

## SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2019

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## PARENT INTERVIEWS (P1 - P7) **20 & 21 NOVEMBER 2019**

School will close at 12.30 pm (P1 - P3 and older siblings) and 12.45 pm (P4 - P7) to facilitate Parent Interviews on these days. We will provide an early school dinner.

## NO 123 Club on these days.

### **CHRISTMAS CONCERTS 2019**

Wed 11 December School will open at normal time and the concert will begin at 9.30am (P1-3 children only) School will close at 1.30pm on this day. Wednesday 11 Dec @ 6.45pm (P1-7) Thursday 12 December School will open at 10.30am on this day and close at 1.30pm. Evening concert @6.45pm (P4-7 ONLY). Friday 13 December - School will open at 10am today. Normal closing at 2pm & 3pm. TICKETS WILL BE SOLD CLOSER TO THE TIME!

MONEY DETAILS

October £5.70 SNACK November £6.00

> **EARLY BIRD CLUB** 8.15 Am - 8.45 AM

This club continues to be popular and costs 50p a day for any child wishing to attend.

In the past we have been made aware of the upset caused by children feeling 'left out' when party invitations are distributed in class and all of one gender are not invited. This upset hinders children's ability to focus on their learning and puts teachers in a difficult position. Our priority is children's happiness, contentment at school and their progress in learning. Please be aware of our school policy as follows:

## **PARTY INVITATIONS IN SCHOOL**

Party invitations should only be given out during the school day when all of the same gender in a class, or the whole class are being invited.

Obviously parents may still arrange smaller parties outside of school hours by texting parents or delivering invites outside of school. Thank you for your understanding.

## PACKED LUNCHES AT SCHOOL

We encourage healthy lunches in school. Packaged, sweet, processed foods should be kept to a minimum. For ideas of healthy options please see the DE Healthy Lunchbox leaflet on the school website.

## October Dates

P3 Trip to Greenmount	3 October
School Photographer	9 October
Tri-county Football Tournament	11 October
Flu Immunisations P1-7	16 October
P7 Parent Interviews	24 October
Sponsored Fun Run (NON UNIFORM)	25 October
123 Club Party 2-3pm	25 October

Please note: School closes at normal times on 25 October School closed for Half term Holiday: Mon 28 - Frid 1 Nov.

### **School Photographer Visiting Woods**

### Wednesday 9 October 2019





Pre-school children may come in with their parents for a photo with their family before school from 8.30am.

P7 children may bring in their own clothes to have a more casual photo with their friends.

#### **MUSIC LESSONS - P4-7 CHILDREN**

We have three music tutors in school who teach groups of children instruments as follows:

 Guitars Tuesday Woodwind (Flutes) Thursday Violins (Strings) Friday

If your child has committed to taking lessons during the year then we would ask that parents encourage their child to practise their music pieces 4-5 times (approx. 10mins) during the week, in preparation for their next music lesson, in order to make the desired progress. Please also make sure your child remembers to bring in their instrument on the correct day to make the most of lesson time.

### **ONCE A WEEK... TAKE A PEEK!**

When there are headlice in the school population they can spread easily and quickly. Treatments are available from local pharmacies. Please check your child's head and treat accordingly.

### **Parents Information**

WE WANT TO FORMALLY WELCOME MISS MCQUILLAN TO OUR TEACHING STAFF. SHE WILL BE TEACAHING THE P7 CLASS MONDAY TO WEDNESDAY AND WILL DO ADDITIONAL SUB COVER DAYS WHEN NECESSARY. WE WISH MRS BROOKS EVERY SUCCESS IN HER NEW FULL TIME TEMPORARY POSITION IN COOKSTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL.

TO KEEP UP-TO-DATE WITH WHAT IS HAPPENING IN OUR SCHOOL YOU CAN VISIT OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE PARENTS SECTION CONTAINS COPIES OF LOTS OF OUR SCHOOL POLICIES. IF THERE IS A POLICY THAT YOU REQUIRE THAT IS NOT CURRENTLY ON THE WEBSITE PLEASE CONTACT MRS CLEMENTS IN THE OFFICE AND WE WILL BE HAPPY TO GIVE YOU A PAPER COPY.

#### **PAYMENT VOUCHERS**

We would appreciate it if any parents paying After School/123/Early Bird clubs by voucher would <u>itemize these clubs and name the child on their payment</u>.

### **BUILDING INDEPENDENCE**

Now that your children have settled into class again we request that in the morning P2 - P4 are left at the front door and children from P5 - P7 should be left at the gate. ALL parents should watch until their child walks safely in through the front door. This gradually builds independence in your child. Parents of P1 children are welcome to come in with their child, if needed. The aim should be to leave them at the top of the corridor, working towards dropping off at the front door after Half Term.

### **PE UNIFORM**

# This should be sent to school in a named bag ASAP.

- Sky blue round neck t-shirt with motif (available at RA Cuddy)
- Navy shorts
- Navy track bottoms/leggings for cooler weather
- Black plimsols for indoor PE lessons. Trainers will only be needed for certain outdoor activities and you will be notified when they are required.

We would remind all parents to name each item of PE Kit, uniform and coats to avoid confusion and help to prevent loss.

### **VISITING OUR SCHOOL**

The Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy states that all visitors should sign in at the office when entering the building.

If you need to talk to the teacher, please speak to the secretary to arrange a suitable time to visit school or phone and have a chat. Thank you for your support.

### **LOST PROPERTY**

ADULT SIZE burgundy gilet/body warmer found in the school car park – please see Jayne in the office if this item belongs to you.

### Parents, can you help us?

We need some help from parents over the next year to help our school provide a broad range of experiences for our children. If you are willing to assist with After School sessions in Football, Hockey or Art and Craft, please let us know. If you are willing to do this voluntary work please complete the reply slip attached and return to school ASAP.

### **ECO WORK AT WOODS**



### **Recycling Batteries**

We can recycle old household batteries at school. If you have any, please send them into school and put them in the red collection box at the front door.

**ECO COUNCIL 2019/20** - Class representatives have been elected and badges presented in assembly. Look out for updates on the website about our work during the year.

### **ECO UNIFORM SALE**

Thank you to the families who attended the recent sale. We raised £18 for school funds from recycling items of uniform.

#### **FLU IMMUNISATIONS P1-7**

THE SCHOOL NURSE TEAM WILL BE IN SCHOOL ON 16 OCTOBER 2019 IN THE SCHOOL HALL TO ADMINISTER THE FLU IMMUNISATIONS P1-7. PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOUR CHILD'S CONSENT FORM HAS BEEN RETURNED TO SCHOOL.

## SPONSORED 'DITCH THE DARK' FUN RUN AT WOODS P.S.

WE ARE PLANNING A WHOLE SCHOOL SPONSORED FUN RUN IN BRIGHT, FLUORESCENT SPORTS CLOTHING ON FRIDAY 25 OCTOBER, DURING SCHOOL HOURS. THE CHILDREN WILL PARTICIPATE ONE CLASS AT A TIME IN A FUN RUN AND OBSTACLE RACE. THE REMAINING CLASSES WILL SPECTATE TO CREATE A SPECIAL ATMOSPHERE AND ENCOURAGE ALL OF OUR RUNNERS! THIS WILL HELP KEEP EVERYONE FIT AND HOPEFULLY RAISE SOME MUCH NEEDED SCHOOL FUNDS. SPONSOR CARDS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO SCHOOL BEFORE 25 OCTOBER. THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY. THIS MONEY WILL ENHANCE THE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES FOR ALL OF OUR PUPILS.

### **Positive Behaviour Policy Review**

This term we are working on reviewing our school policy with the whole school community. We have consulted the children about the rewards we give out in school and which prizes motivate them best. Each teacher has agreed a classroom management plan with their class detailing the shared values in their classroom and the rules they have agreed to help everyone to learn better in school. Star pupil certificates will be presented on Friday in assemblies to children who are working hard to demonstrate good behaviour in school and follow their class rules. We are introducing 'Applause Boxes' to allow children P4-7 to share their achievements outside of school e.g. piano exam, horse riding, gymnastics, football success, swimming certificate etc. It will also be used to celebrate if someone has been helpful in school or kind in the playground. This will take the form of a note being placed in the box by a pupil or member of staff and read out in class to give the opportunity to praise and encourage each other for good behaviour and achievements. Our aim is to help raise pupils' self esteem and selfworth, as well as promoting positive thinking about ourselves and others.



# **EXCEPTIONAL CLOSURES POLICY** (In the event of extreme weather)

An exceptional closure is unplanned, and is due to unforeseen circumstances such as adverse weather conditions, power failure, or situations which affect the safety of pupils and staff.

In times of extreme weather, such as a heavy snowfall, the Principal will consider and carryout a risk assessment based on the following issues:

- Transport Can buses, meal deliveries etc. reach the school, particularly if the unforeseen circumstances affect a large proportion of pupils?
- Can pupils and staff access the school building safely?
- Can pupils and staff be evacuated in an emergency?
- In an emergency, could the Emergency Services access the school?
- Is the area designated for disembarkation from transport safe for pupils?
- If a limited number of staff and pupils can attend, is the pupil teacher ratio acceptable?

The Principal will endeavour to make a decision at the earliest possible time. Decisions the night before can only be taken when all the indications are that adverse conditions will continue overnight.

Every effort will be made by the School Building Supervisor to ensure that the grounds and building are safe for use.

Should continuing severe weather conditions throughout the school day impact further on the risk assessment then a decision to close early will be communicated to parents and staff at the earliest possible time.

We would appreciate every reasonable effort by staff to get to work. It is essential that staff and parents/carers keep in communication with the school as to their current position.

In the event of school closure, the following procedures will be followed:

- 1. A note placed on the School website front page.
- 2. A text to a parent's mobile or if you wish to nominate an alternative number, please contact the school office with details.
- 3. If we decide to close early a text or telephone call from the school.
- 4. If in doubt, please phone the school.

It is always very important that parents make informed decisions on the safety of their children travelling on dangerous roads regardless of whether the school is open or closed.

Parents should not post details of school closures on social media sites.

This is not controlled by the school and, as happened previously, inaccurate information can quickly circulate in the community.

## PARENTS WILLING TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP WITH ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOL

•	After School Clubs – Football/Hockey/Art And Craft/Other		YES/NO		
•	Supervise voluntarily on school trips	YES/NO			
•	Gardening	YES/NO			
Please indicate your willingness to undergo an Enhanced Police Check to comply with our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. YES/NO					
Parent	Name:	Child's Name:			

# 123 CLUB HALF TERM PARTY FRIDAY 25 OCTOBER 2019 2 PM-3 PM OPEN TO ALL CHILDREN IN P1 – P3

My child(ren)	will be attending the 123 Club Half Term party.		
	Please note if you have already sigr		iday this term you do not
need to pay again. This is only fo	or children who do not routinely use the	123 Club.	
Signed:		(parent)	(date)
Please ensure that you have your club after half term.	r registration forms in school with payme	ent in good time to secure yo	ur child's place in our 123
	Pre-Admission For	RM	
possible it would be very helpful to complete the attached pre-acheighbours who are considering them this form or ask them to copplease note that this form is form must still be filled in.	es that all schools should make a 3-year to have a more accurate idea of future of dmission form and return it to the school sending their child to Woods Primary Sontact the school so they can be added to cour information only and in the January	enrolment trends. With this in the color office ASAP. If you know the chool it would be greatly appour pre-admission list.  In the year your child is the color of the year your child is the year your your year.	n mind we are asking you of any family, friends or reciated if you could give
WOODS, ROMEY SECO.		WOODS PRIMARY SCHOOL  PRE-ADMISSION FORM  Together we Learn  Together we Achieve	
PARENT'S NAME	ADDRESS	CHILD'S NAME	DATE OF BIRTH
<del>}</del>			
	AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS NOVEMBE	R 2019 REPLY SLIP	
□ P4-7 Netball □ P6 &P7 Christmas Art Clul	Name:		
□ P4 & P5 Christmas Art Clu			
I consent to my child/childroclubs or have paid using onl	en attending the above ticked club ine vouchers.	os and enclose i	n payment for the
Parent Name:	Signed:	Date: _	