



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,

Thank you for 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. The work will now not be finished until the middle of October. Children will be able to enter our school by our normal route when we receive the 'go ahead.'

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**

INTEGRATED EDUCATION QUERIES FROM PARENTS

As you know we consider our school to be integrated in every way, except in title. We welcome all children into our school. However, some parents have been asking questions about the Integrated Education status and the implications involved.

Here are a few of the questions, parents have asked us, with some of the answers taken from the Integrate My School website.

1. Will our school receive more funding from the Department of Education?

No, the school would still be controlled and would be called controlled integrated and would not receive extra funding from the Department of Education.

2. Will it be more difficult to gain a place in our Nursery or Primary One class?

Yes it could be more difficult as the admissions criteria would have to change to include families from all religious affiliations.

3. If our primary school was integrated would it be easier for my child to be admitted to Strangford College?

It would not guarantee admission to Strangford College as transferring from an integrated primary school is currently Number 4 on their criteria. Having a sibling at Strangford or being the eldest in the family is above transferring from a controlled integrated primary school.

4. Will my child be asked to play sports associated with specific cultural traditions as part of PE?

Your school will try to cater for the cultural interests, including games, of both the main traditions of Northern Ireland. All pupils will be able to participate or not, as they wish.

5. How will RE be taught if the school becomes integrated?

All schools, including integrated schools, are required to follow a core RE curriculum agreed by the four main churches. The Board of Governors will ensure that provision is made for Catholic children whose parents wish them to be prepared for the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Financial support may be available from the Department of Education to help school's access specialist teaching for sacramental preparation

6. Will the school change its name or uniform?

Not necessarily, but may do. Some schools do decide, with the support of the school community, to introduce the term 'integrated' into their title or choose a new logo or even a completely new name to reflect their new status and then may change the school uniform.

We hope that answers some of your queries, if you need to ask us anything else about integrated status, please do not hesitate to contact Mr S Cassells, Chair, BOG.

School Calendar

OCTOBER

- 3 • Football Match
- 4 • P5 visit to Odeon Cinema
- 7-11 • Book Week
- 11 • School Harvest Service
- 17 • FMPS & N Meeting - 3.00 p.m.
- 22 • Action Heroes – Action Cancer – P1 – P3 classes
- 24 • Flu Vaccines
• FMPS & N Disco sessions
Nursery to P3 – 6.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.
P4 to P7 – 7.15 p.m. – 8.15 p.m.
- 25 • FMPS Non-Uniform Day
• School Closes at 1.30 p.m. – P1 – P4 and
1.45 p.m. – P5 – P7

FMPS & N

Thank you to everyone who attended our FMPS & N AGM. The following members were elected for our 2019-20 committee:

STAFF	Mrs L Patterson Mrs Mulholland (Honorary Treasurer) Mr I McManus Mrs C Dines
N/P5	Mrs K Marshall (Joint Secretary)
P1	Mrs L Graham
P1/3	Mrs S Haddock
P1/3	Mrs L Pugh
P1/6	Mrs E Pollock (Honorary Treasurer)
P1/7	Mrs E McCormick (Joint Secretary)
P2	Ms L Graham
P2/4	Mrs E Rossborough
P2/P5	Mrs A Williamson
P3	Mrs C Carleton
P3/6	Mrs C McKibbin
P4	Mr A McBride (Chairperson)
P5	Mrs M Marshall
P5	Mrs A Allen
P5/7	Mrs K Trimble



POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Remember that we have a parents' section on our school website www.millisleprimary.co.uk where you will find our school policies and procedures links.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

We all know how important it is to attend school and we all try to be there every day. Of course we understand there will be sickness periods and medical appointments to attend, but I felt this grid shows what our report percentages mean in days away from school.

ATTENDANCE	
Percentage attendance	Number of days absent
95%	9
90%	18 (Half a day per week)
85%	28 (By P7 a full year of school)
80%	37 (One day per week)
75%	47

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.

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.

MESSAGES OF SUPPORT

Thank you very much everyone for all your ideas, actions and words of support towards us as we start another academic year, with no sign, as yet, of a substantial amount coming to our school budgets. We really appreciate everything you are doing to help your children and our staff. If there are any issues you want to discuss with our class teachers, SENCo or myself as principal, please do not hesitate to contact the school office on 91861471 to make an appointment. Always remember that Mrs S Moore is our Home School Liaison teacher and our new SENCo.

We have started the loose money collection, looking for the class which brings in the most money by the end of May. The winning class will get two weeks off homework in June and a treat from the ice-cream van! See our photos from last year's ice-cream van visit.

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

TWITTER

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

Millisle Primary @Millisle PS