



11th September 2018

FREE SCHOOL MEALS AND UNIFORM GRANTS

We would ask that parents apply if you are eligible to do so. This does not mean that your child needs to have a dinner if they prefer to have a packed lunch, but **it will ensure that the Department of Education gives additional money into the school budget.** Like most schools, our finances are in a very difficult position and so any help to increase our budget needs to be taken. Please contact school if you require any clarification or further information about this.

ABSENCE NOTES

Please ensure that absence notes are returned to school before the end of the week so that we can record any absences for your child accurately. Pupils are expected to attend school regularly and punctually unless they are ill. Children who have had vomiting and diarrhoea should remain off school for two days after their symptoms have gone.

WELL DONE

Congratulations to: Luca, Lorcan and Harry (P4D/M) - presented with a huge cup for winning a Football Tournament; Dylan (P3G/B) and Oliver McW (P4 D/M) – both named ‘Man of the Match’ on different dates by Ballysillan Swifts; and Alex (P4KB) – 1st prize at the Comber Horticultural Show for growing a patty pan. Well done to everyone!

PTA MEETING

The first PTA meeting of the year will take place on Monday September 17th at 8pm. This is an important meeting as the positions of both Chair and Secretary are up for election. At the moment, it is unclear that there is anyone interested in standing for either position. Without these roles, the PTA will be unable to continue in its current form.

The PTA is an important part of school life. Over the years, its fundraising has contributed to many worthy initiatives, from subsidising afterschool activities and purchasing interactive whiteboards to developing the school allotment and purchasing sporting equipment. With additional funding cuts due to take effect this school year, the PTA’s fundraising could play an increasingly vital role in helping to resource the school.

Unfortunately, the PTA has also experienced a decline in volunteers. It has been struggling to find the volunteers necessary to run school events and to replace senior roles. Moreover, many longstanding members will be leaving us in the next few years as their children transfer on.

Please consider attending the meeting on the 17th and adding your voice, perspective, ideas and support to the PTA. If any parent/grandparent would be interested in more information about the role of PTA Chair or Secretary, please contact Meghan at meg.hoyt3@gmail.com.

MARKETING FROM OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

The new GDPR rules require us to obtain consent from parents to enable us to send home marketing material. At present, we feel that it would be extremely hard to manage and so, for the time being, we will not be sending home leaflets from other organisations but will instead have them available from the office or foyer. We realise that many parents would be happy to receive this third party information, but we have to conform to the GDPR requirements and operate in a way that is most effective and efficient for the office staff.

SCHOOL FUND ACCOUNT

The School Fund account is used for a variety of purposes, including purchasing additional books/resources, repairing iPads, paying for transport for events, supplementing entrance fees/transport/workshops for school trips, purchasing lunchtime resources etc. We are very grateful for your help with this and would ask that all contributions are sent to school by Friday 28th September.