

Derrychrin Primary School

30 Drumenny Road, Coagh, Cookstown, Co Tyrone BT80 0BX

Tel: (028) 8673 7456

Principal: Mr Ciaran McElroy



Friday 26th November 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

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' and 'Our School Safety Net' is available on our school website.

Christmas Carol Service

Our Outdoor Christmas Carol Service will take place on **Tuesday 14th December at 6:30pm** at Ballinderry Shamrock GAC. The P1 children have been practicing really hard at their Christmas Story and the P2 to P7 children are singing wonderfully at their Christmas Carols and Songs. Our musicians will be playing their tin whistles and guitars on the night also, have been practicing really well with our Music Tutor Donal Canavan. Tickets costing £5 each will be available from the school office from Monday 29th November.

Kindness Week 2021

World Kindness Week celebration took place in Derrychrin PS, week beginning **15th November**. The sole purpose of the week was to focus on the positivity that surrounds us all every day, with the theme 'One Kind Word' and the quote for the week 'One Kind Word, can change someone's entire day'.

. It was fantastic to see so many activities taking place throughout the week by all the children in the classes highlighting acts of kindness and goodwill within our school community.

At our morning prayer each day we discussed the importance of kind words, acts of kindness and being kind at all times through words and actions.

We would like to thank Loretta and Amber from Fresh Little Minds and Daly Kindness for sharing a video with the children to highlight the importance of Kindness and say well done to everyone for doing so well during Kindness Week. Remember to use the super power of 'Kindness'.



Parent Teacher Meetings

Thank you to all our parents for attending the Parent/Teacher via telephone on the 17th and 18th November. We were very grateful for everyone adhering to the 10min allocated slot as it allowed everything to run smoothly. It was an excellent opportunity for parents/guardians to discuss your child's progress with their class teacher.

Road Safety Week 2021

Well done to everyone who took part in our special Active Travel to school day as part of Road Safety Week. The theme was 'Ditch the Dark' with the aim to raise awareness of safe travel to school during the darker days and also to encourage the children and their families to actively travel to school wearing bright, fluorescent, neon, reflective clothing to celebrate 'Ditch the Dark' day.

It was fantastic to see so many pupils and their families get involved and highlight the importance of travelling safely to and from school at all times.

The ECO Council will be having further events throughout the year in conjunction with Sustrans NI to continue to highlight road safety awareness and active travel.

Congratulations Niall from everyone at Derrychrin PS

Derrychrin PS were privileged and honoured to welcome back our past pupil Niall O'Donnell this week to acknowledge and celebrate the wonderful achievement of Niall being part of the successful Derry Minor Football squad who won the Ulster and All Ireland Championships for 2020.

The children dressed in their Derry/Red & White colours thoroughly enjoyed the occasion and got the opportunity to have a question and answer session with Niall, where he offered words of advice to the children in both sporting and non-sporting contexts. Perseverance was a key word that Niall highlighted regularly and it was something he stressed to the children to refer to at all times both in school and outside of school.

Niall talked fondly of his time at Derrychrin PS. He was very appreciative and paid particular reference to the advice, support and guidance he received from the Derrychrin School Community and also the local Ballinderry Community throughout the years.

All the children in their year groups and staff got photo opportunities with Niall and the winning Ulster Championship Cup. We would like to thank John O'Neill for taking wonderful photos for everyone to cherish.

The school also presented Niall with a Derrychrin school jersey and a photo collage of his successful year representing Derry.

Niall is a true role model for all the children at Derrychrin PS and the local community. As a school we are extremely proud of him and we would like to wish Niall well for many successful years ahead in everything he may do.

Parky The Magician

As a special Christmas treat for all the children, Parky the Magician will visit the school on Tuesday 21st December. He will entertain all the children with his Magic Show performing lots of wonderful tricks. Something for the children to look forward to and they are really excited!



Fresh Little Minds

We are looking forward to welcoming Loretta Daly from 'Fresh Little Minds' and 'Daly Kindness' to Derrychrin PS in February and March to deliver the Grow+ lessons to our P3 to P7 children. GROW + is specifically designed as an extension to the Fresh Little Minds GROW Programme that was previously delivered. It aims to embed what was delivered in the 6 week GROW Programme by integrating the Fresh Little Minds AMBER Resilience and Wellbeing approach into the classroom.

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.

Online Safety Parents' Workshop

Thank you to our parents who attended the online safety training workshop on Tuesday 16th November in partnership with St. Peter's PS Moortown. The workshop was delivered by REIM Training solutions and topics included gaming, inappropriate content, cyber bullying and online stranger danger.

Practical tips and resources were also provided during the session as guidance for parents.

Parental Permission and Agreement Form

An additional reminder sheet will be issued and teachers will also send a reminder to parents on Seesaw to complete the Parental Permission and Agreement Form on our school website. Consent is required for numerous areas such Medication Administration, Educational Visits, participation in Sporting Events, Photographs permission, Use of School Climbing Frame etc

75% of our families have completed the form to date and we would urge all remaining families to complete the form ASAP. Thank you to all families who have completed the form.

Ballinderry Christmas Santa Run

We had a special visit from Maggie O'Donnell and Rosemary Mallon to Derrychrin PS to promote the Ballinderry Christmas Fun Run in aid of St. Vincent de Paul. The fun run will take place on Sunday 5th December at 1pm. Registration from 12noon in the Community Hub at Ballinderry Shamrock Park.

There will also be a bake sale and an opportunity to visit Santa's Grotto. .Everyone welcome!

Daily Mile Santa Run

The children will take part in the Daily Mile Santa run in school next Friday 3rd December. We would ask for the children to wear Christmas jumpers and clothing to get into the Christmas spirit and mark the occasion.



COVID Information

It is very important in the lead up to Christmas that we continue to follow the PHA guidance and do what we can to keep everyone safe and minimise all COVID risks. This will only be successful if we all play our part.

COVID-19 Symptoms

If your child is displaying any of the symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home and follow the latest Public Health advice.

If there is a confirmed case of someone in the school having the COVID-19 virus, the school will follow the latest PHA, DE advice by issuing a 'Warn and Alert' letter to the confirmed case in the particular class.

If your child tests positive for COVID or is displaying COVID symptoms, parents/guardians should inform the school immediately using our school email address info@derrychrin.cookstown.ni.sch.uk or contact the school by telephone on [028 8673 7456](tel:02886737456)

Annual Christmas Draw 2021 & Split The Pot

In association with our 'Friends of Derrychrin' PTA, we will be holding our annual Christmas Draw at the Outdoor Christmas Carol Service on Tuesday 14th December 2021.

Each family have received 2 books of tickets. Tickets cost £5 for a book of 6 or £1 per ticket. We would kindly ask for your support in the sale of the tickets and appreciate if all ticket stubs and money could be returned to the school by Monday 13th December 2021. Should any family require additional tickets, please contact the school office.

Due to our annual Christmas Draw, the weekly 'Split The Pot' fundraiser will take place only once in the month of December. The date confirmed for December 'Split The Pot' is Tuesday 21st December. Thank you for your continued 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 at 6:30pm

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)



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