

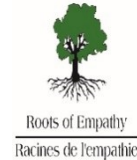
# IRVINESTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

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## MARCH 2023

Dear Parent,

Thank you to the parents who came to our safety session with the PSNI on February. It was a very informative session and the feedback from those who attended was positive.



**We have just completed training and become an Operation Encompass school,** which is a national scheme that operates jointly between schools and police forces. Operation Encompass is the reporting to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, when a child or young person has experienced domestic abuse. As a school we have ensured that Mrs Harron and myself have been trained in the Operation Encompass procedures allowing us to then use the information that has been shared, in confidence, to support the child/ren in our care. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 identifies children who experience domestic abuse as victims of domestic abuse in their own right. We are keen to offer the best support possible to all our pupils and we believe this will be extremely beneficial for all those involved.

### **PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS**

Due to industrial action staff are not permitted to undertake parent/teacher meetings outside of their working hours. To accommodate a second parent teacher meeting this year we will be sending pupils home early on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 21<sup>st</sup> March and 22<sup>nd</sup> March. P3-P7 and their siblings will go home after their lunch at 1p.m. P1 and P2 (who do not have siblings further up the school) will go home at 1.30 p.m. There will therefore be no basic skills, rugby or knitting afterschool clubs - on these afternoons. If your child has a PLP (i.e. is on the Special Needs register) you need to book a meeting with

their teacher to discuss their new PLP. Meetings will be virtual / via Schoolcloud. If you are unable to collect your child, they will be supervised in school by classroom assistants until home-time. Pupils who normally go to Active Allsorts or Treetops can wait until their usual collection time. Please complete the proforma at the end of the newsletter indicating if you would like to avail of a Parent /Teacher meeting, and also collection plans.

## **COMPETITIONS**

### **Football competition**

A team from P6 and P7 went to the 5 a-side football competition on Friday in the Lakeland Forum. Jacob Noble, Wilson Grey, Bailie Cobane, Kyle Johnston, Amelia Dickey, Kyle Abercrombie, Nathan Thompson represented our school. They played extremely well and got through to the semi-finals of the competition. Well done on your success and also on your sportsmanship.

### **Hockey competition**

Two teams went to a hockey competition in Omagh on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February. They played very well winning some matches, representing our school with excellent sportsmanship. We had some very positive feedback. Well done to Brody Fallis, Amelia Dickey, Kim McKevlin, Nevada McKenna, Lexi McKeown, Lisa Cashel, Jamie Little, Harry Reid, Charlie Bonner, Ellie Bonner, Chloe Armstrong, Isabel Guida, Kim Johnston, Heidi Bogle, Isabelle Wallace, Bailey Cobane, Charlie Lilly, Jacob Noble, Jack Beatty, Nathan Thompson, Wilson Grey.

## **BOOK FAIR**

The annual school Book Fair has been very well supported this week.

**World Book Day** was **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March**. All the pupils and staff were invited to dress up as their favourite **book** character. Within each class many prizes were awarded on the day - Best Character, Best Homemade costume, Most Original and so on. All the pupils had a great day. We had an author (Jonny Wilox) visit on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. He was excellent with the children and they really enjoyed participating in the sessions.

## **BANK HOLIDAY**

School will be **closed** on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March** for St Patrick's Day. There will be a change to the menu on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March.

<i>Hot dog</i>	<i>Chips or mashed potato</i>	<i>Gravy Baked beans</i>	<i>Ice cream tub</i>
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## **SCHOOL SALE**

The PTA has planned a school sale for the evening of Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March. A letter was issued yesterday regarding contributions and the support we require from you. We are delighted that we can

have a school sale again. The pupils really enjoy it- and it is always a fantastic fundraiser.

### **NSPCC NUMBER DAY**

We were delighted by the response to the NSPCC fundraiser- Number Day on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February. A total of £1150.50 was raised.

### **DOWNS SYNDROME DAY**



[www.worlddownsyndromeday.org](http://www.worlddownsyndromeday.org)

### **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March** **2023 is Downs** **Syndrome day.**

The theme this year is  
**“With Us Not For Us”**  
and is focused on a human rights-based approach to disability – the right to be treated

fairly, have the same opportunities as everyone else, and the freedom for people to make their own choices. World Down Syndrome Day is celebrated on 21st March and MENCAP want you to 'Rock your socks!' by wearing odd socks **to support people with a learning disability**. The odd socks campaign was conceived as the 3 strands of Chromosome 21 just happen to look like socks. Just come in uniform and wear odd socks on 21<sup>st</sup> March to support Down Syndrome Day.

### **WORLD AUTISM DAY**



The United Nations General Assembly unanimously declared 2 April as World Autism Awareness Day to highlight the need to help improve the quality of life of those with autism so they can lead full and meaningful lives as an integral part of society. As world autism day falls on a Sunday this year,

we will celebrate in school on **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April. Wear blue** to support those with autism. It's not only about keeping that conversation going about autism but, it's also making sure that those with autism and their families don't feel alone.

### **COMMUNICATION**

Our school jotter app is still not working. The website provider is continuing to experience problems getting this up and running. Google classroom and Seesaw are being used as a means of communication and we are aware that a lot of parents are missing messages. Please ensure that your notifications are enabled so you

know when you get a message and check your child's google classroom / or Seesaw account regularly for messages.

### **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. A jumper was found a few weeks ago and to date, no owner has been found. If you have lost a jumper, please let your child's teacher know.** 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.

### **BREAKFAST CLUB**

Don't forget breakfast club is available at 8.30 -8.45 every morning. Our uptake in recent weeks has been very poor. If this is something you would like our school to continue, please support it. It is just as they say, 'if you don't use it, you will lose it'. **Please note supervision only starts at 8.45 for those children who do not avail of breakfast club.**

Tea /coffee / hot chocolate / toast / cereal – Everything costs 40p each.

### **EARLY CLOSING ON LAST DAY OF TERM**

School closes early on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April.

We will be dismissing the children at these times to aim to reduce congestion.

- Year 1, 2 and their siblings will be dismissed from the pick-up point at the front **at 12.00 p.m.**
- Years 3-7 should be collected at **12.30 p.m.** from the pick-up point at the front.

**EA transport will NOT be available.** It is your responsibility to ensure your childcare provider i.e. Active Allsorts / Treetops is available to collect at this time.

**A proforma has been included at the end of this letter.**

### **RETURN TO SCHOOL**

Pupils will return to school on **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April.**

Please remember to send Dinner Money, costing £2.60 a day, £13.00 per week. It will be £10.40 for week one. Milk money for the term will cost **£9.00**. If your child does not want milk in the third term, please let us know before the end of March, so we can cancel their order.

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

### SPRING TERM

Staff Training (SCHOOL CLOSED)	20 <sup>th</sup> February
St Patrick's Day Holiday	17 <sup>th</sup> March
Last Day of Term	4 <sup>th</sup> April

### 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)	5 <sup>th</sup> June
Last Day of Term	30 <sup>th</sup> June

**On Last Day of Each Term -School Closes at 12.00(Y1 & Y2) & 12.30pm (Y3 - Y7)**

## **MARCH**

		1 Y6 Swimming	2 World Book Day	3 Author visit P4 assembly
6 Shared Ed P5 P1-4 Football Verbal arts P7	7 Shared Ed P6 Shared Ed P7	8 Y6 Swimming P7 residential to Gortatole	9 P7 residential to Gortatole	10 P7 residential to Gortatole P3 assembly
13	14 Verbal Arts for Y7	15 Y6 Swimming Annual SEN reviews SCHOOL SALE	16 Annual SEN reviews Hockey blitz KS2 Bible exhibition	17 School Closed
20 PT MEETINGS - EARLY HOMETIME  Y7 Dragon's Den	21 Verbal Arts for Y7 SILLY SOCKS DAY PT MEETINGS - EARLY HOMETIME	22 P7 rugby blitz PT MEETINGS - EARLY HOMETIME	23 FOOD DAY	24 Y7 JEP visit P6 assembly
27	28 Verbal Arts for Y7 Shared Ed P6 trip- Rossnowlagh	29 Y7 Swimming	30	31 P1 assembly

## **APRIL**

3 WEAR BLUE FOR AUTISM	4 End of term - early closing	
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## **SUMMER UNIFORM**

<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>
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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
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### **PROFORMAS**

I would like a meeting with my child/children's  teacher/s.

Name of child/children:

I do not require a meeting with my child/children's  teacher.\_

I **will be able** to collect my child /children early on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March, Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March and Wednesday  day 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

I **will not be able** to collect my child /children early on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March, Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March and Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. The  should go home on the EA bus

or

I will collect them at the usual  ne

My child / children will be going to Treetops on

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> Mar

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> Ma

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> Ma h.

My child / children will be going to Active Allsorts on

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> Mar

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> Ma

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> Ma h.

Parent signature:

I am aware that school closes early on the last day of term and no EA transport is available at home  time- Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April.

Name of child:

Parent signature: