



Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that another school year is nearly complete, one which none of us could ever have imagined would turn out the way it has. We have to pay tribute to the collective spirit across the school community throughout these long months. The acts of kindness, selfless actions, encouragement, support and good humour has remained despite many difficult situations.

Parents you have our admiration; staff both teaching and non-teaching our gratitude and boys and girls, who are the heart of everything we do, our congratulations for being such great pupils this year and all that you have achieved both in school and at home.

Despite all the upheaval and new ways of working, lots of things have been going across the school. Our Keyworker provision was very successful and the boys and girls who needed to be supervised in school were a joy to have and all got on so well together. Thanks to all the staff who worked on the rota and in a supporting role both in school and remotely.

Google Classrooms were in full flow throughout the school days and as time went on everyone got used to the new way of working and engagement was high. The spread across the curriculum was wide and varied with teachers mixing things up and developing new and exciting ways to share activities on the work streams and motivate their classes. Thanks to all the teachers for their care, dedication and expertise.

We also want to pay a special tribute to our Cleaning staff who have excelled themselves throughout this period of heightened cleaning. #rainbowwarriors

Leavers' Assembly

Primary 7 pupils were able to attend school and collect their Leavers' Hoodies and have their photograph taken which formed part of their Leavers' Assembly on Friday 26th June. It has been an especially emotional time for this fantastic group of children who missed out on a number of 'rites of passage' towards the end of their time at Killowen. We are so proud of each and every one of them, and wish them all the success in the world as they move on to next exciting chapter of their lives.

Nursery Graduation

On Wednesday 24th June, we welcomed back, over a staggered period, our Nursery pupils, to collect their certificate and some gifts. The majority of the children will be making the long journey across to Primary 1, when school resumes. Best wishes to all in our Nursery Class of 2020.

Nursery & Primary 1 2020-21

Preparations for Nursery and Primary 1 Induction have had to be significantly altered this term in accordance with Government guidelines but we are still delighted to be welcoming our new starts and look forward to the day when we can welcome them into Killowen. Parents will continue to be informed, by email, at each stage along the process.

House Competition 2019-20

The winners of this term's competition are Bernagh House with 4139 points. Well done to everyone from Bernagh and their House Captains Beth & Ashden.

2nd place was Commedagh House with 3967 points; 3rd place was Donard House with 3903 points. 4th place was Croob House with 3684 points.

IMAGINE IF

Our school counselling service continued looking after children right up until late June and we are seeking to maintain this service in the future.

Safeguarding & Child Protection

We remind families that the advice sheets with useful websites, telephone numbers and agencies are still available to view and use over the summer period and can found on the school website.

School of Sanctuary – a word from Mrs Mawson

In October 2019 Killowen Primary embarked on a new journey. We were nominated by our Intercultural Education Officer to apply to become a School of Sanctuary; a prestigious accolade not awarded lightly. To achieve this S.O.S status we had to prove that we were a welcoming, nurturing and supportive school for all members of our school community.

Behind the scenes teachers got to work. We made plans on how to improve our Welcome and also how to help staff and pupils enjoy the rich diversity of cultures in our school. Did you know we have over 17 languages other than English spoken fluently in our school by Staff and pupils!

We decided to celebrate these languages and began our programme on Monday afternoons by studying the culture surrounding and conversational language of a chosen 'Language of the month'. January kicked off with Chinese which was good timing as it included Chinese New Year! We learnt basic phrases, danced a fan dance, ate with chopsticks and tried calligraphy of Chinese characters. The staff also had an afternoon of delicious Dim sum and tea. February introduced Polish when we learnt basic phrases, painted eggs, made lanterns, listened to music and watched Polish folk dancing. March began with Spanish which then was switched over onto on-line learning as we all experienced Lockdown.

In February 2020 visitors from the 'small worlds' charity met our p6 and p7 children. They shared stories about how they found safe sanctuary in Northern Ireland and told us about their journey to here. The children got the opportunity to try on some authentic African traditional dress and hear all about Tibet. The children experienced some really interesting conversations and the pupils displayed beautiful manners and empathy towards our guests.

The good news is that on the 18th June 2020 Killowen Primary School was awarded School of Sanctuary status. Well done each and every one of us! We will pick up our good work where we left off after lockdown. Together we are stronger. We will meet again and until then we must all remember to be kind!

Healthy Kidz - Virtual Sports Day

Congratulations to Hollie from P6 who was our school's winner of a £20 gift voucher for taking part in the More than one hundred boys and girls from Killowen took part in preparing for the different events over the course of five weeks. They joined 20,000 children from across Northern Ireland to make sure that one of the most exciting days in the school calendar still went ahead! Well done to everyone who was involved with this!

Keeping Connected

Contact continues to be made using the following methods:

- **Google Classroom** – contact will be suspended until the new school year when fresh instructions will be shared for the set-up of the new classes
- **Text message service** – keep your mobile numbers up to date, please especially for the new term
- **School phone** - a message is on the school phone
- **School email** - info@killowenps.lisburn.ni.sch.uk
- **Killowen Twitter feed:** @killowentweets
- **Website:** www.killowenps.co.uk

We have already posted out the planned direction, structure and access arrangements for the start of the next school year. We will follow the regulations set by the NI Executive and inform parents should there be any changes.

As we go our separate ways for the summer break, with thoughts and possibly a few worries about the 'New School Day' we should try and focus on the following quote and centre our hopes and beliefs that things will work out and we will get through this together.

'Let us remember that one book, one pen, one child, one teacher can change the world'.



School of Sanctuary Award



Nursery Farewell

