



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,

We hope you will have a lovely half-term with your families.

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. They are constantly being updated.

SCOOTERS AND BICYCLES

Please remind your children to push their scooters and bicycles into school and not to ride them in the school grounds. Thank you for your support.



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.

ONLINE APPLICATIONS

The application process for our nursery and P1 places in our school for September 2020 went live on 7th January. It will close at 12 noon on 30th January. Please be on time with your completion of the form.

<https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions>

HOLIDAYS

Our next holiday is our half-term break which is on Monday 17th to Wednesday 19th February, inclusive. School will close at 1.30 p.m. for P1 – P4 and 1.45 p.m. for P5 –P7 children on Friday 14th February. School will re-open on Thursday 20th February.

AWARDS DAY TROPHIES

Please remember if your child was a joint winner of a trophy in Awards Day in June 2019, that the trophy should be passed on to the other child during this month. Thank you for your co-operation.

Dear Parents,

Future changes in Millisle Primary School

I write to bring you some important news of a major change which will be happening in Millisle Primary School.

After 39 years of teaching in Millisle Primary and including fifteen years as principal, Mrs Patterson has informed our Governors that she will retire this year. She has decided that the timing is right for her to move on to the next phase of her life and will retire at the end of June.

Mrs Patterson has guided the school through challenging times and has always dedicated her time and life to Millisle Primary, indeed she has not missed even a single day off work, during all those years. We all owe Mrs Patterson a great deal of thanks for her tireless work as a teacher and then as Vice Principal and finally Principal - some of you will know Mrs Patterson both as a teacher to your children and as your own teacher!

During the years as principal she has presided over a number of changes to the school, including staffing changes, implementing curriculum changes and new, innovative ways to teach your children. The results of Mrs Patterson's dedication and leadership were recently evidenced through the ETI Inspection in February 2017-

"The Senior Leadership Team is led by a long serving principal who inspires the respect and confidence of the whole school community and provides outstanding leadership."

The ETI category for Leadership and Management in our school was deemed outstanding.

Of course there have been many challenges during the years, not least the financial pressures that the school has faced. These challenges started from the first week Mrs Patterson was appointed as principal, and she worked very hard, with our staff team, to run our school, in those early days, with a large deficit. Some of you may recall the times when we had combined classes due to budget restraints but also know that during this time Mrs Patterson and our staff did everything possible to bring us back to the position we are in today with a separate class for each year group.

Mrs Patterson has also been very good at writing letters and sending emails to convince the Education Authority that we needed modernisation and development work completed at our school, such as the replacement of the school windows and doors, a new office for the school secretary, the purchasing of the additional land from the old school master's house for an extra playground and much more besides.

As a Board of Governors we are always amazed at Mrs Patterson's motivation to keep moving the school forward and never thinking we have done enough.

After Mrs Patterson leaves us in June, Mr Ian McManus will take over as the Acting Principal, until the permanent principal post is advertised.

I am sure you will all join me, with the Board of Governors and staff of our school, in thanking Mrs Patterson for all her hard work and dedication to Millisle Primary and to send her every good wish for a long, healthy and happy retirement.

We will continue to keep you updated, as more details become known.

Yours faithfully,

Stephen Cassells
Chair of Board of Governors

School Calendar

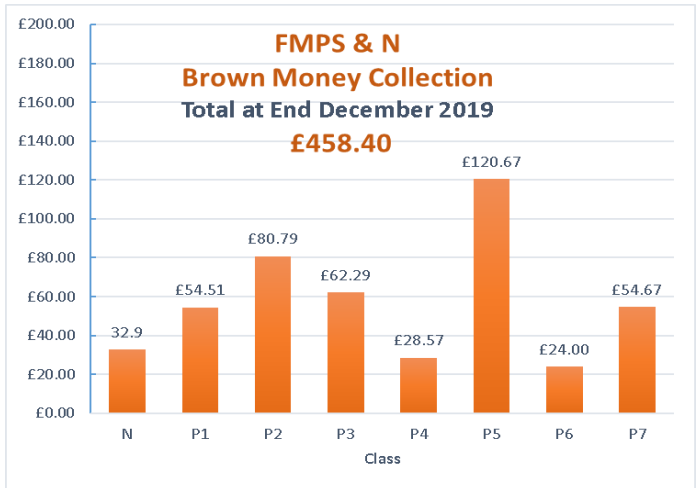
January

- 27 • SEN Interviews
- 27 – • P7 Interviews
- 31
- 30 • 12 noon online applications for Nursery and P1 CLOSE
- Football Match – Londonderry Park

February

- 5 • Dairy Council Food and Fitness session P5 and P6 children
- MVRSG Meeting – Millisle PS
- 12 • P4 Class visit to Castleward
- 13 • FMPS & N Disco sessions in school
- 14 • Non-Uniform Day - £1 per pupil for FMPS & N funds.
- School closes at 1.30 p.m. for P1- P4 and 1.45 p.m. for P5 – P7
- 17 – • Half-Term
- 19
- 20 • School re-opens after half-term
- 21 • P5 Class visit - Ulster Museum
- P6 Class visit – Titanic Belfast.

FMPS & N Events



Congratulations to our P5 children who are currently winning our loose money collection. Keep helping us! Thank you to our nursery parents who are helping us as well.

Our next event is our FMPS & N disco sessions, which will be held on Thursday 13th February. More details to follow.

Do I need to keep my child off school?



Chicken Pox Until all spots have crusted over	Conjunctivitis No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Diarrhoea & Vomiting 48 hours from last episode	Glandular Fever No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Hand, foot & mouth No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Impetigo Until lesions are crusted & healed or 48 hours after commencing antibiotics
Measles or German Measles 4 days from onset of rash	Mumps 5 days from onset of swelling	Scabies Until after first treatment	Scarlet Fever 24 hours after commencing antibiotics	Slapped Cheek No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Whooping Cough 48 hours after commencing antibiotics
Flu Until recovered	Head Lice No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Threadworms No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Tonsillitis No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed		

SCHOOL RULES

We have numerous rules in school and we have summarised them into three words – Ready, Respectful and Responsible.



SPORTS update

The school team recently took part in a North Down and Ards small schools' tournament at the Blair Mayne Leisure Complex. We played 6 games in total in our first five-a-side tournament of the year. The team were impressive and produced some fine performances.

We started quite slowly against Newtownards Model and Sullivan Prep with a draw and a loss. We then produced a great performance against Castle Gardens and ran out 2-0 winners. The team then beat Londonderry Primary School to advance to a penalty shootout against Newtownards Model as we had the same number of points. We won our penalty shootout to advance to the semi-final against Kilcooley Primary. The team produced their best performance of the day and won 4-0 in a physical battle. Unfortunately, we lost by the same score line in the final against Sullivan Prep who were worthy winners. It shows the level that we have reached in recent times that we were so disappointed we couldn't win the whole tournament. The team consisted of Ethan B, Jacob P, Ollie F, Callum J, Cooper K, Zach McK and Cameron H. Well done boys and a huge thank you to the adults who were able to assist with lifts on the day. Thank you to Mr Laverty for his continued support and coaching.



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