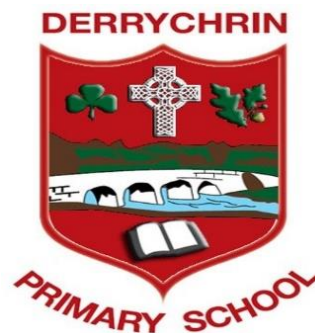


Derrychrin Primary School

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

Tel: (028) 8673 7456

Principal: Mr Ciaran McElroy



Thursday 13th January 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

School Attendance & Late Arrival

A reminder that school begins at **8:45am** each morning and I would ask everyone to please arrive in school between 8:30am-8:45am. Late arrival can have an impact on the classroom routine and the children often miss important teaching and learning. Regular late arrivals and pupil attendance is monitored by the EA Education Welfare Officer. If for any reason your child will be late or absent, please contact the school office or use the 'Report Absence' on the school website.

Please note that for safeguarding reasons the back gate leading to the P1 and P2 playground and the door at the new entrance for P1/P2/P4/P6 will be locked after 8:45am each morning. The children will be unable to access their classrooms via this route. If your child is late, you should ring the buzzer at the front reception door and a member of staff will accompany your child to the classroom.

For Safeguarding reasons, the front door reception area is supervised by Mr McElroy and Gemma each morning and the P1/P2/P4/P6 entrance door is supervised by Siobhan our caretaker. The pupils are supervised by the teachers in the classrooms from 8:30am.

Parents are not permitted into the school building without permission from the Principal. Please contact the school office if you need to enter the school building for any reason.

Home Collection and Car Park Area

At the end of the school day, all pupils are taken safely to their home collection points and when parents/carers are identified by the teacher, they are handed over to their authorised adults.

Adults should park safely in the school playground and leave their vehicles to collect their child/children.

Adults should avoid parking at the small entrance gate at the front of the school as this area is to be kept clear for the safe use of the footpath and to cross the road safely.

It is extremely important that adults please follow these health and safety measures to safeguard our pupils and entire school community.

Early Collection of Pupils

For security, attendance records and insurance purposes, the school have guidelines in place for early collection of pupils. No child will be released early from class unless the parent/carer or named designated person calls personally to the school office and fills in the necessary details.

The class teacher will then be informed, and the child will be collected from the office by the parent, guardian or designated person.

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That We Will Achieve!!"**

ParentPay-Cashless System

We have recently explored the possibility of introducing ParentPay which is a secure online payment system that replaces cash payments for school meals, trips, events, activities, and other school expenses. It means children don't have to bring cash with them to school.

ParentPay is easy to use, secure and protects all personal details. You can top up your account when you want, so you can budget money for lunches, trips, and activities. You can top up online or with cash at your local PayPoint.

ParentPay offers you the freedom to make payments whenever and wherever you like, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can be safe in the knowledge that the technology used is of the highest internet security available.

If you have more than one child at a school or have children at different schools that use the ParentPay system, you can add them into one single account and have one login for all your children. Making a payment is straightforward and ParentPay holds a payment history for you to view at a later date; no card details are stored in any part of the system.

We aim to introduce the payment system this term. You will receive a letter with your activation details and instructions on how to set up your ParentPay account. You will have a secure online account, activated using a unique username and password. You will be prompted to change these and to keep them safe and secure.

Many schools are now using the Parent Pay App and we are looking forward to using the system which has so many benefits for everyone.

Policy Consultation

As part of the consultation process and to involve all stakeholders of Derrycyhrin PS, we would encourage parents to read the policies that have been recently updated. There is an option to provide any necessary comments or feedback for the school to consider in the decision making of each policy.

The following school policies recently reviewed and updated:

1. Anti-Bullying Policy and Procedures
2. Fire Drill Procedures Policy
3. Religious Education Policy

You can view these policies in the '*Policies*' section of the '*Our School*' tab on our school website homepage.

The closing date is Tuesday 18th January, and the consultation process is also password protected. If you feel you would like to leave any comments or feedback, please use the password that was issued to all parents via the SCHOOLS NI App to submit a reply.

NO NUTS Policy

Important Reminder: We have a number of children in school with serious **NUT / FOOD ALLERGY** conditions.

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.



'Split the Pot' Weekly Fundraiser

'Split the Pot' Weekly Fundraiser In association with our PTA 'Friends of Derrychrin', resumes this week. The weekly draw will take place on Friday 14th January. Unfortunately, we are still awaiting the next delivery of envelopes so please just use a plain envelope with name/contact number on the front or send the money in with the children and we will sort it out in school.

Fresh Little Minds

Loretta Daly from 'Fresh Little Minds' and 'Daly Kindness' will visit Derrychrin PS in February and March for 8 weeks 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 previously in the GROW Programme by integrating the Fresh Little Minds AMBER Resilience and Wellbeing approach into the classroom.

Safer Schools NI App

A new safeguarding app, 'Safer Schools NI' is now available to parents and carers in Northern Ireland. The Safer Schools app has been offered to the Department of Education by the iNEQE Safeguarding Group', run by Jim Gamble. As a parent and carer, the Safer Schools NI App will help you to navigate the digital world that your children and young people live in every day. It will help by giving you the tools to protect the children and young people in your care online. We ask that all parents download the app to their smart device. A separate letter with more information / download instructions will be issued to all parents. Additional information is available in our 'Safeguarding' section on our school website.

School Calendar

Please continue to refer to the school calendar for all upcoming events and dates for your diary on the school website and the calendar tab on the Schools NI app on your mobile phone device.

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.

Ceremony of Light - Tuesday 5th April 2022

(10am Mass at St. Patrick's Chapel Ballinderry -P7 pupils and parents only)

P7 Confirmation Retreat - Tuesday 12th April 2022

(9am -2:45pm Ballinderry Community Hub)

Sacrament of Confirmation - Saturday 30th April 2022

(Ceremony One at 10am & Ceremony Two at 11:30am)

First Communion - Saturday 14th May 2022

(Ceremony One at 10am & Ceremony Two at 11:30am)



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Swimming Lessons

Swimming lessons for the P7 pupils commenced on Wednesday 5th January for twelve weeks at the Greenvale Leisure Centre, Magherafelt. A fee of £3.50 per child covers the cost of swimming lessons and transport. Lessons for P5 pupils will commence on Wednesday 6th April.

Extra-Curricular After School Clubs

We aim to commence our P4-P7 After School Clubs week beginning 24th January. Once activities have been finalised a timetable will be issued to all parents.

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.



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