



Aid for Ukrainian Refugees

Thank you so much for the way you responded so quickly to our appeal for items for the Ukrainian refugees. Mrs Tedford, our PTA chairperson, filled two cars last Friday with all your donations. These were then transferred to lorries, to make the journey to Poland. Colin Tinsley (Hope for Youth Ministries) and the team will be delighted with these items. It is such a valuable lesson for our children to see that we can help those in great need. Your kindness and generosity will be very much appreciated by those who will receive these items. Thank you so much.



Book Week and World Book Day

The pupils had a great World Book Day. They all looked fantastic in their costumes and enjoyed many special activities throughout the day and during 'Book Week'. The school book fair has been in school all week and the children have had an opportunity to visit it each day with their teacher. We are delighted to receive commission from this to buy class novels and books for our class libraries. Thank you for supporting this.



Cross Country Final

Well done to Annabel, Jesse and Harvey who competed at the NI Flahavan's Cross Country Final at Mallusk, Belfast on Thursday 24th February. We were very proud of their achievements. Special thanks to Mrs McCluskey who trained the team and our three finalists.



Parent/Teacher Meetings

Parent teacher interviews took place all this week via telephone. Some P2/3 meetings will be taking place next Tuesday also.

Please remember, if you have a query or a concern about your child at any time throughout the year, contact school and a time can be arranged for you to speak to your child's teacher.

Also if there is a change in family circumstances or a change of address or contact details, please let us know.

New Playground



For some time, we have been trying to fundraise and plan a new play area for the children at the side of the school. We have been working with various companies and are close to finalising our plan.

Play equipment like this can be very expensive and we are using all areas of funding to finance this. We were very grateful to a local business for their

kind donation towards our playground last year. On that note we are asking that if anyone knows of any local businesses that would be willing to finance a piece/section of play equipment, we would be delighted to hear from them. A lot of the cost will be in making the safety surface for under the equipment. The whole project may cost around £20,000. We really want to install this area for the children to enhance their enjoyment and fun at break and lunchtimes and to improve their physical skills.

Covid/sickness updates



Please continue to look out for Covid symptoms, we still have cases in our school community.

Please continue to check your children with regular lateral flow tests.

If they get a positive result- keep your child at home and retest on day 5 and 6.

Children should have two negative results, 24 hours apart, before they can return to school. If either of these days show a positive result, then you continue testing daily until you get two negatives on two consecutive days.

If your child has symptoms- keep them at home and get a PCR test. Return to school following two negative results 24 hours apart.

Many of the cases we have had in school, seem to be affecting the whole family. Please be vigilant and we **really appreciate** those families that have decided to isolate all their children, if Covid is in their home. This is preventing the spread of Covid, from their family, to other pupils and staff in school. If your child is feeling unwell with Covid symptoms or other illnesses, such as tummy bugs, please **do not send them to school**, as unwell pupils can spread viruses to other pupils in their class and staff. Absent staff could mean a class closure, if we are unable to get substitute staff and this is becoming increasingly difficult.

The staff will continue to provide work packs or daily activities via Google Classroom, or the school website, **for those children who are isolating due to Covid and are well enough to work from home. Please request this from your child's teacher or via the school office.**

WORK WILL NOT BE PLACED ON GOOGLE CLASSROOM FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE OFF DUE TO GENERAL SICKNESS. We do not expect children who are ill to be completing work. Please remember that the class teacher will still be teaching a class, so it will be later in the afternoon before they would be able to post tasks for individual pupils isolating due to Covid.
Reminder- please notify me by email of any positive cases jmcmillan521@c2kni.net

We will always endeavor to keep classes open. However, there may be occasions when we have no option but to move to remote learning due to lack of staff. This will be for the minimum amount of days possible. It is with your continued support that we are able to keep our classes open.

After School Activities

It is so good to see so many pupils enjoying all the after school activities on offer. These will resume next Monday.



Teacher/coach	Day	Activity	Time
*Mr McIlravie Rugby Tots	Monday	P2 and P3 Rugby - Girls and Boys (limit of 20) 5 weeks 28 th Feb, 14 th , 21 st , 28 th March, 4 th April	1.50pm- 2.45pm
*Mr McIlravie	Monday	P4 - P7 Rugby - Girls and Boys (limit of 20) 5 weeks 28 th Feb, 14 th , 21 st , 28 th March, 4 th April	2.50pm- 3.45pm
Afrimeripeab Futsal Club	Tuesday	P6 and P7 Futsal (5 aside) Girls (limit of 20) 5 weeks 1 st , 15 th , 22 nd , 29 th March, 5 th April	2.50pm- 3.45pm
Mrs McMillan	Wednesday	P6 and P7 Netball - Girls (limit of 20) 5 weeks 2 nd , 16 th , 23 rd , 30 th March, 6 th April	2.50pm- 3.45pm
Mrs McCormack/Miss Wilson	Thursday	P6/7 class ICT Club - Girls and boys 4 weeks (limit of 20) 3 rd , 24 th , 31 st March, 7 th April	2.50pm- 3.45pm
Miss Emerson	Thursday	P5/6 class Science Club - Girls and boys 4 weeks (limit of 20) 3 rd , 24 th , 31 st March, 7 th April	2.50pm- 3.45pm

AQE

Congratulations to our two P7s, Jamie and Sawyer who got their AQE results last month. They worked so hard following lockdowns and we are very proud of their achievements.

If any P6 would like to sit the AQE next year, please let Mrs Allen or myself know and we would recommend that you also get a tutor for your child. We usually start to work with the P6 pupils choosing to sit the AQE after Easter.

New School Age Bill

I am just informing you all that a 'New School Age Bill' has been passed recently by the Assembly. It states that children born between **1st April and 1st July 2018** (including both dates), or any premature child who was born before 1st April but was due to be born **on or after 1st April 2018**, are eligible to defer primary school this year.

Should parents choose to defer primary school entry and withdraw from the primary admissions process, they will have the opportunity to apply for a second funded year of pre-school at Stage 2 of the pre-school admissions process. Whilst there is no guarantee of a funded pre-school place for 2022/23, the Department is conscious that children deferring Year 1 in September 2022 did not have the opportunity to defer pre-school. Parents will be asked to apply to pre-school settings with available places. At this stage, our nursery is already oversubscribed with target age pupils.

The Education Authority (EA) will shortly write to all parents of eligible children, setting out the process for deferral and providing advice and guidance for those who wish to defer their child's entry to primary school until September 2023.

PTA

The PTA are continuing to meet monthly, via Zoom, to plan activities for all our pupils.

Their next meeting is **Wednesday 6th April at 7pm**. Look out for the message and request a Zoom link if you would like to come along and join the great group of parents that are raising funds for all the pupils in school. The PTA would welcome any new parents to their meetings. The PTA have recently purchased another interactive panel for the P2/3 classroom. These panels make such a difference to the way your child is taught. Please view the video on your child's Google Classroom page to see the digital leaders explain the difference it makes in their classroom.



Cash for Clobber collection- a new bin is located at the side of the school. Please continue to deposit bags of clothes, shoes, curtains, towels, sheets and blankets. The PTA earns funds each time the bin is emptied.



Nursery Health Visitors will be coming into school on Tuesday 22nd March. Nursery parents should have received more information about this already.

Swimming

Swimming will continue each Friday for P5/6 until Friday 1st April.

Holiday Reminder

St Patrick's Day Thursday 17th March

Easter- school closes 8th April at 12, school will be closed from 11th-22nd April

NI Assembly Election-Thursday 5th May- school will be used as a Polling Station.

Red Day

The PTA planned a 'Red Day' and raised £327. Pupils enjoyed the day and their valentine treat bag.



P7 Cycling Proficiency will be starting for P7 in term 3 on Thursday 28th April with Mrs Allen and Mr Crawford. Each child participating must already be able to ride a bicycle. This scheme is to help equip pupils with the knowledge and skills to cycle safely. Participating pupils will be required to provide a roadworthy bicycle with a bell and wear a properly fitted helmet for the practical sessions. Please use the Easter holiday break to check your child's bicycle and helmet to help ensure a smooth start to the scheme.

P7 Share Centre Trip

Due to Covid 19 we are not having a P7 residential this year. We are pleased to inform you that we have organised a day trip to the **Share Discovery Village** in Lisnaskea, so the children will still have the opportunity to take part in the usual land and water activities that they would have done during the residential. We have tried to plan as many activities into the time available. This will take place on **Wednesday 15th June**.

We have also ordered P7 leavers' hoodies and these can be worn on their trip and to many other activities.

Staffing

Mrs Kaestner, Mrs McCormack and Mrs Beattie are unable to be at school at the moment. We continue to wish them and their families a speedy recovery.

Miss Emerson is now teaching in P1/2 on a Thursday and P5/6 on a Friday.



Mrs Mullen, (classroom assistant), is temporarily covering for Mrs Beattie in nursery and the KS2 classes.



Student Teachers

Our two Stranmillis student teachers, Miss Grimley (P5/6 & P2/3) and Miss Wilson (P6/7) will continue working with us until Easter. Both students are working alongside the class teacher and have also been assisting with after school activities.

Parents meeting- Wednesday 16th March 7.30-8.30pm

Managing Emotions and Anxiety

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95701112525?pwd=RVREc0NzNXRQMXQ5cFE0WWxYUmdrUT09>

Meeting ID: 957 0111 2525

Passcode: T21TZm

Our school counsellor, Jane McGeary, will be holding a parents' meeting, via Zoom on **Wednesday 16th March 7.30-8.30pm**. This is open to all parents. We have discovered that following lockdown, we have had an increasing number of pupils displaying anxiety in school and some pupils are finding it difficult leaving their parents, to attend school each day.

Jane will help us all with strategies for raising children's self-esteem and how to deal with high anxiety. She has been providing support for some parents and children in school and this had been great. Unfortunately, the amount of time we have with Jane weekly, is limited, so we thought this would be a great way to give all our parents an opportunity to get some support and advice.

If you would like to attend this meeting, please reply to the message that was sent to all parents or find the Zoom link, meeting id and password above. Jane has suggested that you might like to bring a pen and paper to the meeting to take notes, as she will be giving you tips. I would encourage you to attend if at all possible.

Parent Pay

We hope to be launching our online payment system on **Monday 21st March**. You will get an activation letter next week with instructions on how to set this up and a username and password. Hopefully everyone will be able to use the system and it will make paying for dinners, trips and events much easier and will avoid children having to carry money into school. Look out for the information via the school app next week.

Thank you for your continued support to the staff and myself. As always, if you have a worry or a concern, please contact your child's teacher or myself.

J McMillan

Principal