



Dunclug Primary School
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Monday 8th January 2024

Welcome Back

I want to take this opportunity to wish you a Happy New Year and welcome you back into our second term. I hope you had a lovely Christmas break.

As we start the new term, we hope that all our pupils are ready for another busy term ahead. As always, there will be lots of hard work over the coming weeks and plenty for our pupils to enjoy.

Well Done

Well done to all involved with last term's successful events – our whole school Carol Service, our Foundation Stage Christmas Nativity and also our choir's performances at community events and a local care home. The staff and children deserve much praise for the high standard of each event. Thank you to our parents and carers for your continued support.

Teacher and Support Staff Strike Action

It is our understanding that there is another strike date planned for Thursday 18th January 2024. This time it is being suggested that it will be a whole day strike for both teaching and non teaching staff. Assuming the strike goes ahead, for health and safety reasons, school will need to be closed for the period of the strike action, following advice from EA and with agreement from the Governors. We understand that this has implications on family life and so I am informing you now of the likelihood.

Primary Admissions 2024-25

As noted in a letter just before Christmas, admissions to Primary 1 for September 2024 will once again be through the online Education Authority portal.

The portal will open on the 9 January 2024 at 12 noon and closes at 12 noon on 26 January 2024. It is important that applications are made when the portal is open as a late application may affect your chances of being offered a school place.

As we have been oversubscribed for the past two years, parents/carers are asked to look carefully at the admissions criteria for Primary 1. The criteria is published online by the Education Authority and can be found using the link below.

If any parent/carer requires help in logging onto the portal or completing the admissions process, please contact the school office.

School Visits

If you have any friends or extended family who are considering sending their child (P1-P7) to Dunclug Primary School it is not too late for them to visit and have a look around our school. To arrange a guided tour of the school please call the school office.

Christmas Movie Night

Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Movie Night before the Christmas break. £400 was raised which will go towards our new playpark resources.

P1-P7 Parent-Teacher Interviews

The dates set aside for Parent/Teacher meetings will be during the week beginning Monday 4th March 2024. These meetings will be in person and in your child's classroom with the teacher. During this week, school will finish each day at 1pm. This will ensure that all pupils get school dinners/packed lunches. Closer to the time, a specific parent/teacher interview date and time will be sent out to parents and carers.

Post Primary Application Process

Primary Seven parents are nearing the opening of the Post Primary Online Application process at the end of this month. Parents can register and access the Post Primary Admissions Portal on the EANI website

<https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/post-primary-admissions-guide>

In recent years, the post primary application process has moved online for parents/carers to complete independently. That being said, if any P7 parents require any support please do not hesitate to contact me.

Primary Six families should also look out for open day/nights of schools in our area to encourage the thought process for the coming year.

Healthy Breaks

The school's healthy break system continues to be well supported. Sweets, chocolate etc are not to be brought to school unless on special party days as advised by the teacher.

Please can we ask that children have **no nut products** of any description as we have children in our school who suffer from nut allergies.

Kids' Club Afterschool Care

P2 and P3 Kids' Club Afterschool Care resumes this week for parents who wish to avail of this service. Ideally, booking forms and payment should be in by the Monday, in order for staffing to be organised.

General Illness Protocol Reminder

Any sick or ill children will be seen in the first instance by their class teacher. If felt necessary, a First Aider will be contacted. The School Principal or another qualified First Aider will make the final decision on whether a child may need to be sent home. If it is felt necessary to send a child home, the parent or guardian will be contacted to make arrangements for collection. A child who has been physically sick should be kept at home for at least 48 hours after they have been sick.

Start and Finish times

These times will continue:

Breakfast Club for participating pupils: 8:30-8:45am

School begins for all pupils: 8:45am

School finishes for P1-P3: 1:50pm

School finishes for P4-P7: 2:50pm

Dates for the Diary

Strike Date (pending): Thursday 18th January 2024

Staff Training Day: Friday 9th February 2024 (children should not attend school)

February Half Term: Monday 12 February 2024 – Friday 16 February 2024 (inclusive)

Bank Holiday: Monday 18 March 2024 (children should not attend school)

Easter Holidays: Monday 25 March – Friday 5 April 2024 (inclusive)

Start of Term Summer Term: Monday 8 April 2024

Thank you for your continued support of the school. If I or anyone else can be of help, please get in touch with us via the office.

Many thanks

Mr Beacom

Principal