



# School News

**Mission Statement:** Millisle Primary School aspires to be a place of excellence in learning, preparing children to be confident, resilient, respectful and caring members of our community.

**Dear Parents,**

Hope you had a lovely summer break. Welcome to the new academic year of 2019-20. Thank you for all your patience with all the work going on with our heating system. It has been changed from oil to gas and will be more cost effective.



Firstly, we would like to extend a warm welcome to all the new children and their families to Nursery. We look forward to your support over the coming months as we follow the settling in programme, getting to know the children in small groups.

During these next few weeks, we welcome you to stay as long or as short as you feel necessary, when dropping off your child. However, if your child is comfortable to be left, do not stay for longer than necessary. When you leave, please let them know as simply 'disappearing' could confuse and distress your child. Parents are welcome to ring the nursery at any time to check that their child has settled on 02891 862552. We welcome parents or relatives into nursery as volunteers to help with craft, trips, story-telling etc. If anyone would like to take up this invitation, please ask Mrs McAvoy for the vetted volunteer forms, as this can take many months to clear!

## FMPS & N AGM



The first meeting of the year is the FMPS & N AGM which will be held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019. It is a very important meeting. Please be there at 3.00 p.m. – everyone needs to help our "wee school".

## PE KIT P4 – P7

Remember your child needs to have our PE Kit for PE sessions: White T-shirt, navy or black shorts and the school hoody, if your child has one. Hoodies should not be worn to school, they should only be worn, if needed, during outdoor PE sessions.

## EDUCATIONAL VISITS

Please ensure that you complete your child's visit consent forms throughout the year as it is compulsory that we have a signed form if you want your child to be included in the educational visit. We will not be telephoning home on the morning of the class visit. If there is no signed form your child will be unable to attend the visit.

## WELCOME

We give a very warm welcome to our Nursery and Primary One children and to Sam in Primary Seven who have all joined our school. We hope you will all be very happy with us.

## CROSSING THE ROAD

If your child is unable to cross the Abbey Road by himself/herself, please ensure you are able to collect your child as **teachers are not allowed to help your child across the road. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter**

## NUT FREE ZONE

Millisle Primary School is a 'Nut Free Zone' and therefore parents should try not to put in any food containing nuts, into your child's lunch-box. We have a number of pupils who have been diagnosed with a severe allergic reaction to nuts. Your co-operation in this matter is very much appreciated.

## CURRICULUM MEETINGS

Please attend your child's Curriculum Meeting (P2 – P7 classes) which will be held in your child's classroom. It is a very important meeting and they will last only 15 – 20 minutes. They will be held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

P2 – 1.25 p.m.      P3 – 1.55 p.m.  
P4 – 2.20 p.m.      P5 – 2.50 p.m.  
P6 – 3.15 p.m.      P7 – 3.40 p.m.

## BUDGET CUTS

As you are very aware there have been significant cuts to the Education Budget once again and schools continue to face extremely difficult times. Our BOG members have worked tirelessly with our staff and you as parents have raised so much money to afford your children the same opportunities as in previous years but unfortunately 2019-20 is going to be even more difficult than 2018-19. I will also continue to teach five afternoons per week, so please make an appointment to see me during the morning or after 3 p.m.

Thank you for your support.

# School Calendar

## SEPTEMBER

- 2
  - First full day at school to 1.45 p.m. or 2.45 p.m. for P2 – P7 pupils.
  - Curriculum Meetings for P2 – P7 parents. Times as follows:  
P2 -1.25 p.m. P3 - 1.55 p.m.  
P4 -2.20 p.m. P5 - 2.50 p.m.  
P6 -3.15 p.m. P7 -3.40 p.m.
  - After School Care facilities are only available if parents have pre-booked their children in on a Monday. Please pay each Monday for the week's various sessions.
  - After School Care sessions start for P2 – P7 pupils.
- 6
  - Fire Drill & Evacuation
- 11
  - FMPS & N AGM
  - BOG Meeting
- 18
  - P6 swimming commences
- 30
  - SEN Interviews

## OUR NO CAKE POLICY

In line with our healthy snack programme we have decided to have a "no birthday cake" policy from this academic year. Please do not send in any cake with your child, as we have numerous children with allergies and children who are not allowed a high amount of sugar in their diet. Thank you for your co-operation.



## SNACK PAYMENTS

Thank you to everyone, who paid their snack bills, however there are still some outstanding snack payments from last year. They should be forwarded to your child's teacher by this week, as we will be audited for last year's monies. Please send it in as soon as possible so that we can close last year's accounts.

## AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Our After School Care Scheme commences on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September from either 1.45 p.m. (P2 & P3 children) or 2.45 p.m. (P4 – P7 children) with a finishing time of 4.45 p.m. every day.

P1 and Nursery children may join the programme of activities from October. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs McAvoy. Please let us know on a Monday the details of your child's bookings for the week.

## SWIMMING

The swimming sessions are for P6 children this term. Please encourage your children to participate in these lessons as they are statutory in the PE curriculum.

## POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Remember that we have a parents' section on our school website [www.millisleprimary.co.uk](http://www.millisleprimary.co.uk) where you will find our school policies and procedures links.

## HEALTHY SNACKS - Recommendations

If you have decided to remove your child from our Healthy Snack Programme, please only send in "healthy snacks" with him/her each day. We promote healthy eating in school and follow the Public Health Agency guidelines which are:

- Drinks – milk or water (No fruit juices, smoothies or fizzy drinks please)
- Fruit and Vegetables (Processed fruit bars are not suitable as they are high in sugar)
- Bread based snacks – bread rolls, baguettes, plain bagels, wheaten, soda, potato or pitta bread, bread sticks, crackers or a sandwich. (Not suitable – cereal bars, pastries, pancakes, scones, fruit bread, brioche, croissants and Danish pastries as these contain a lot of sugar and/or fat and salt)

The Departments of Education and Health, Social Services and Public Safety encourage all schools to provide healthier food and drinks throughout the day.

The website to use for ideas is:

[www.education-ni.gov.uk](http://www.education-ni.gov.uk)

## WAYS TO CONTACT US

If you need to contact me outside school hours, please use the following email address:

[info@millisleps.newtownards.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@millisleps.newtownards.ni.sch.uk)

## TWITTER

Lots of exciting photographs and articles are appearing on a regular basis – please keep checking!

**Millisle Primary @Millisle PS**