



### Dates for your diary October

3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> Assessment week

#### Shared Education

5<sup>th</sup> P2 at St Patrick's PS

P3/4 at OPCS

12<sup>th</sup> P2 at OPCS

P3/4 at St Patrick's PS

13<sup>th</sup> P1 at St Patrick's PS

18<sup>th</sup> P6/7 at St Patrick's PS

P5/6 at OPCS

19<sup>th</sup> P2 Peatlands Park trip TBC

P3/4 Peatlands Park trip TBC

26<sup>th</sup> P1 at OPCS

P2 at St Patrick's PS

6<sup>th</sup> P1-7 flu vaccines

12<sup>th</sup> Nursery trip to Loughgall Park

19<sup>th</sup> PTA AGM meeting, P3/4 room, 7:30pm

14<sup>th</sup> Nursery Barn Dance

17<sup>th</sup> Nursery Debbie's Wildlife visit

17<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Visit from Dogs Trust

24<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> - Parent Teacher Interviews

31<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Nov - Half-term holidays



Thank you so much to the P7 Leavers of 2022 for the very kind gift of a new school gazebo. Our current P7s got to enjoy it and display it to welcome all our visitors to our coffee morning.

We love it and will get great use out of it.

### Parent/Teacher Consultations Monday 24<sup>th</sup>-Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October

Thank you for completing the recent parent teacher meeting questionnaire. The majority of parents requested a face to face meeting, so we are reverting to this method for all parents for our October meetings. To ensure the staff can get through the necessary interviews all **P1-P7 children will be finishing at 1pm** each day that week. **Nursery pupils will be finishing at 11.30am**, there will be **no after school club** that week.

This year we are trialling a new method of booking our parent/teacher interviews, via our school messaging service. You will **receive a message on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October at 4.30pm**, asking you to select a suitable time with each teacher. This will work on a first come, first served basis, so please click on the message as soon as it is sent to have the best choice of dates and times.

Click on your chosen day and time slot and select your child's name from the dropdown menu and this will turn dark green with a tick, available slots will appear light green and slots already taken by other people will be red with an x. Quickly scroll on down to your next child and continue to choose a suitable interview time for each of your children. You do not have to hit any submit button, the choice you have selected will be noted and you will get a confirmation email message from [noreplyorchardcountyps@school](mailto:noreplyorchardcountyps@school) messages. Please keep this email so you can refer to your selected date and time with each teacher.

#### Mon 24th Oct 22

☒ 14:30 - 14:45

☐ 14:45 - 15:00

☐ 15:00 - 15:15

#### Tue 25th Oct 22

☐ 14:30 - 14:45

☐ 14:45 - 15:00

☐ 15:00 - 15:15

#### Wed 26th Oct 22

☐ 14:30 - 14:45

☐ 14:45 - 15:00

☐ 15:00 - 15:15

#### Thu 27th Oct 22

☐ 14:30 - 14:45

Please note that for classes where there is a job share, the interviews will usually be done by the class teacher working on the day selected. Meetings will last 10 mins.

For those parents who do not live together, please ensure that a suitable time is selected for both parents, as each teacher allocates only one slot per child.

The school bus will be available at 1pm every day that week for those children who normally travel home by bus.

### Curriculum Booklets

Each teacher has posted their class curriculum booklet on their Google Classroom page. This sets out the curriculum (Numeracy, Literacy, WAU, ICT and homework guidance) for your child, for the year ahead. This is very useful and can be referred to throughout the year. If you have any questions about this, please speak to the class teacher during your parent/teacher interview.

### Shared Education

Thank you for returning the Shared Education permission form. Classes will be starting their programme very soon, please see the dates for your diary. The details of each project will be posted on your child's Google Classroom page. Our focus this year for all class projects is outdoor learning. The children will be taking part in days at Orchard County PS, St Patrick's PS and will be going on class trips.

### Maths Week



We have planned a **Maths week for 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> October**. The teachers have planned very exciting maths tasks for this week and Mrs Allen, our Numeracy Co-ordinator has devised Maths Trails for the children to complete around the school. Talk to your child about what they are doing in class and encourage lots of Mathletics that week too. We are delighted with the enthusiasm for Mathletics.

### Assessments & The Engage Programme

The staff have been assessing the pupils to identify the areas that they need more support with. We will be continuing with our Engage programme, providing additional support with literacy or numeracy. Your child's teacher will have notified you if your child will be receiving this additional support. Miss Wilson will be teaching these groups on Tuesdays.

### Uniform

Please ensure that your child is wearing the correct PE uniform on PE days. As the weather gets cold, if wearing tracksuit bottoms, they should be **plain navy** and the school jumper or navy hoodie may be worn on colder days. Remember black shoes, not trainers should be worn with full school uniform.

### Health

As we move into the colder weather we are expecting children to get the usual colds and viral infections. Please assess your children carefully, you know them best and know if they are fit for school. In many cases, children with colds will be well enough to attend school and continue their learning with little or no interruption to their education. We would just ask that you remind them of good respiratory hygiene. In other cases, for instance, where they have quite a heavy cold or a flu, they may need to take a day or two off to recover.

Please refer to the '**Guidance on Infection Control in Schools**' for advice on whether your child needs to be kept at home following an illness or period of vomiting etc. this is a very useful poster to refer to. You will find it on the website- Parents' Area- letters.

Children should not attend school if they appear unwell or have been vomiting.

### Covid

If a child tests positive for COVID-19, they should **try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days**. This starts from the day after they did the test. Children and young people tend to be infectious to others for less time than adults.

## Communications

If you need to inform your child's teacher of anything, you may write it in your child's diary or send in a note. Alternatively, you may telephone the school office (8.30-3pm) or email Mrs McCluskey (jmcccluskey773@c2kni.net), our school secretary, who will pass the message on to your child's teacher. Please remember staff should not be contacted through social media or via their personal phone numbers.

## Absence Notification Slips

Please remember to complete an absence notification slip and return it to school on their first day back following a period of absence. These are available to download from the school website.

## School Meals

ParentPay

Please ensure that your child knows whether they are taking a packed lunch or a dinner each day and what their menu choice is, Mrs Martin, our school cook plans according to the choices selected on ParentPay. Please check the menu (on the school website) carefully with your child to ensure that they like what is being served that day. Due to delayed deliveries, the catering supervisor may have to slightly change the planned menu, but changes are avoided if possible.

**Free School Meals-** Please remember if you are entitled to a free school meal apply through the Education Authority.

[www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants](http://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants)



## Assemblies

All our assemblies are now face to face. We look forward to welcoming our clergy back into to our weekly assemblies.

## School Fund

Thank you so much to those families who paid their school fund through ParentPay. We are very grateful for this donation and are already putting it to good use, purchasing new equipment/resources for all our classrooms. We have purchased Mathletics licences for all our pupils (P1-P7), Nessy (reading and spelling programme for P2-P4) and Accelerated Reader P5-P7. We really appreciate your support.

## Nessy

Nessy is a reading and spelling software programme.

Each child in P2-4 should spend 80 minutes a week using this programme to improve their reading and spelling ability. Reading and spelling targets will be set for your child according to an independent assessment that they will complete in school before embarking on the programme.

## Operation Encompass

A letter has been sent today to all parents informing you about our participation in Operation Encompass. This is an early intervention partnership between Police and Schools. It is aimed at supporting children who are victims of domestic violence. Please read the letter for more details or alternatively you can read more about Operation Encompass at [www.operationencompass.org](http://www.operationencompass.org).

## PTA

We have been extremely fortunate to have a fantastic PTA who raise much needed funds for school. It is a great way to connect with other parents and a real chance for you to make a difference to your child's education. We plan to hold our **PTA Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 19th October at 7.30pm**. We will be electing a chairperson, vice-chairperson, secretary and treasurer to lead the PTA for the year ahead. If you would like to find out more information about these roles, please email school or speak to a current member of the PTA.



Our new interactive panel was fitted today, all classrooms now have one of the new interactive panels. We are very grateful to the PTA who have funded these throughout the school. The PTA are now fundraising to develop our outdoor play area.

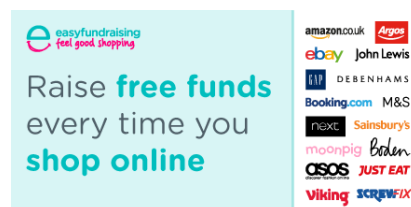
### Cash for Clobber

We have a clothing bank to the left of the main school. Please continue to use this to put in bags of clothing/textiles that you no longer need. The PTA then receives a cheque following collections.



### Easy Fundraising

Please consider raising funds for the school via the PTA's Easy Fundraising online service. Shopping doesn't cost you a penny more, but as you make purchases online, shops make a donation to the PTA. All you do is register (it's good to select the "Donation Reminder" option) and start shopping. Please give it a go and encourage your friends and family to do so too - it is free money to benefit the children of Orchard County Primary School and Nursery! Please register by clicking the link below:



<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/orchardcountyprimaryschoolpta/>

Once you have joined, the next time you shop online, start at [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and log in. If you shop with your phone or tablet you can download the [easyfundraising app](#).

### Macmillan Coffee Morning & Fitness Day



Thank you so much to everyone who supported our coffee morning. It was a lovely event and we are so grateful to the P7 staff and pupils for all their organisation. We raised a fantastic **£1,400** for Macmillan Cancer Support.



### After School Activities

These will continue to run until the 21<sup>st</sup> October. We will notify you of term 1b activities soon. There will be no Eco club in term 1a as Mr Crawford is currently off. We will reschedule this for later in the year.



### Swimming

Swimming will be starting for the P6/7 class this Friday. Please refer to the swimming letter for more details.



## Musical Pathways

P5s have started their sessions each Friday with the two music tutors. The pupils are learning musical notation and rhythm and will soon be getting assigned a musical instrument. We were always privileged to be able to offer this programme to all our P5 pupils and many of these pupils continued with core tuition in P6 and P7. Unfortunately, we had several pupils who did not take up the programme this year therefore we may not be offered this opportunity next year. We will however hopefully be able to offer core tuition to those pupils who wish to avail of it. These music lessons are much cheaper than paying for private music lessons outside school.



## Parking

Just a reminder that parents' parking is to the left as you come through the gates and along the front of the MUGA. Please do not double park or abandon your car around the roundabout. Staff parking is at the front of the school and around the roundabout. Please share this information with anyone that collects your child, as we have noticed some grandparents and childminders parking in the staff areas.

## Positions of Responsibility 2022/23

Congratulations to our pupils as they take on their new roles of responsibility.

	Annaghmore	Ardrress	Argory	Tullyroan
House Captains	Mary-Jane Dilly Sam Muldoon	Lily-May Telford Alfie Ogilby	Kathryn Carson Eden Hendron	Victoria Bell Jacob Coleman
Digital Leader	P2/3	P3/4	P5/6	P6/7
	Brooke Kingsmill Edie McClelland	Ben Davison Logan Hawthorne	Jay Faulkner Kelsey Gillespie	Nathan MacLeod Riley Greenaway
School Council		Ella Willis Archie Lavery	Will Tedford Daisy McCleary	Hannah Kane Ray Robinson
Eco Warriors	Edie Fowler Abel Lavery	Mia Greenaway Alfie Neill	Scarlett Pike Joshua Watson	Ellie McCormick Ruby Gray
Helpers				Tyler Shannon Ellie-Mae Cherry Kathryn Halliday Annabelle Thompson Catherine Smyth Katie Williamson
Librarians		Ellie Farquhar Ava Frizzell		Charlotte McCombe Abbie Willis Penny McConnell Daisy Neill Evie McAuley

Thank you once again for your support at the start of this year.

J McMillan, Principal

[jmcmillan521@c2kni.net](mailto:jmcmillan521@c2kni.net)

