

Derrychrin Primary School

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Tel: (028) 8673 7456

Principal: Mr Ciaran McElroy



Tuesday 9th November 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Halloween Ghost and Ghoul Parade

Unfortunately, the 'Halloween Ghost & Ghoul Parade' organised by our PTA 'Friends of Derrychrin' for Sunday 31st October at Ballinderry GAC was cancelled due to the predicted weather forecast. The decision was made in the interest of health and safety of all our families. Thank you to everyone who sent in pictures of their pumpkins, scarecrows and entered 'Guess the Name of the Witch' via the PTA Facebook page. Well done to all the winners and the prizes photos were uploaded to the school website.

Child Protection & Safeguarding

At the beginning of each new academic year, class teachers revise all Child Protection & Safeguarding and pastoral care arrangements within school with the pupils, as they are reminded of whom they can talk to if they have any concerns or worries. In school we talk to all the children about our school safeguarding team which is on display in all classrooms and reinforced at online assemblies throughout the school year.

Please contact Mr O'Neill (designated teacher for child protection) or Miss McVey (deputy designated teacher for child protection) should you wish to raise a child protection issue. Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy summary & 'Parent's Awareness Leaflet' has been issued to all parents and is also available on our school website.

Parent Teacher Meetings

The Parent / Teacher meetings will be held on **Wednesday 17th & Thursday 18th November**. All pupils will go home early at **12:00noon** on both dates. Dinners and lunches will be served as normal.

The meetings are an important opportunity for parents/guardians to discuss your child's progress to date for this school academic year.

As COVID transmission remains a risk within the school community, the meetings will be held via telephone. Parents have received a time slot for a 10-minute interview for each child. Teachers/parents will be required to adhere to the 10-minute slot allocated to accommodate everyone.

If an additional meeting is required due to family circumstances, please contact the school office. If your time slot is unsuitable and you would like to reschedule, please contact the school office to arrange a more suitable time.



Past Pupil - Niall O'Donnell's Derry Success

Next **Wednesday 17th November**, we will have a Derry/Red and White GAA day to honour past pupil Niall O'Donnell who was a playing member of the Derry Minor Football squad who won the Ulster and All-Ireland Minor Football Championship for 2020 in July.

In celebration of Niall's success, a presentation will be made to honour his success and show how proud the Derrychrin school community were of his historic achievement.

We would encourage all children to wear anything Derry GAA related or red and white GAA tops/clothing. The children will get an opportunity to have a question-and-answer session, and also to have their photo taken with Niall and the Ulster Minor Championship trophy.

Birthday Party Invitations

We would like to remind all parents/guardians that it is school policy for birthday party invitations to be distributed by parents outside of school hours. This will avoid any upset or distress if any child does not receive an invitation. Any parent who wishes to give birthday invitations to their child's class friends, provided there is an invite for all, may do so, by placing all invitations in an envelope and given to the class teacher for distribution.

NO NUTS Policy

We would like to remind parents/guardians of the seriousness of **NUT / FOOD ALLERGY** conditions as there are a number of children in school with NUT allergies. We ask that **NO** foods containing nuts or that may contain traces of nuts / nut products / peanut butter or nutella sandwiches be brought into school. Can we also remind parents not to send birthday cakes / buns / treats into school as they also may contain traces of nuts. Your co-operation supports the school in monitoring the situation and protects the health, safety, and well-being of all our pupils and staff.

Road Safety Week 2021

In conjunction with Sustrans NI, Road Safety week will take place next week, week beginning 15th November. We are holding a special Active Travel to school day on **Thursday 18th November 2021** with the theme 'Ditch the Dark'. The aim is to raise awareness of safe travel to school during the darker days and we are encouraging children to actively travel to school wearing bright, fluorescent, neon, reflective clothing to celebrate 'Ditch the Dark' day.

Kindness Week 2021

World Kindness Week celebration will take place in Derrychrin PS next week, week beginning **15th November**. The sole purpose of the week is to focus on the positivity that surrounds us all every day. There will be activities taking place throughout the week by all the children where they will have the opportunity to highlight, learn, teach, and share acts of kindness and goodwill within our school community.



Online Safety Parents' Workshop

In partnership with St. Peter's PS Moortown, an online safety training workshop for all parents has been organised for **Tuesday 16th November at 7:30pm**. The workshop will be delivered by REIM Training solutions. Topics will include gaming, inappropriate content, cyber bullying and online stranger danger.

Practical tips and resources will be provided during the session and a link to the online session has been forwarded to all parents via the Schools NI app. Children in P4 to P7 will also receive online safety training in school to highlight online safety awareness.

Parental Permission and Agreement Form

As part of the annual process for all children enrolled at Derrychrin PS, parents/guardians are required to complete a Parental Permission and Agreement form with consent for numerous areas. These areas include Medication Administration, Educational Visits, participation in Sporting Events, Photographs permission, Use of School Climbing Frame etc

50% of our families have completed the form to date and we would urge all remaining families to complete the form ASAP. All information collected will be used for the duration of your child's time at Derrychrin PS.

Daily Morning Prayer

Every morning, the whole school come together online using MS TEAMS to have our morning prayer celebration led by Mr McElroy which involves a short reflection story from 'Blessings Every Day', The Morning Prayer and pupil Birthday wishes for that particular day. I would like to praise all the children who have been fantastic with their listening each morning and have also been very reverent during the prayers and readings.

Pupil Absence

I would like to thank all parents for keeping the school informed of your child's absence. If a child is absent for any reason, parents/guardians should notify the school, explaining their absence by using the '**Report Pupil Absence**' button on our school website. We understand parents have contacted the school office by phone to inform the school of their child's absence, but a pupil absence form still needs to be completed on the school website.

Head lice

We would encourage all parents/guardians to check their child's hair regularly as outbreaks of head lice are very common at this stage of the year. It is vitally important that it is treated promptly and with a lotion (not shampoo). Should you require any advice, please contact your local pharmacist.

**"Where We Always Believe
That We Will Achieve!!"**

'Easyfundraising' Website

Derrychrin PS are registered with Easyfundraising and you can help to raise funds for the school at no extra cost to yourself. It is a great opportunity to keep raising much needed funds for the school. When you shop online, with over 4,100 of your favourite retailers, including John Lewis & Partners, Amazon, eBay, not on the High Street, you will raise FREE donations for the school.

If you're not already signed up, it only takes a few minutes, then you can begin using the Easyfundraising website or app straightaway - simply shop online as normal. Your support is greatly appreciated.

'Split the Pot' Weekly Fundraiser

In association with our PTA 'Friends of Derrychrin', we would like to thank everyone for their continued support of our new weekly fundraising initiative 'Split the Pot'. The children look forward to the draw taking place each week. Please remember to visit the school website to find out the weekly winner by clicking on the 'Split the Pot' tab.

Remember the more entries the bigger the Prize Pot!
Good Luck and thank you again for your support.

SCHOOL CALENDAR / DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

Daily Mile Santa Run – Friday 3rd December 2021

Outdoor Christmas Carol Service – Tuesday 14th December 2021

School Christmas Dinner – Wednesday 15th December
(Pupils finish school at 1pm)

Parky the Magician – Tuesday 21st December 2021

First Communion - Saturday 14th May 2022
(Ceremony One at 10am & Ceremony Two at 11:30am)

Sacrament of Confirmation - Saturday 30th April 2022
(Ceremony One at 10am & Ceremony Two at 11:30am)



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