



October

Newsletter

Farewell and Thank You

We would like to bid farewell and say thank you to Miss McDonnell for all her work with us in Milltown Primary. Miss McDonnell has been classroom assistant and lunchtime supervisor with P3/4/5. We wish her every blessing for the future.

We would like to welcome Miss Wilson to the Milltown team. Miss Wilson will begin with P3/4/5 on Monday 11th October.

School Fund

I would like to thank you all for your contributions to School Fund this year. Your support is greatly appreciated. School is still able to accept any outstanding contributions - £6 per child or £12 per family.

Half-term Holiday

School will be closed from Monday 25th October until Friday 29th inclusive. We will reopen on Monday 1st November.

Free School Meals

Could I encourage any family who may be entitled to Free School Meals to apply via the Education Authority website at www.eani.org.uk and select Free School Meals. This application has benefits for both your family and the school. If you would like any further guidance on this, please phone the school office and we will be happy to advise.

Afterschool Clubs

It has been great to get afterschool clubs up and running again. The Art and Craft Club will run until 8th November and Multisport Club will run until 11th November.

Music Tuition

Music tuition continues as follows:

Monday - piano

Thursday - violin

Friday - clarinet

There has been such an interest in our piano lessons that our allocated time on Monday is fully booked. We are grateful to Mrs Ferguson for allocating extra slots throughout the week to

ensure that all pupils who are keen to learn piano receive a lesson.

PATHS

We are delighted to say we are a PATHS school. PATHS stands for 'Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies'. This programme is being taught to all pupils, P1-7. It focuses on recognising and managing feelings and emotions, improving relationships with others and building strategies for addressing problem solving. Pupil self-esteem is boosted through our Compliments Activity. The wellbeing of all our pupils is paramount.



Shoebox Appeal

As in previous years, Milltown Primary is supporting the Samaritan's Purse shoebox appeal. Some foldable boxes are available from school. These will be placed outside the front door of the school on Monday 11th October. Please help yourself to a box on a first come, first served basis. Alternatively, you can use your own shoebox. Filled shoeboxes should be returned to school on Monday 1st November. A container will be set at the front entrance of the school. Please place your shoebox there.

Another option available to use this year is to log on to www.samaritans-purse.org.uk and select Shoebox Online. This will allow you to select items for your box, have it packed and pay for it. This online option needs to be completed by mid-November.

Parent/teacher Meetings

Our parent/teacher meetings will be conducted on the afternoons of 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th November. Pupils will remain in school for lunch/dinner. P1-3 pupils and older siblings will finish at 1pm, and P4-7 will finish at 1:10pm on Tues 16th - Friday 19th



November. Parents/guardians will have the option of either a face-to-face interview or a telephone interview. Further details to follow.

Pupil Absences

Please ensure that if your child is absent from school that you contact school explaining the reason for the absence. All absences need to be coded on our school records.

Morning Arrivals

A reminder that school doors open at 8:40am. Parents/guardians should remain with their child/ren until that time. Pupils should not be left unsupervised in the school grounds prior to 8:40am.

Procedures

Thank you for continuing to be vigilant in social distancing within the school grounds and wearing a face covering, staying alert to the possible symptoms of Covid-19.

As a reminder the symptoms are:



- A new, continuous cough
- A high temperature/fever
- A loss or change of taste or smell

If your child displays any of these symptoms, please keep them at home and refer to the guidance flow chart on the school website for further information.

In most cases (unless your child has already had Covid-19) a PCR test will need to be taken - results should be forwarded to hwright575@c2ken.net. Please note, a lateral flow test is not an acceptable alternative to a PCR test.

The Public Health Agency is now responsible for identifying the close contacts of positive cases. School should be kept informed of any positive cases or those self-isolating.

Kind regards,
Mrs Wright
Principal