

April/May Newsletter



Dates for your Diary

Easter Fun Day (non-uniform)
Easter Holidays
Term 3 starts
P5/6 last swimming day
Bank Holiday
Election (school closed)
Assessments
P7 leavers & club photos
PTA Meeting
Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration
Jubilee Holiday
Sports Day
P1 Parents' Induction Meeting
Nursery Parents' Induction Meeting
Nursery Graduation
P7 Final assembly
Reports issued week beginning
Last day of term



Friday 8th April (12noon finish)
Monday 11th -Friday 22nd April
Monday 25th April
Friday 29th April
Monday 2nd May
Thursday 5th May
Tuesday 3rd- Wednesday 18th May
Wed 18th May
Wednesday 25th May 7.30pm via Zoom
Tues 31st May
Wednesday 1st- Friday 3rd June
Wednesday 8th June
Tuesday 14th June 3.30pm
Thursday 16th June 3.30pm
Tuesday 21st June 10.30am
Wednesday 22nd June 10 am
27th June
Thursday 30th June (12noon)

Parent Pay

Thank you all so much for activating your accounts. We will be using this method of payment for our dinner money and meal selection, after school nursery club, extra-curricular activities and trips. Please book your children on to their after school activities for term 3 through ParentPay.

After School Activities

Begin on our first day back after Easter. Remember to book in on ParentPay by Friday 8th May.

Name	Day	Activity	Time
Mr Ballantine	Monday	P1 TeddyTennis 25 th Apr, 9 th , 16 th , 23 rd May	1.50pm - 2.45pm
Mr Ballantine	Monday	P2/3 Teddy Tennis 30 th May, 6 th , 13 th June	1.50pm - 2.45pm
Mr Ballantine	Monday 	P4 - P7 Tennis 25 th Apr, 9 th , 16 th , 23 rd , 30 th May	2.50pm - 3.45pm
Mrs Neill	Tuesday	P4-P7 Choir 26 th Apr, 3 rd , 10 th , 17 th , 24 th May, 7 th 14 th June	2.50pm - 3.45pm
Mrs Davidson	Wednesday	P6/P7 Hockey 27 th Apr, 4 th , 11 th , 18 th 25 th May 15 th June	2.50pm - 3.45pm
Mr Williamson	Wednesday	P5 - P7 Boys' Football 27 th Apr, 4 th , 11 th , 18 th 25 th May 15 th May	2.50pm - 3.45pm
Mrs Allen/Mr Crawford	Thursday 	P7 Cycling Proficiency 28 th Apr, 12 th , 19 th , 26 th May 9 th , 16 th June	2.50pm - 3.45pm

Playground

For some time, we have been trying to fundraise and plan a new play area for the children. The pupils all put forward ideas and designs for their playground and we used these ideas in our actual plan. We have a beautiful display near the front door showcasing many of the designs. Congratulations to Annabelle Cassells P2, our KS1 winner and Sarah Allen P5 our KS2 winner for their fantastic playground designs.

We have been working closely with the company, Kompan and have now finalised our plan and placed the order. The children and staff are so excited. We are so looking forward to installing this area for the children to enhance their enjoyment and fun at break and lunchtimes and to improve their physical skills. We would love this to be in place before the end of the summer term.

This is going to be Northern Ireland's first recycled playground installed by Kompan. The equipment is from a new Greenline range. These products are made from post-consumer recycled materials such as ocean waste, used textiles, food packaging waste and used plastic bags. The new Greenline products come with a 50% reduction in carbon emission, compared to similar products. The recycled products are now just as good to play on, look just as good, are just as solid and come with the same long warranties. Our safety surface will also be made from 20% sneakergrind (recycled plimsolls and trainers). Please see below the plans for our new playground area.



Illness

Thankfully the number of Covid cases in school has decreased but please continue to look out for Covid symptoms and keep your child at home, as with any illness.

Reminder- please notify me by email of any positive cases jmcmillan521@c2kni.net

WORK WILL NOT BE PLACED ON GOOGLE CLASSROOM FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE OFF DUE TO GENERAL SICKNESS. We are delighted that we can now return to face to face teaching. If children are off ill, hopefully with rest and time, they will recover and return to school when not infectious and are feeling well again.

Nursery and P1 Admission

Parents will be notified of the outcome of your application (for children in the target age nursery group) and P1 pupils on Thursday 28th April.

Assemblies

We are delighted to be able to have assemblies back in the hall. We will be welcoming the local clergy back into assemblies and classes will be leading assembly also throughout term 3.

Uniform

Term 3 summer uniform can be worn after Easter. Boys and girls can wear red polo shirts instead of white shirt and school tie with their grey skirt or trousers. Boys may wear grey school shorts and girls may wear a red gingham dress and white socks.

PE Uniform

We are also moving back to changing for PE in term 3. As the weather gets hotter, we have noticed children can become very sweaty after a PE session and are then sitting in these PE clothes all day.

This can produce an unpleasant odour with 30 pupils in a room. We are going to try changing again as many of our pupils have not had the experience of changing for PE in school. We thought this term would be a good way to break the pupils in gently, as they may not be wearing a shirt and tie. All pupils should come to school everyday in their uniform and bring PE kits (navy shorts/skort, red polo shirt, school hoodie, trainers or plimsolls) in a PE bag, for days they have PE or after school activities. We appreciate that this is a big change for some of our pupils and we will assist them all we can. PE kits can be left in school.

If your child is wearing a red polo shirt as part of their uniform, they should have another to change into for PE.

PTA

The PTA continue to meet monthly, via Zoom, to plan activities for all our pupils. It is great to see some new members coming along.

The next PTA meeting is **Wednesday 25th May at 8pm**. 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 are fundraising for another interactive panel. These panels make such a difference to the way your child is taught.

Cash for Clobber Collection Please continue to deposit bags of clothes, shoes, curtains, towels, sheets and blankets. The PTA earns funds each time the bin is emptied.



Nursery Graduation

We would like to invite 2 people per child to our nursery graduation in the hall on Tuesday 21st June at 10.30am. Miss Bothwell will be in touch with further details nearer to the date.

Final assembly

We would like to invite 2 people per pupil to our P7s leavers assembly in the hall on Wednesday 22nd June at 10am. We will provide further details closer to the date.

Nursery Tidy Up Afternoon

The nursery staff have planned an outdoor tidy up afternoon on Wednesday 27th April 1-3pm. The nursery staff would like any parents who are available to come along and help tidy around the nursey and to assist with planting. If you are available, please let Miss Bothwell know.

P7 Share Centre Trip

The second payment of £25 for the P7 Share Centre trip is due by Friday 29th April and the third payment on 30th May. These can now be paid through ParentPay.

Staffing

Miss Bothwell will continue covering for Mrs Kaestner during her period of absence.

Miss Emerson will continue to teach in P1/2 on a Thursday and P5/6 on a Friday.

Mrs Mullen (classroom assistant) is now assisting in P5/6.

Happy Healthy Minds will continue in term 3. Jane, our counsellor, will continue working with individual pupils and parents. She will be running workshops in May for four weeks on anxiety and promoting good mental health for both key stage two classes.

The parents' meeting on **Managing Emotions and Anxiety** was well attended by staff and parents. We all got some excellent tips. Please see a number of resources below that Jane has recommended.

Books

- "Hey Warrior" Karen Young
- "The Colour Monster" Eliana
- "What to do when you worry too much" Dawn Huebner
- "The Invisible String" Patricia Karst

Videos - YouTube

- Why do we lose control of our emotions?
- Fight, flight, freeze. Curious Kids Psychology

Apps

- Mindspace
- Chill panda
- Smiling Mind
- Breathing bubbles

Websites

- www.heysigmund.com
- www.moodcafe.co.uk
- <https://parentzone.org.uk/>
- <https://www.sleepfoundation.org>

Parking

Just a reminder that parents' parking is along the front of the MUGA and to the left, after coming through the gate. Staff parking is around the roundabout and at the front of the school. Please park in a space and do not leave your car unattended at the front of the school or near the nursery entrance.

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.

Have a lovely Easter holiday and don't eat too many chocolate eggs!

J McMillan

Principal