



Dear Parents/Carers,

02 October 2023

We can't quite believe it is October already! Thank you for your support during the first month of the new school year and we look forward to this continuing.

Here are a few important notices:

Homework Survey Results

Thank you for your participation in our Homework Survey. 77% of families took part and the results were as follows:

- P1/2 Homework: **83%** agreed that Reading and Spellings were more than enough;
- P3/4 Homework: **83%** agreed that Reading, Spellings and access to online programmes such as Mathletics/Accelerated Reader were more than enough;
- P5/6/7 Homework: **96%** agreed that Reading, Spellings, Daily Mental Maths/English and access to online programmes such as Mathletics/Accelerated Reader were more than enough.
- Parents in Favour of Less Written Homework in General: **74%**
- General Comments: A recurring theme of homework adding "pressure/stress" to families was very evident. Many parents also expressed concerns that the children are very tired and/or have other extra curricular activities outside of school, so too much homework was not appropriate as the children had also worked hard in school all day.

As a result of the survey and discussions with staff and pupils, from next week until the new term begins in January, we will be trialling this new approach. Before we update our Homework Policy and seek approval from our Board of Governors, we will consult with all stakeholders again prior to Christmas.

Dinner Money/Other Payments

Please only send money into school on **Fridays before 12:00**. We are happy to also accept money first thing on Monday morning if you were unable to pay on the Friday beforehand.

Important Dates in October

School Photographer: Monday 16th October.

Parent Teacher Meetings (School Closed for Pupils): Friday 27th October.

Halloween Break (School Closed for Pupils): Monday 30th October – Friday 3rd November inclusive.



Communication

School is a busy place, so we ask that you contact the school via email in the first instance to leave a message for the relevant staff.

Mr Byrne's email: cbyrne760@c2kni.net
 Ms Gibney, school secretary's email: lgibney727@c2kni.net



Please also email the school if your child is unwell so we can accurately record this on our system. Ms Gibney is in the office each day until 12:30pm; we do our best to answer the phones outside of these times. Your messages will be picked up quicker after 12:30pm if you email Mr Byrne directly.

Pick-Up

If your child is being collected by someone who is not named as a "contact" on the data collection form, please **email** or **telephone** the school beforehand. Due to safeguarding/child protection, we do not let children leave school unless prior consent has been given.

Woodwork with Michael

P4-P7 children are working with Michael every Wednesday afternoon to create some fantastic woodwork crafts which we hope to sell at our Christmas Craft Stall (date tbc). Please send an old t-shirt to school that your child can wear over their uniform each Wednesday.

Cold Weather

As the weather begins to get colder, please send your child/ren to school with a coat each day – it would also be beneficial for children to have a hat/scarf/gloves as the Winter months approach.





Parent Teacher Meetings

We will be in touch over the next week or two with information regarding the parent teacher meetings this year. School is closed for pupils to facilitate these on Friday 27th October.

Tin Whistle

P4-P7 children – remember your tin whistle every **Monday (change of day)**. New Tin Whistles can be purchased from school at a cost of only £3.00. These are due to arrive this week.

Ulster GAA (Thursdays) & Healthy Kidz (Fridays) for all pupils

Remember to wear your PE gear on these days.

After School Club (only on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday)

After-School Club continues every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and costs £2.50 per day.

Absence

If your child is sick, please inform the office that morning. When attendance falls below 85% for several months, the Department of Education directs schools to pass this on to the Educational Welfare Officer (EWO). If the school has a record of your child's sickness and the reasons for their days off, this is not an issue.

Children Arriving After 9am

School gates close at 9am. Please do not open the gates after this time – children arriving after 9am need to be brought to the office to register before Ms Gibney brings them to their class. This is particularly important for health & safety, and also accurate dinner numbers.

Yours faithfully,
Mr Caolán Byrne
(Acting Principal)

