if we can use it.

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

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**  
**FOR AFTER SCHOOL CLUB - see club letter**  
**SDD STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY - STAFF ONLY AT SCHOOL**  
**UPDATES WILL FOLLOW EACH MONTH**

<b>JANUARY</b>				
				5 TERM BEGINS
8	9 P1 application portal opens.  Open Afternoon 3.30-4.30	10 9.30am - CHS to see P7  P6 Swimming	11 Musical Pathways P1- P4 P2 RISE P7 CCEA Adaptive Assessment	12 Y7 Multi skills
15 9.30am P7 visit to St Mary's College	16	17 P6 Swimming	18 Strike action - school closed	19 Y7 Multi skills Erne Integrated College to see Y7
22 P7 CHS Big School Day	23	24 P6 Swimming P7 Devenish Day P7 CCEA Adaptive Assessment	25 Musical Pathways P1- P4  P2 RISE  P1 application portal closes	26 Y7 Multi skills  27 P7 SEAG RESULTS
29	30 Post-Primary application portal opens	31 P6 Swimming		

<b>FEBRUARY</b>				
			1 Musical Pathways P1-P4 P2 RISE	2 Y7 Multi skills
5	6	7 Y6 Swimming  NI WATER P6 1.30-2.30pm	8 Musical Pathways P1-P4	9
5-9 February Internet safety week				
12	13	14 Y7 Swimming	15 <b>SCHOOL CLOSED</b>	16 <b>SCHOOL CLOSED</b>
19 <b>SCHOOL CLOSED</b>	20 Staff development Day – school closed for pupils	21 Y7 Swimming  SU Mental Health P6 11am	22 Musical Pathways P1-P4  Post-Primary application portal closes	23 Soccer Competition Lakeland Forum 10.30am Road Safety Quiz – Killyhevlin
26	27	28 P7 Swimming SU Mental Health P6 11am	29 Musical Pathways P1-P4	

MARCH				
				1 Book Fair Arrives
Book Fair 1 <sup>st</sup> - 7 <sup>th</sup> March				
4	5	6 P7 Swimming SU Mental Health P6 11am	7 World Book Day	8
11	12	13 Y5 Swimming SU Mental Health P6 11am	14 Musical Pathways P1- P4	15
18 SCHOOL CLOSED	19	20 Y5 Swimming  SU Mental Health P6	21 Musical Pathways P1- P4  P7 Love for Life 9.30-12.30	22 Ulster Touring Opera P7
25	26 END OF TERM - EARLY CLOSING			
SCHOOL CLOSED FOR EASTER HOLIDAYS 27 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH- 7 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL				

**SCHOOL REOPENS MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**