

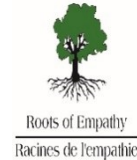
IRVINESTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Principal
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JUNE 2023

Dear Parent,

SPORTS DAY

Sports Day was held yesterday, 31st May at the Bawnacre centre. It was an absolutely gorgeous day – and such a change to be planning Sports Day and be confident a week ahead that the weather would be fine! Thank you to all our parents, grandparents and friends for coming along to support the children and also for staying in the parent zone – helping me keep all the children safe. Thanks too to George at the Bawnacre Centre for allowing us to use the grass pitch. We are so fortunate to have the Bawnacre on our doorstep. I also want to thank McBride's Spar, Dromore Rd, Irvinestown for sponsoring apples and water for all the pupils and Mr Lexie Beatty, Beatty's Spar Ballinamallard for sponsoring ice lollies. They were very appreciated.

COMPETITIONS

Rugby competition

We wish the rugby team, and their merry band of supporters, a fantastic day today (Thursday 1st June) in the 2023 Primary School festival at the Kingspan stadium. Thank you to our parent volunteer coaches Gareth Grey and Patrick Fallis for giving up their spare time to coach the rugby team, and travel with them today. 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, Cathaír McCusker, Charlie Lily, Isabelle Wallace, Isabel Guida, Kim McKevlin, Lisa Cashel and Joshua Irwin.

Winners

Charlie Lilly was highly commended in the Open Farm Weekend competition for his poem entry. Well done, Charlie.

Emily Thompson won the Agrikids / Flo gas competition- design a farm safety flyer. She has won a prize pack for herself, a farm safety handbook for each of her classmates, and a farm safety workshop with Agrikids for every pupil in school. Well done Emily!

Lexie Bradshaw won the Enniskillen Place Shaping competition – designing a poster promoting the local area, and attended a celebration at Easter in the council offices. Well done Lexie!



MOVING ON

We are just delighted that every pupil in Y7 was accepted into their first-choice schools, and everyone has now been made aware of their post primary placement. We wish them every success in the

future. P7's have been having lots of transition work in preparation for their big move in September. All have now been made aware of their post primary placement. Mr Alastair McFarland is coming in during this month to work on the Scripture Union 'It's Your Move' transition programme.

THE KING'S CORONATION

Our school had a fantastic day celebrating the new king on Friday 5th May. Thank you to Mrs Gray and all the staff who contributed to make this event such a success, including the staff in the school kitchen who provided a delicious lunch for everyone. It was fairly wet, so we had to do most of the activities indoors, however this did not dampen our fun! Thanks too to Fermanagh and Omagh District Council for the grant to fund the activities, and to Rev Mark Gallagher who had a busy morning balloon modelling!

CASH FOR CLOBBER

Thank you to everyone for sending in bags for Cash for Clobber. It went off this morning bright and early. Approximately £187.20 was raised.

Y1 INDUCTION

We are delighted to report that we have 30 pupils starting school in September. In my 31 years at Irvinestown Primary School, this intake is the highest to date. I want to say thank you to all of the parents who positively praise our school in the community. It is great to welcome new families and of course welcome back past pupils with the next generation. I make no secret of the fact that we have the best kids in Irvinestown Primary.

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 - **7th, 14th and 21st**. 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 get their dinner as normal on these days.

JUNIOR ENTREPRENEUR PROGRAMME

Year 7 have recently taken part in the Junior Entrepreneur Programme which involved the children becoming entrepreneurs and setting up their own class business. The children pitched their individual ideas firstly and then split into 5 groups to pitch the top 5 business ideas at a Dragons Den event in school. The panel consisted of Mrs Read, Mrs Woods, Mrs Harron, Rev. Mark Gallagher and Mrs Deborah Fallis. The winning idea was Cool Clay Creations. The children each invested a small amount into the business and worked together in teams to carry out market research and to design and create a variety of products. They then sold the products at their showcase day on Thursday 4th May. The class business of

Cool clay creations was a huge success, and the children made a profit of over £600 and have chosen to put this money towards an end of year class trip to Emerald Park. Thank you to everyone who purchased the products and supported the year 7 pupils with this project.

HOUSE TRIP

Children from the winning house and the Best Boys and Girls from each of the other classes will be going on a surprise end of year trip on Thursday 29th June. Thank you to all the children who have been working hard gaining effort points, entering and winning competitions, attending after school clubs and gaining points on Sports Day. The children are anxiously awaiting the final result. A letter will be sent out after prize day to let you know if your child's house has won.

END OF YEAR TRIP

P1,2 and 3 are going to the beach at Rossnowlagh on Friday 16th June.

BORROWED DEVICES

Any i-pads / chrome books/ digital devices that were on loan should also be left back by Friday 16th June.

MILK MONEY AND MUSIC TUITION MONEY

Milk money and music tuition money is still outstanding for some pupils. Please pay by Friday 9th June, if you have not already done so.

END OF YEAR TRANSITION

All classes will have an opportunity to visit their new classroom and meet their new teacher on the afternoon of Tuesday 27th June.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS AND UNIFORM CLOTHING ALLOWANCE

Should you wish to apply for Free School Meals and Uniform, the following website www.eani.org.uk/i-want-to/fsm/ will provide all you need along with criteria and the process. If you think you are eligible please apply as eligibility for Free School Meals entitles you to other benefits such as uniform allowance, free music tuition and so on. It also benefits the school financially. **You will be able to apply very soon.**

Get ready now for your 2023-24 application for Free School Meals and Uniform Allowance

If you are in receipt of one of the following:

- *Income Support;*

- *Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance;*
- *Income Related Employment and Support Allowance;*
- *Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit;*

you will need a Proof of Benefits letter when you apply for Free School Meals and Uniform for the 2023-24 school year.

Request one now via [Get a proof of benefit letter](#). It will take at least five days to be sent to you. Once you receive the letter keep it securely.

You must upload a copy of the letter when you apply. It must be dated no earlier than the beginning of the month before you submit your application.

If you receive Tax Credits or Universal Credit you do not require the above letter.

Please note that it is essential that you apply early so that all arrangements are in place for 1st September. If we have not received notification meals will have to be paid for until your application is processed.

END OF YEAR CELEBRATION EVENT

An end of year celebration has been planned for Friday 23rd June for Y7 and their parents at 10 am. Unfortunately, due to a lack of space we can only accommodate P7 parents. **Cups received last year at Prize Day should have already been returned to school. If you haven't yet done so, please return as soon as possible.**

Thanks to Drumhoney Holiday Park for sponsoring a new plaque for Best girl in Devenish. If you are interested in Sponsoring a cup for future years, please let me know.

ARC SUMMER SCHEME

Reminder - return your application before tomorrow Friday 2nd June if you want to apply to go the Arc Summer Scheme.

PTA EVENT

The PTA are organising a car treasure hunt and BBQ for Tuesday 27th June - the end of term. Details will be issued shortly from the PTA.

SPONSORED BOUNCE

Thank you to everyone who so generously supported our Sponsored Bounce. We are absolutely delighted with the magnificent total of £2068.50. This will give a much-needed boost to our school funds.

ARC FAMILY FOOD EVENT

A fun, family treasure hunt and picnic will be held at the Arc Healthy Living Centre on Thursday 29th June 2023 at 3.30pm.

The event will include:

- Food treasure hunt for all the family
- Food tasting – try some familiar and not so familiar food items
- Ideas for nourishing and good value lunches
- An afternoon picnic

Each family will receive a goodie bag containing food items, recipes and ideas for children's lunches over the holidays.

This event is funded by Safefood as part of the Community Food Initiative funding received by the Arc Healthy Living Centre.

If you wish to attend, please complete the form below and return it to school. Closing date for receipt is Thursday 22nd June.

This invitation is open to all children from Irvinestown Primary School, but it is a family event and children **must be accompanied by an adult.**

ON-LINE SAFETY

Parents, please, please monitor your child's on-line use. Children SHOULD NOT be using phones and devices to connect with others without parental supervision. It is important that as a parent you check their phone/messages daily.

Excellent advice is available from NSPCC and many other places – some of which are listed below.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/internet-connected-devices/>

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/parents-guide-technology/tablets>

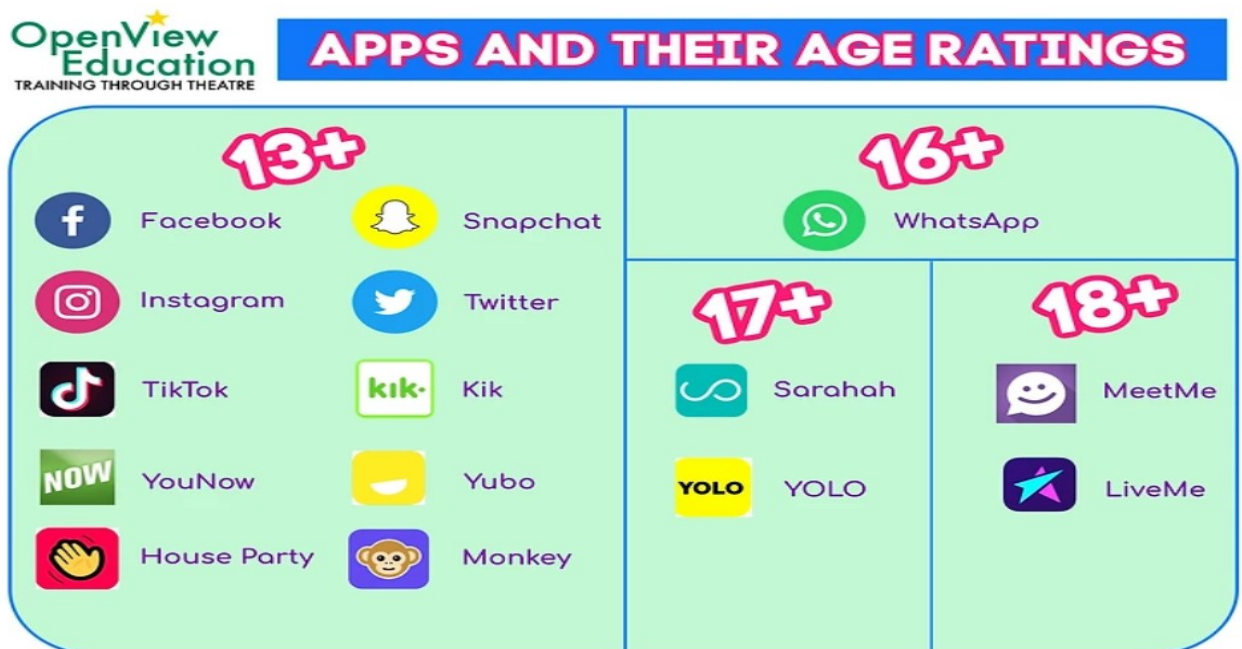
<https://www.internetmatters.org/schools-esafety/parent-online-support-pack-teachers/>

It is also worth considering that Youtube is only recommended for 18 + year olds. It should never be used unsupervised as it has a lot of adult material that can easily be accessed. Please use the kids YouTube version which has built in controls.

https://www.youtube.com/intl/ALL_uk/kids/

The kids version of google is <https://www.kiddle.co/>

Please note the age restrictions for social media below- children in Primary school should not be in a what's app group – recommended for 16 years – nor should they have their own Youtube account.



The safer schools app has excellent advice on how to set up parental controls etc. on your child's phone.

<https://oursafetycentre.co.uk/safetysettings/>

Parentline NI would like to remind you all that their Regional Parents Helpline is in full operation. They can be contacted on freephone 0808 8020 400 to provide advice, support and guidance to parents and carers.

Monday- Thursday 9am-9pm

Friday 9am-5pm

Saturday 9am-1pm

You can also contact them via webchat www.ci-ni.org.uk or email parentline@ci-ni.org.uk

Parents, carers, family members...

**if you need us
we're here.**

Call Parentline NI today for advice, support or guidance.

FREEPHONE



0808 8020 400

Parentline NI is a service operated by Children in Northern Ireland & Relate NI. Funded by the Health and Social Care Board.



END OF YEAR ARRANGEMENTS

School will close at lunch time on Friday 30th June.

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 as usual at 12.00 p.m.
- Year 3 & 4 and their siblings will be dismissed from the pick-up point at the front as usual at 12.10 p.m.
- Years 4-7 should be collected at 12.20 p.m. from the pick-up point at the front.

I wish our Year 7 Leavers every success and happiness in their new schools and look forward to welcoming our new Year 1 entrants and all our pupils back in the new term.

Thank you for your support as always. Have a relaxing and restful Summer holiday.

School begins again on Friday 1st September 2023. A calendar has been included for the next school year.

Yours sincerely,

JE Read (Mrs)
Principal

JUNE				
			1 Musical pathways P1-P4 P7 Induction day Castlederg High School Rugby team and P6&7 supporters to Kingspan	2
5 P7 SWIMMING	6	7 It's your move P7 INDUCTION FOR NEW P1 INTAKE	8 Musical pathways P1-P4 P7 JEP Celebration event	9
12 P7 SWIMMING	13	14 INDUCTION FOR NEW P1 INTAKE	15 It's your move P7 Musical pathways P1-P4 Cross Country	16 Rossnowlagh Beach trip P1-3
19 Farm safety workshops	20	21 INDUCTION FOR NEW P1 INTAKE Action Mental Health P1-3	22 It's your move P7 Musical pathways P1-P4 P6 Big school day Castlederg High School	23 P7 Prize Day and Leavers
26 Action Mental Health P1-3 P7 class trip Emerald Park	27 Transition afternoons P1-P6 Devenish Induction Day PTA FUN NIGHT /BBQ	28	29 Musical pathways P1-P4 House trip ARC Family food event 3.30pm	30 Last day of term - early closing

I would like my family to attend the Treasure Hunt and picnic at The Arc Healthy Living Centre on Thursday 29th June.

Name of parent/guardian:

How many adults will be attending?

How many children will be attending?

Are there any special dietary requirements? YES/NO

Please specify _____ Number required _____

Please note that children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

Please complete and return the bottom of this slip to school by Thursday 22nd June.

Signature: _____

Please tick:

- ☐ I will collect my child/ren at 12.00 p.m./12.10p.m./12.20p.m. on Friday 30th June.
- ☐ Active Allsorts will collect my child/ren at 12.00 p.m./12.10p.m./12.20p.m on Friday 30th June.
- ☐ Treetops will collect my child/ren at 12.00 p.m./12.10p.m./12.20p.m Friday 30th June.
- ☐ Other (Please name) _____ will collect my child/ren at 12.00 p.m./12.10p.m./12.20p.m on Friday 30th June.

_____(Signature)

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SCHOOL CLOSINGS 2023 - 2024

AUTUMN TERM

Term Begins	1 st September 2023
Half Term	30 th & 31 st October, 1 st November
Staff Training	2 nd & 3 rd November
Last Day of Term	21 st December

SPRING TERM

Staff Training	4 th January 2024
Term Begins	5 th January
Half Term	15 th , 16 th & 19 th February
Staff Training	20 th February
St Patrick's Day Holiday	18 th March
Last Day of Term	26 th March

SUMMER TERM

Term Begins	8 th April
Early May Bank Holiday	6 th May
Late May Bank Holiday	27 th May
Staff Training	4 th June
Last Day of Term	28 th June

Staff Training Days - School Closed