



William Pinkerton Memorial Primary School

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Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to take this opportunity to share some good news with you all. It seems that Covid has taken over at the minute and all of the great work going on here in school is not being acknowledged as much as it should be.

Firstly, staff have been carrying out a robust evaluation of our Literacy provision and after analysing our most recent data we have decided to focus on improving reading. As part of our School Development Literacy Action Plan we will be focusing on targeting improving outcomes in reading throughout the school and so we have decided to invest in Accelerated Reader, an excellent resource that is used in many schools in Northern Ireland to improve reading standards. We have been able to purchase this through our Extended Schools Funding and staff will be receiving training in the very near future. It is our hope that we will have this set up and ready to go for the children after the October Half Term break.

Our newly refurbished Reading / Nurture Area will be put to good use with the introduction of Accelerated Reader and we have no doubt that the children will find a love for books through this resource. We may be looking for some additional books to go into our Accelerated Reader area, so if you have any books lying around the house that are no longer of any use to you, please put them aside and we will let you know when we will be able to accept them.



Secondly, we have purchased a Promethean Activ Panel for our Learning Support room. This has enhanced the teaching and learning that goes on in there immensely, so much so, that we will now be purchasing one of these for every classroom and hope to have them installed and up and running by the October half term break. These boards are state of the art technology that will bring learning to life for the children.



And finally..... 3 years after I submitted a major works application to the EA regarding the drop off / pick up and parking arrangements at the school I got notification today that my application has been successful. Work will begin in May 2022 and will be due for completion by September 2022. This has been a lengthy process however, I wanted to ensure that the design and final plans would not only make a massive difference to the safety and well-being of children at the drop off and pick up times, but also that it would enhance our school site. I have attached the plans so that you can see for yourselves the benefits for the school and wider community.

LATERAL FLOW TEST KITS

We have a supply of these in school and should you require any please ring Mrs Marshall in the school office and she can arrange to have these sent home with your child.

PE UNIFORM

I would like to remind you that children can continue to come to school in their PE kit on PE days. The PE kit consists of:

- A **PLAIN** white t-shirt or the school PE t –shirt (we do still have some of these available and they are priced at £5)
- **PLAIN** navy or black leggings, jogging bottoms or shorts
- School jumper must also be worn

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

I am aware that there wasn't an opportunity to have school photos taken last year and so I have arranged for William and Lorraine to come in on **Monday 27th September** to take individual and family photos. In light of the ongoing Covid situation, only siblings who attend the school will be able to have photos taken together.

PARENT INTERVIEWS

Parent interviews will take place week commencing **Monday 18th October**. These will be telephone interviews and dates and times will be issued nearer to the time. School will **close at 1pm for ALL children** during this week. The interviews will take place Monday – Thursday of that week, the Friday afternoon from 1pm will be staff training.

HALF TERM

School will be closed from **Monday 25th – Friday 29th October (Inc)** for the half term holidays.

And last but not least I would like to take this opportunity to put on record my thanks to staff, parents and the wider community for their support during the start of this school year. It has not been easy, however by working together, we have managed to ensure that our children are safe, happy and enjoying school life so far.

Please keep a close eye on the school app / website for further updates.

J Philpott (Principal)

