

Derrychrin Primary School

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Principal: Mr Ciaran McElroy



Friday 11th November 2022

Good Luck Julie!

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to our wonderful member of staff, Miss Julie Bell. We can't thank Julie enough for the enormous contribution she has made to school life here at Derrychrin PS over the last twelve years. She displayed kindness, care and dedication making a positive impact on all the pupils and touched the lives of many children and adults. Julie will be sorely missed by everyone!

On behalf of the Board of Governors, staff, pupils and the whole school community, we say a massive thank you to Julie and wish her every success for the future in her new role.

Parent Teacher Meetings

The Parent / Teacher meetings will be held on **Tuesday 15th & Wednesday 16th November**.

School will finish for all pupils at **12noon** on both dates. Dinners and lunches will be served as normal. The meetings are an important opportunity for parents/guardians to discuss their child's progress to date and to establish a positive relationship between home and school. Parents have received a **10-minute** interview slot and will be required to adhere to the time frame in order to accommodate everyone. Children are **not** to attend these meetings.

Road Safety Week 2022

In conjunction with Sustrans NI, Road Safety week will take place week beginning 14th November. The theme this year is "Safe Roads for All" and the children will be learning about the importance of keeping safe on the roads to make our journeys safer for everyone. We are holding a special Active Travel to school day on **Friday 18th November** with the aim to raise awareness of safe travel to school during the darker days. We are encouraging children to actively travel to school on this day wearing their new Hi-Visibility vests that have been provided by Sustrans NI. We would encourage all parents/guardians to label their child's Hi-Visibility vests. We would encourage all children to actively travel to school to wear their Hi-Visibility to school daily during the darker days. All vests can be stored in pupil school bags during the school day.

Kindness Week 2022 - 'REACH OUT'

World Kindness Week celebration will take place in Derrychrin PS week beginning **14th November**. The theme this year is **'REACH OUT'**. The sole purpose of the week is to focus on the positivity that surrounds us all every day and highlighting the importance of 'Reaching out' to everyone by helping and supporting them in many ways. The children will be taking part in activities throughout the week where they will have the opportunity to highlight, learn, teach, and share acts of kindness and goodwill within our school community.



P4 Sacramental Preparation – ‘All God’s Children’

A parish meeting took place on Tuesday 8th November for parents/guardians of all P4 children from both Derrychrin PS and Ballylifford PS. The aim of the meeting was to outline the ‘All God’s Children’ programme similar to the previous ‘Do this in Memory’ programme. It will prepare the P4 children and their families for the Sacraments of Penance and First Holy Communion.

Primary 1 Enrolment 2023

Admissions criteria will be available before Christmas for children starting P1 in September 2023. All forms will be published on the EA website. www.eani.org.uk The portal opens on 10th January 2023 at 12noon and closes on 27th January 2023 at 12noon. Admissions can be completed online using a smartphone, tablet, laptop or computer.

We are now accepting expressions of interest for potential Primary 1 children for the September 2023 intake. Registration of interest in Derrychrin PS for Primary 1 September 2023 can be found on our school website homepage. We are trying to ascertain numbers for the next school year, and we would ask you to please pass this information on to other prospective parents especially those who do not have children already at Derrychrin PS.

(Please remember an Education Authority admissions application form must be completed online as per regulations to select the school of your choice.)

Open Morning & Guided Tours of Derrychrin PS for Prospective Parents

Further details of an Open morning and Guided Tours will take place for all Parents and children considering starting Derrychrin PS in September 2023 will be issued in due course. It will be an opportunity for Parents/Guardians of prospective P1 pupils to visit our school and experience school life in Derrychrin PS.

Once all details have been finalised, parents/guardians can contact the school office to arrange an appointment for a tour of the school.

Friends of Derrychrin PTA

We invite all current members and any parent who would like to join our PTA, to attend a meeting in the school hall on Tuesday 15th November at 7pm. It will an opportunity to discuss many events and activities to provide our children with the best opportunities and experiences for the year ahead.

Ballinderry Bridge Credit Union

Congratulations to all the savers in Derrychrin PS for Term 1A, as they had total savings of £1,046 for the six-week period from 2nd November -7th December. A fantastic amount of savings by all the children. Well done to Jude (P3), Leah (P6) and Padraig (P3) who were the top three savers for this term. Thank you to Philomena who continues to promote our local Credit Union and highlighting the important role it plays for the children and the school community.



SUSTRANS Active Travel Programme

At the end of November, a limited number of P6 pupils will get the opportunity to complete National Standard on-road cycle training. This valuable training gives children the skills and confidence for cycling on traffic-free paths and on quiet roads. On Monday 14th November our SUSTRANS Officer Steven Ward will carry out a MOT check on all bikes for P6 pupils.

SVDP Fundraising

Society of St. Vincent de Paul is an international charity and the largest voluntary charity in Ireland. SVDP members in Northern Ireland work in all communities to support people whatever their background, who are experiencing poverty and social exclusion, promoting self-sufficiency, and working for social justice.

Last year, SVP responded to tens of thousands of calls for assistance from members of the public.

While we are still emerging from the Covid 19 pandemic, we are now finding ourselves in a cost of living crisis and the devastating effect it has on everyday life for so many families. A recent study from University of York has stated that by January 2023 it is expected that 72% of household in Northern Ireland will be living in fuel poverty.

Many businesses and schools have had a wonderful tradition of organising different appeals and events in the lead up to Christmas. These appeals often involved the collection of non-perishable food and toys that were donated to support people in need across local communities.

At the Society of St Vincent de Paul they have been reassessing how they assist those in need and have over the past few years been modifying their approach.

Families are facing impossible choices this winter and hand on heart we cannot truly appreciate what food people would choose to put on their table or what toys their children enjoy playing with so, to empower those we are supporting and to keep their dignity intact, SVDP will continue with their virtual fundraising campaign which proved highly successful and safe over the last two years.

Over the years, SVDP have valued every donation received from schools and businesses. Without this support they would simply not be able to help all of those who ask us for assistance in the lead up to Christmas. As a school community we will work closely with the Ballinderry Fundraising Community in supporting the SVDP Santa Fun Run and the Toy Appeal. The Derrychrin School Community would be extremely grateful if you could provide cash donations to purchase food, fuel and toy vouchers to help those most in need within the local Ballinderry community. All donations can be left at the school office.

If you have any questions or would like any further information, please contact Brendan McKernan on 07543584784.

Immaculate Conception Conference, Cookstown and District
Registered Charity No: XN45800

Active Kids -PE lessons

PE lessons for our P1-P7 pupils continue weekly with 'Active Kids' coach David Mulgrew. A super opportunity for the children to keep fit and healthy expressing themselves through exercise and multisport activities, gymnastics, dance and athletics. Term 1A involved many multisport activities and Term 1B will involve the pupils developing their gymnastics skills.



PGCE Student Placement

We would like to welcome Mr Conor Donnelly, PGCE student at Edge Hill University who under the guidance of Miss Hughes will get the opportunity to teach in the Primary 3. We hope that Mr Donnelly has a positive experience during his twelve weeks at Derrychrin PS from November to February.

SDP Parental Questionnaire Results

Thank you to all parents/guardians who completed the School Development Plan parental questionnaire which was issued in term three of the last school year. We appreciate all parents for taking the time to respond. Parents' responses and suggestions are always gratefully received and will be considered as we plan our school development priorities for the future.

All results have been compiled and we hope to issue the feedback in the coming weeks.

M&M Theatrical Productions

In previous years at Christmas time prior to the COVID pandemic, the school would have experienced the Christmas Panto at the Grand Opera House, Belfast. Initial contact was made with Grand Opera House, last January, and due to the cost of transport, ticket prices and seating positions, the decision was made not to place any additional financial burden on our families due to the increased cost of living.

M&M Theatrical Productions, the UK's largest and most respected provider of theatre-in-education, specialising in Pantomime Productions for Primary Schools, will be visiting Northern Ireland schools in January. They will perform 'Beauty and the Beast' for all the children of Derrychrin PS in school on **Tuesday 17th January**.

The school will cover the cost of the performance as a treat for the children.

Bursting with energy, magic and fun, M&M Theatrical Pantomime Productions provide a colourful, musical and dynamic theatrical experience for the whole school; children & teachers alike.

SCHOOL CALENDAR / DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please continue to refer to the calendar on the school website and School NI app for all upcoming events and dates for your diary.

Parent-Teacher Meetings: Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th November (Pupils will finish at 12noon both days)

Daily Mile Santa Run: Friday 2nd December (Pupils can wear Christmas jumpers, hats and clothing).

Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day: Friday 9th December (Pupils will finish at 1:00pm)

Outdoor Christmas Carol Service: Thursday 15th December at 6:30pm – Venue: Ballinderry Community Hub

Sacrament of Confirmation: Thursday 2nd March at 5pm St. Patrick's Church Ballinderry

First Holy Communion & First Confession Sacramental dates have not been confirmed as yet but parents will be notified ASAP.

