

EDUCATION AUTHORITY – SOUTHERN REGION

Donaghey Primary School

28 Killygarvin Road

Donaghey

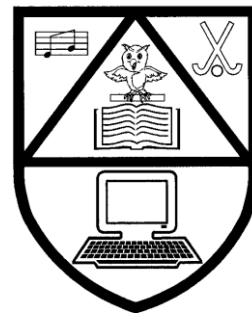
DUNGANNON

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Friday 8th September 2023

Dear Parent

I hope that you and your family have had a great summer. It's fantastic to see the children back at school. Thank you for all your efforts in getting the children ready for the new school term - the school uniforms are impeccable. We appreciate that you have spent a lot of money equipping your children. Thank you!

I would like to particularly welcome our Primary 1 children who are starting their educational journey. A warm welcome is extended to those pupils and their families along with new pupils who have started in other year groups. The total enrolment is currently 105 pupils.

Please find below details regarding arrangements for the start of the school year.

Staff Development Day one

Our first Staff Development Day will take place on Monday 2nd October. School will be closed on this day for pupils. The full school closure list can be found on the app.

Start times

The school doors will open at 8.45am every day. All pupils should be in school for 9.00am. Please note, pupils should not enter the school grounds before 8.45am. Teachers will supervise pupils from 8.45am.

Parking - Please do not block the driveways of the houses to the front of the school. Residents will require access to their driveways at all times. I would also ask that the entrance to the farm across from the school lane be kept clear to allow tractors and lorries to freely enter and exit the farm. Your co-operation is much appreciated.

Attendance

If your child is ill and will not be in school, please inform the class teacher. If the teacher is not informed, children are marked in our system as having not provided a reason for absence. The school's Educational Welfare Officer analyses our attendance data and will intervene if attendance and lack of a suitable reason for a child being absent is a concern. You can write a note, send an email or message your class teacher through Seesaw. If your child is due to be absent due to a family holiday, please contact me directly. Again, this can be done by the methods outlined above. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or myself if you need to discuss anything related to attendance. My office days are on a Wednesday (up to 12.00pm) and all day Thursday and Friday. I will be teaching on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon.

Communication and Payments

Hopefully all our parents will now have access to Seesaw. Seesaw will allow you to access messages, photos etc related to your child at class level. The school app will allow you to have access to whole school documents including

Principal: Mr S Harrison, BSSc, PGCE, PQH (NI).

latest letters and policies. The app is also used to pay for school dinners, the P1-P3 Club and one-off payments such as school trips. The ‘Parent Information 2023/24 Booklet’ (can be found on the app and website) will provide you with more information, including the ‘Communication Plan.’ The ‘Communication Plan’ will be adhered to if for example the school had to be closed at short notice. The app will also be used to send out notifications to parents. Please download the app if you haven’t already done so. The code is **11111**. Please encourage all those with responsibility for your child to download the app.

Our Facebook page will be primarily used to promote the school and will in most cases mirror the content posted on Seesaw.

P1-P3 Club

More details can be found on the ‘Parent Information 2023/24 Booklet’ located on the app.

Allergies and Inhalers

We do our best to be a nut free environment due to some of our pupils having nut allergies. Please keep this in mind when you are preparing break time snacks and packed lunches for your child. It is important that foods containing traces of any nuts are not sent in. Thank you for your co-operation.

If your child requires an inhaler, please notify school and send in a spare inhaler along with instructions. Furthermore, please complete all the relevant forms in the ‘Forms’ section on the app.

Free School Meals

If you believe that your child might be entitled to Free School Meals, please apply using the Education Authority’s website. It is important that families take advantage of what is entitled to them, and additional children receiving Free School Meals will go some way in helping to secure a healthy financial budget for the school. Please return completed application forms to the Education Authority over the next two weeks.

Music

We are currently re-establishing music tuition for our P4-P7 pupils – tin whistle, EA Wind tuition and piano. More information will follow in due course regarding P4 pupils potentially taking up these opportunities.

P4-P7 Extra-Curricular Activities

Term one extra-curricular activities for our P4-P7 pupils will commence on the week beginning Monday 18th September. See details below. Industrial action prevents staff from taking these clubs, therefore we will be using external facilitators.

Monday - Football (P4-P7)	Wednesday – Garden Club (P4-P7)	Thursday - Multisport (P4-P7)
SportsCity	Peter Brown	SportsCity
2.45pm - 3.45pm	2.45pm - 3.45pm	2.45pm - 3.45pm

**Please note, if the weather is very poor, outdoor activities will take place in the hall. The nine week SportsCity sessions take account of school closure dates.*

After-school club notes:

Monday Football - £36 for the nine-week session. PE kit required including outdoor shoes and a coat. Please book through the following link - <https://sportscity.classforkids.io/term/11> by Thursday 14th September.

Wednesday Garden Club – This club will run throughout the year and will include sessions in the forest. Mr Brown plans to go out in all-weather therefore suitable outdoor clothing should be worn. Pupils should bring with them boots, gardening gloves, a change of bottoms and a coat. The fee will be £3.00 (cash) per session – to be paid on the day. *Please complete the following link by Thursday 14th September if your child will be staying for this club. This information will give Mr Brown an idea of numbers.* <https://forms.office.com/e/GxFVLKB3k1>

Thursday Multisport - £36 for the nine-week session. PE kit required. This will be an indoor activity. Please book through the following link - <https://sportscity.classforkids.io/term/11> by Thursday 14th September.

Dates for the diary

- Swimming for the P6/P7 class commenced on Monday 4th September. The parent fee should be paid by Monday 25th September – see app. The P5/P6 class will go swimming in term 2.
- Cool For School individual and family photographs – Monday 18th September. More information to follow.
- Donaghey Parents' Association (DPA) AGM – date to be confirmed.
- We will be celebrating Roald Dahl Day on Wednesday 13th September – see Seesaw message for more details.
- Stars of the Month Assembly – Our monthly 'Stars of the Month Assembly' will take place on Friday 29th September, commencing at 1.10pm in the school assembly hall. Parents are very welcome to come along to this twenty-minute assembly. Going forward, this assembly will take place on the last Friday of every month. This day will also be a non-uniform day with the children asked to donate £1 to the DPA.
- Parent-Teacher Meetings – week beginning Monday 23rd October to Thursday 26th October. Pupils will go home at 12.45pm on those days. More details to follow.
- Harvest Assembly – Friday 27th October, 10.00am. More details to follow.

Other

- Thank you to those parents who have sent in book donations for our Accelerated Reader library. We'll not be taking anymore donations as the library is presently well stocked. Thank you.

Let's hope for a great school year.

Yours sincerely

Mr S. Harrison (Principal)