



Carrickfergus Model Primary School Principal's Newsletter: November 2018

November

Dear Parents / Carers

School continues to be a place of great activity and learning. Already we have had trips to Legg Park, Carrickfergus Library, Wesley Court and W5, Cross country heats, football matches, swimming and visitors to school such as the Fire Service, P2 Grandparents and P1 Mystery Readers. Our After-School clubs led by teachers and outside providers are proving popular and allow our pupils to pursue their own interests.

The Eco-Council and School Council have been working hard and continue to voice their ideas for making their school a better place. A new addition this year is our 'Kindness Crew' who are a large group of fantastic P5 – P7 pupils who are coming up with great ideas to fill our school and community with kindness. They have already been out in Carrickfergus Town Centre making people smile.

Before half-term we said goodbye to several members of staff; Mrs Beggs, who is taking on a new position and who will be greatly missed, Mrs Falconer who is going off to have her baby (covered by Mrs Gilliland) and Mrs Fitzsimmons, our P1 classroom assistant who will be off for a short time (covered by Mrs McElhinney). Our very best wishes go to these three ladies.

I would like to thank the parents who have contributed to our school fund so far. This week will be the last reminder for a contribution of £20 per child or £30 per family. We promise to use this money to greater the educational experience of all our pupils. Parents may still send this to the office this week. Thank you also for contributing to our Harvest Gifts; our local residents really appreciated the visit from our Primary 5 pupils.

May I also thank the parents who have committed to our PTA and are busy in the background planning the Christmas Fair. Further information about Christmas at the Model is included in this newsletter...can you believe there are only 7 weeks left of term?

Finally...good luck to our Primary 7 pupils (and their parents) who are sitting the AQE examinations this month. We are so proud of you all...just do your best!

Best wishes

J Miller



OPEN EVENING @ THE MODEL

Our Open Evening will be on **Thursday 22nd November at 6.30pm – 8.30pm (Principal's talk at 7.30pm)**. We will also be running two group tours in January for any parents who are still deciding on a P1 place for their child. These will be on **Thursday 10th January at 9.45am** and **Thursday 17th January at 9.45am**. Please contact Miss Smythe in the office after Open Evening if you like to come on one of the tours. Please also advertise our Open Evening to other parents as we are always looking for new families to join our school.

Remember that school finishes at 2.00pm on Thursday 22nd November and there will be no buses on this day. Choir, orchestra and several other pupils will be required to help on the night.

PRIMARY 1 ADMISSIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2019

If you have a child due to start school next year, please call with Miss Smythe at the office and complete a pink pre-registration form, even if you have a sibling at school already. This will enable us to help you with the new admissions process outlined below.

This year, application forms will be in digital format for both pre-school and primary school admissions. A new portal for parents to apply online has been created and it will include the listing of preferences for schools. This replaces the current paper-based application form. Parents will still have to provide their child's birth certificate and any other verifying documents. The GO LIVE date for the new digital admissions is **Wednesday 2nd January at 10.00am**, closing at **midnight on Thursday 31st January**. Please refer to the Education Authority's Website: <http://www.eani.org.uk>. This is completely new for every school this year but we will assist in you in whatever we can throughout the process.

FRIENDSHIP WEEK 2018

From **Monday 12th – Friday 16th November** we will be celebrating 'Friendship Week' where will be focusing on what makes a good friend, making good choices within friendships and how to prevent, identify and stop bullying. Each class will be working on this with their teacher at an age-appropriate level. More importantly we will be looking out for and celebrating the pupils who are kind to others every day and we have lots of them in our school!

CHILDREN IN NEED 2018

On **Friday 16th November** we will be dressing up for Children in Need. We will also be having a book swap and bun sale. Please see the flyer from Miss Manson for more details.

'IT'S OK TO AGREE TO DISAGREE' WORKSOPS FOR P5 – P7

These Workshops will run on **Friday 23rd November for P5 – P7**. We recognise that friendship issues amongst this age group can be complicated so we have special visitors to work with our KS2 pupils. The session will focus on the impact of actions and words and should give pupils the tools and confidence to deal with any issues, now and when they move on to post-primary school.





CHRISTMAS AT THE MODEL

Christmas Card Fundraiser: Your child will be bringing home their Christmas Card designs samples within the next week or two. Please purchase some as they really enhance our school fund and are a lovely thing to have.

Wednesday 12th & Thursday 13th December: P1 – P4 Christmas Performances. Primary 1 and Primary 2 will be performing as individual year groups and Primary 3 and Primary 4 will be performing together. More details will follow but these performances will all be in the morning.

Friday 14th December: 6.00pm – 8.00pm: PTA Christmas Fair. School closes at 2.00pm. No buses.

Wednesday 19th December: P5 – P7 Carol Service (afternoon and evening services)

Various Dates during the last week of term: Year Group Christmas Parties

Friday 21st December: Non-uniform day. End of term. Finish at 12 noon. No buses.



PTA NEWS

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 15th November at 7.00pm** to continue the preparations for our Christmas Fair. All parents are welcome, even if this is your first meeting. If you can't make the meeting but would like to help please give your name to Mrs J Murphy, chair of the PTA or alternatively leave your name and email address at the school office and we will pass it on. Currently we need helpers for:



Open Evening

- 4 people to serve tea and coffee and Open Night from 6.15pm
- 2 people to help with car parking on Open Night from 6.15pm

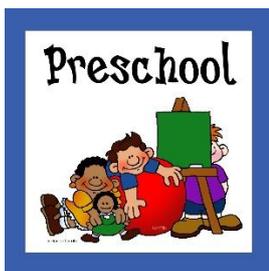


Christmas Fair: Lucky Dip / Tombola & Raffle

- Do you have contacts with a local business who would be willing to sponsor / donate items for auction at the Christmas Fair? *If so, please let us know by contacting the school office before Thursday 15th November.*
- For Monday 26th November, please can families send the following:
 1. A sandwich bag filled with a new toy / sweets to the value of £5.00 for the lucky dip.
 2. A bottle of something nice – shampoo / wine / cordial (adult's tombola) OR a chocolate bar (children's tombola).

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US!

RAINBOW PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP: OPEN DAY



ATTENDANCE FIGURES FOR OCTOBER

Primary 1 HM: 98%	Primary 1 SEM: 95%
Primary 2 JD: 95%	Primary 2 SM: 96%
Primary 3 RJ: 98%	Primary 3 CR: 94%
Primary 4 CG: 98%	Primary 4 LR: 98%
Primary 5 BM: 97%	Primary 5 MF: 97%
Primary 6 JC: 97%	Primary 6 JH: 97%
Primary 7 JK: 96%	Primary 7 CT: 99%

Please remember that all absences must be followed by a note to your child's class teacher or the office. For a holiday, a note should be sent before you go. All absences must be recorded as authorised or unauthorised (no matter what the reason) according to DENI.



HOW LONG SHOULD I KEEP MY CHILD OFF SCHOOL?

We are often asked this question in school. We know how tricky it can be when making a judgement about keeping your child off school. However, there are some guidelines from the Public Health Agency that may be useful. Full details can be found on:

http://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance_on_infection_control_in%20schools_poster.pdf

- Diarrhoea and vomiting illness: 48 hours from the last episode of diarrhoea
- Chickenpox: Until all vesicles have crusted over
- Measles: 4 days from onset of rash
- Hand, foot and mouth: No exclusion recommended by parents may choose to do so
- Scarlet Fever: 24 hours after starting antibiotic treatment
- Impetigo: Until lesions are crusted and healed, or 48 hours after starting antibiotic treatment
- Whooping Cough: 48 hours after starting antibiotic treatment
- Conjunctivitis: None
- Glandular Fever: None
- Headlice: None

This is only guidance. Please base your decisions on what is right for your child and family.

Senior Leadership Team	Safe-Guarding Team	Wish to speak to the Principal or your child's class teacher?
<u>Principal:</u> Mrs J Miller <u>Vice-Principal / Head of Key Stage 2:</u> Mrs J Kirkland <u>Head of Foundation Stage:</u> Mrs H Morton <u>Head of Key Stage 1:</u> Mrs L Robinson <u>Care & Welfare Co-ordinator:</u> Miss S Manson	If you are concerned about the welfare of a pupil in school, please speak to Mrs S Mitchell. <u>Designated Teacher:</u> Mrs S Mitchell <u>Deputy Designated Teacher:</u> Mrs J Miller <u>Designated Governor:</u> Mr N Anderson	We have an open-door policy when it comes to communication between home and school. However, it is hard for members of staff to be available right away, especially at the beginning of the school day. Please leave a message with the school office and we will get back to you. Emails can be sent but we would rather this is not the main avenue for bringing up issues / discussing children as it is not the personal approach we would wish to take with you and your child.

CONTACT US

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