

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

A very warm welcome back to school life and the start of another academic year, 2020/2021. It was lovely to welcome the pupils back for the Autumn Term and from walking around school, they seem genuinely pleased to be back.

As a school we are totally committed to keeping our children safe and to following government guidance. We have worked tirelessly to ensure that all our risk assessments, health and safety procedures and social distancing measures are in place and to ensure that Edwards Primary School is as safe a place as is possible for our pupils and staff.

We remain committed to giving the children the best learning experiences we can deliver and to make things as "normal" as we can safely manage.

Congratulations to Mrs McClelland on her summer wedding and to Mr and Mrs Nelson on the birth of their baby daughter.

Mrs Kerrigan is taking leave to recover from an operation so may I take this opportunity to welcome Audrey Adams as our school secretary.

We will be continually revising and updating school procedures and would welcome any ideas or concerns that you may be experiencing with school life due to COVID-19 via the school email

info@edwards.castledearg.ni.sch.uk

Revised Dinner Menu

We have revised our dinner due to concerns raised. A copy of the revised dinner menu is attached. This menu is subject to change under the current circumstances. We welcome your feedback.

Music Tuition

We are currently in communication with the EA music service and completing a risk assessment. This service will resume Thursday 1st October 2020.

School App

During the COVID-19 school lock-down it became evident that our digital communication systems needed to be updated. We are currently having a school app designed which syncs with our school website. More details to follow.

Special Education

We are currently updating our resources to include more digitally assisted learning resources including accelerated reader. The scanning pen is being purchased and staff are receiving training in text help and precision learning to support pupils with dyslexia. We have upgraded our hardware with the purchase of two new SMART boards, compact laptops and I-pads.

IFA Football Coach

We welcome Gareth Porter an IFA Sports coach to Edwards. He will visit school each Wednesday to coach pupils in Years 5, 6 and 7 outdoors.

Parent Interviews

Parent interviews are scheduled to take place in November 2020. We are still awaiting guidance from the Department of Education but it is envisaged that these will take place through a virtual medium or by telephone. Details to follow.

Parent Literacy Information Evenings

This year our annual parent information evenings for Nursery, Year 1 and Year 2 will include a learning pack plus a digital power point which will be emailed to each family.

NUT-FREE SCHOOL

Reminder - we are a NUT FREE school. This is because we have children in school who have life threatening reactions when they come into contact with nuts. Please help us to keep our children safe by NOT sending any food into school which contains nuts.

Year 3 Pupils

Year 3 pupils will remain in school for the full school day from Monday 5th October 2020.

COVID-19 Policy Edwards Primary School

A copy of the COVID-19 policy for Edwards Primary School can be downloaded from the school website. This policy details the adjustments which have been made to school life due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It also includes a COVID-19 Management Flowchart.

Car Parking

It would be greatly appreciated if anyone parking in the designated bus area would refrain from doing so.

Social Media

Negative comments made via social media can be damaging, unhelpful and liable for prosecution if proven to be untrue. Should you have any matters arising which are pertinent to school life please contact the school via the school info account or by telephone and a resolution can be found.

HALF TERM

School will be closed for the half-term holiday from Monday 26th October 2020 until Friday 30th October 2020.

COVID-19 is still with us and the science indicates it's going to be here for the foreseeable future. As a school leader I am aware that the collective vision for the new academic year has to be one that is responsive to this extraordinary situation, focused on safe and effective learning and teaching and the wellbeing of everyone in our school community.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to acknowledge the commitment of everyone in our school community and sincerely thank them for their support and dedication as we continue to navigate the unique challenges which face the education sector.

Kindest regards

Principal

Results of Parental Evaluation on Digital Learning Experience/Preferred Learning Style

Learning Packs		64
Learning Packs + Remote /Digital		4
Remote /Digital		18
Access to Broadband - Yes		78
Access to Broadband - No		4
Technology Available	Desktop Computer	51
	IPad	25
	Smartphone	34
	Android Phone	34
	Tablet 11	2

A kind thank you for completing this survey. The problems which you experienced have been addressed and will be used for future planning.

From analysing the results, it is clear that the preferred learning style is Learning Packs. Should Edwards Primary School be forced to closed due to COVID-19 in the future Learning Packs will be provided for all pupils.