

Macmillan Coffee Morning & Fitness Day

We had a great Macmillan Coffee Morning and fitness day on **Friday 22nd October**. The P7s did a fantastic job leading us in the fitness sessions - some great movers.....and it wasn't just the pupils! Every class enjoyed baking, eating their buns and having a good chat with their friends. Thank you all so much for your generous donations to this very worthy cause. We have forwarded **£664** to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Two staff have also been busy raising money for this charity. Mrs McCluskey completed the London Marathon in October and raised **£502** and Mrs Beattie completed the '100 miles October Challenge' and raised **£903** for Macmillan also. Well done to all!



School Photos - Monday 15th November 2021



Opus Photography will be coming into school on **Monday 15th November** to take the school photos. Permission slips have been sent home today with your child. Please return these to your child's class teacher by Friday 12th. Only those with a signed permission form will have their photograph taken. All pupils should **come in full school uniform on Monday 15th Nov**. Those pupils who will be staying for tennis or cross country may bring their PE kit in a bag. Unfortunately, we can't offer the facility of younger siblings, not at school, coming in to join the family photo. Family photos will only be of those children in Nursery and P1-7.

Extra-Curricular Activities

These will begin on Monday and will run for 6 weeks (**8th November-17th December 2021**). Pupils may come to school in their PE kits on the days they have tennis, cross country, netball or football after school.

Teacher/coach	Day	Activity	Time
*Mr Ballantine	Monday	P2/3 Teddy Tennis	1.50pm-2.45pm
*Mr Ballantine	Monday	P4 & P5 Tennis	2.50pm-3.45pm
Mrs McCluskey	Monday	P7 Cross Country	2.50pm-3.30pm
Miss Bothwell	Tuesday	P5/6 Eco Club	2.50pm-3.45pm
Mrs Erwin	Wednesday	P6 and P7 Netball	2.50pm-3.45pm
*Mr Tipton	Thursday	P2/3 Football (girls & boys)	1.50pm -2.45pm
*Mr Tipton	Thursday	P6 and 7 Football (girls & boys)	2.50pm-3.45pm

PTA

Special thanks to those parents who attended our PTA AGM. I am pleased to inform you that a new committee has been elected for the year ahead. We are very grateful to the parents who have taken on the following roles:

Chairperson- Rhonda Tedford

Treasurer- Deborah Gilmore

Secretary- Emma Manton

Vice Chairperson- Carolyn Davison

Vice Treasurer- David Bell

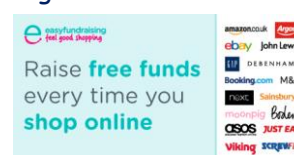
Vice Secretary- Paula McCleery

The **Christmas Card orders** have arrived in school and have been sent home with your child today. Any mugs that were ordered will be arriving next week.

Please continue to sell the **fireside quiz sheets** to family and friends and return all sheets and money to school by **Friday 12th November**.

Remember to continue to use the clothing bank at the side of the school as this also raises funds for the PTA. The next PTA meeting will be **Wednesday 24th November at 7pm, via Zoom**. If you would like to attend the meeting, please email jmcmillan521@c2kni.net and I will send you a link to join the meeting.

Easy Fundraising Please consider raising funds for the school via the PTA's **Easy Fundraising online service**. Shopping doesn't cost you a penny more, but as you make purchases online, shops make a donation to our PTA. All you do is register (it's good to select the "Donation Reminder" option) and start shopping. Please give it a go and encourage your friends and family to do so too - it is free money and will benefit all the pupils at Orchard County Primary School and Nursery. A great way to fundraise while we do our Christmas shopping. **Please register by clicking the link:** <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/orchardcountypriaryschoolpta/> Once you have joined, the next time you shop online, start at [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and log in. If you shop with your phone or tablet you can download the [easyfundraising app](#).



Covid

It was agreed by the Department of Education in August that schools were no longer required to use formal 'bubbles'. We continued to keep our classes in separate 'bubbles' inside and outside as it helped us to identify close contacts of a positive case. Since the PHA took over tracking and tracing, whole classes are no longer being asked to self-isolate. PHA are not identifying pupils in classes as close contacts, unless they have stayed overnight, may be a child in the same household as a positive case, if there has been close contact, such as kissing, or if a child has received help with personal care.

We know that the pandemic has affected the wellbeing of our children and after much discussion we are now allowing the bubbles to mix outside on the MUGA at break and lunchtimes, P1-3 and P4-7. The pupils were so excited and the smiles on their faces said it all. They are seeing children from other classes, that they hadn't met or spoke to before. We will continue to try to strike a balance between safeguarding our children's education and wellbeing and measures to contain COVID-19. We will continue with promoting good respiratory hygiene, regular hand washing, sanitising and cleaning.

COVID Reminders

- If your child displays COVID-19 symptoms, it is very important that they do NOT attend school. They should get a PCR test and isolate until you get the test result. If negative, they can return to school when they are well.
- If your child tests positive for COVID-19 they should isolate for 10 days.
- Please inform school about any positive cases by email.
- You will receive a 'warn and inform letter' if there has been a positive case in school.
- If your child tests positive, you will be contacted by the PHA to identify close contacts.
- If a member of your family tests positive, your child should get a PCR test on day 2 and 8. If these are negative, they can return to school but we have discovered that in a number of families, siblings have tested positive by day 8, so keeping the whole family at home is preventing the spread to others within our school community.
- If your child is isolating due to COVID-19, work will be provided for them on Google Classroom or through the home learning section of the school website.



Pupils enjoying fun and friendship at breaktime



School Meals

Remember we have a new choice dinner menu. See the school website [NEW Choice Menu November 21](#)

Free School Meals Entitlement

Apply to the EA if you think you are eligible to receive free school meals for your child. Click on the link to see the eligibility criteria. <https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants/free-school-meals-uniform-grant-eligibility>

Covid-19 and FSM If your child is entitled to free school meals and they have to isolate, for 10 days or more due to COVID-19, the EA school meals catering service will make alternative food provision. This will be by way of a food parcel to the value of a FSM for the required number of days. If you wish to avail of this service, please contact school to agree collection or delivery of the food parcel. It should be noted that food provision cannot be made for FSM pupils not attending school for any other reason, than COVID.

Nursery and P1 Admissions

If you have a child nursery age or younger please complete the form on the home page of our website [Prospective Nursery or P1 pupils register your interest here](#). This gives us an indication of the applicants expected each year. Further details about September 2022 admission will be available soon.

Attendance

The Education Welfare Service continue to monitor pupil attendance termly. Family holidays during term time are not acceptable and are therefore noted as unauthorised absences.

If your child is sick, please keep them at home and remember for cases where a child is physically sick, they should not return for **48 hours after their last incident of vomiting or diarrhoea**.

Hand, Foot and Mouth

I am just informing you all that we have been made aware of cases of hand, foot and mouth in our school community. Hand, foot and mouth disease is a common childhood illness that can also affect adults. It usually gets better on its own in 7 to 10 days. The symptoms are usually the same in adults and children, but they can be worse in babies and children under 5.



The signs of hand, foot and mouth disease can be: a sore throat, a high temperature and not wanting to eat. After a few days mouth ulcers and a rash will appear. Raised spots usually appear on the hands and feet, and sometimes on the thighs and bottom as well. The spots can look pink, red, or darker than surrounding skin, depending on your skin tone. The spots become blisters which appear grey or lighter than surrounding skin and can be painful.

Use the following link to access the PHA chart which we base all medical decisions on relating to infection control in school:

https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance_on_infection_control_in%20schools_poster.pdf



Internet Safety

Just reminding you all to be aware of the apps your children are using on their phones or iPads. Many of these apps, such as Snapchat, TikTok, Instagram, YouTube, Whats App, Facebook and Twitter are **not suitable for primary school pupils** and have a minimum age limit of 13. We have been made aware that some of our pupils are using these apps and the content of some of the 'chats' is not always what we would like our children to be discussing with each other. Please check your child's device regularly and have a conversation with them about what they are using. As a parent myself, I know how difficult this can be at times. I spoke to the senior classes yesterday about this and explained the dangers of cyber bullying. Please click on the links below for further information on Internet Safety.

This is a section from our new Anti-bullying policy on **ONLINE BULLYING**

Ultimately, parents are responsible in ensuring steps to prevent bullying through the use of electronic communication amongst pupils. As the pupils in our school are under the age of 12, it is the responsibility of the parents and guardians to be fully aware of what their child is doing online. Parents are also responsible for the age restrictions that are evident for social media applications. The schools 'DUTY OF CARE' will not be used in situations where pupils behave inappropriately on platforms (such as Tik Tok or Fortnite) as this is the responsibility of parents. Should incidents of online bullying and abuse be reported to our school by a concerned parent we will advise these parents as to how to report this behaviour to the appropriate authority i.e. PSNI. If evidence of aspects of bullying become integrated into school life, we will play an active role.

IT IS THE REQUIREMENT OF PARENTS TO KEEP THEIR CHILD SAFE FROM INTERNET BULLYING WHILST AT HOME. ULTIMATELY, PARENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE IMPACT OF ONLINE BULLYING. We will take **preventative measures** to educate our pupils against online bullying.

App and device restriction guide <https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/8b2ed7ff-0c34-4fab-825a-d2d5fbc982f/downloads/App%20%26%20Device%20Restrictions%20Guide.pdf?ver=1635760790508>

Internet Safety Information Leaflet [https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/8b2ed7ff-0c34-4fab-825a-d2d5fbc982f/downloads/2019%20Parent%20Flier%20\(Protected\).pdf?ver=1635760790507](https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/8b2ed7ff-0c34-4fab-825a-d2d5fbc982f/downloads/2019%20Parent%20Flier%20(Protected).pdf?ver=1635760790507)

Anti-bullying Week will take place **15th - 19th November** with lots of activities and discussion focusing on bullying. The week will end with an **ODD SOCK DAY** on **Friday 19th November**. Odd Sock Day is an opportunity to encourage our children to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique! There is no pressure to wear the latest fashion or for parents to buy new socks. Children should wear their normal school uniform and odd socks.



Poppies

Poppies and various other items will be on sale next week. A donation of 50p for poppies and the other items in the box range from 50p to £1.50. Please see the images.



Shared Education

Thank you to those parents who have already returned the Shared Education permission form. Classes will all be starting their programme very soon. The details of each project is on your child's Google Classroom page. If you haven't completed the permission form, please do so as soon as possible.

Nursery <https://forms.gle/n2sPMyKRkJq5rVXs9>

P1-7 <https://forms.gle/9kThn8HzDwqQg9FS6>

Congratulations to Jack who is now the 2021 British Champion, after winning the 90cc class at the British Minibike Championship last weekend. He has been invited to compete next year at British level again. The boys and girls that compete are from all over the UK and Jack is the youngest in his group. Best wishes to Jack's brother and past pupil Brian Hamilton as he competes in Valencia this week. We are very proud of both of you.



As always, if you have any concerns or a worry about your child please contact the office to arrange a time to speak to a member of staff or send us an email.

J McMillan

Principal