

Donaghey Primary School

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Donaghey

DUNGANNON

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Monday 13th May 2024

Dear Parent

2024/25 Class Arrangements

Please find below details of our class arrangements for 2024/25. The class arrangements were agreed by governors at their recent meeting. There will be four classes – P1/P2, P3/P4/ P5/P6 and P6/P7. *The September 2024 P6 class (the current P5 children) will be divided, with the youngest eight children being part of the P5/P6 class and the eldest eight children being part of the P6/P7 class. The school’s Board of Governors apply age considerations to divide a class when it is necessary to do so. I am sympathetic to the fact that some friends may find themselves in different classes, however dividing a class in such a way helps us ensure that we have manageable class sizes throughout the school. We will do our best to provide opportunities for the whole P6 group to come together and learn together in the afternoons. Furthermore, the P5/P6 and P6/P7 teachers will work together to ensure that all our P6 pupils experience the NI Curriculum that is appropriate to their age. When the children reach P7 age in September 2025, they will complete this year in the same classroom.

September 2024 Class Arrangements

Class	Pupils	Class combination & class number	Staff
P1	9	<i>P1/P2 (9 + 13 = 22)</i>	Mrs M. Wilson (three days)
P2	13		Mrs S. Workman (two days)
P3	12	<i>P3/P4 (12 + 18 = 30)</i>	Mrs J. Hanna (three days)
P4	18		Mrs S. Workman (two days)
P5	14	<i>P5/P6 (14 + 8 = 22)</i>	Mr D. Ferguson (5 days)
P6	*16		
P7	16	<i>P6/P7 (8 + 16) = 24</i>	Mr S. Harrison (2.5 days)
Total	98		Mrs D. Wilson (2.5 days)

P5 parents - a letter confirming your child’s class for September 2024 has been attached to this letter.

The days particular staff members will be working will be confirmed in due course.

School Finances

No doubt you will be aware of the dire state of public finances across Northern Ireland. Donaghey Primary School is not immune to the financial challenges that lie ahead. Most of our budget allocation is used to pay staff – our primary resource, however increased energy costs and the general cost of other resources along with an inadequate budget allocation is challenging our ability to stay in deficit. Nevertheless, increasing our enrolment will help us protect our four-classes arrangement. If you know of anyone who might be interested in enrolling their child at Donaghey PS, please ask them to contact me. Furthermore, Free School Meals is another source of income for the school. If you feel that your child might be entitled to Free School Meals, please complete the necessary application on the EA website.

We are doing our absolute best to provide for your child, and we are confident that they are receiving the support they deserve to thrive. Our fantastic inspection report (see website) in January 2020 confirms that our pupils are given

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

every opportunity to succeed. Please share this message in the community to help our school grow to protect our resources – particularly our staffing levels.

P4-P7 Extra-Curricular Activities programme for term three

The remaining dates for P1-P4 extra-curricular activities in term 3 can be found below:

Monday Football (2.45pm - 3.45pm)	Tuesday Ulster-Scots (2.45pm - 3.45pm)	Wednesday Tag-Rugby (2.45pm - 3.30pm)	Thursday Dance (2.45pm - 3.45pm)
13 th May	14 th May	22 nd May	16 th May
20 th May	21 st May		23 rd May
3 rd June	4 th June		30 th May
10 th June	11 th June		6 th June
17 th June			13 th June
			16 th May

There will be no tag rugby on Wednesday 15th May.

Breakfast Club

I am looking into potentially reinstating the Breakfast Club in September 2024. Please access the link below to find out more information and to complete the survey.

<https://forms.office.com/e/PDt3bk3WZ6>

School Uniform

Many thanks to adhering to our school uniform requirements over the course of the year. The uniform looks fabulous, particularly when black shoes are worn. Please note, from **2nd September 2024**, please ensure that your child wears black shoes (non-sports shoes) only. This does not include black branded sports' trainers. The children will be very welcome to leave an old pair of trainers in school to change into for lunchtime games or football. I have spoken with the School Council on many occasions regarding uniform and footwear. We agree that it is a fair compromise for our pupils to wear black shoes without the requirement to wear a school tie.

We will be relaxing our uniform requirements from Wednesday 22nd May to the end of the year. Pupils are welcome to wear shorts, tracksuit bottoms, leggings, summer dresses and trainers. They should continue to wear their Donaghey polo shirt and jumper. Please note, full school uniform should be worn at our end of year assembly on Monday 24th June (see details below). Teachers will also issue separate instructions for school trip days.

After discussions with the Donaghey Parents' Association (DPA), we have approached Esperanza OMS Charity Shop in Cookstown (33 Oldtown Road) regarding stocking used Donaghey PS uniform. They support OMS ministries in Central and South America. Esperanza have agreed to stock any of your unwanted uniforms. I would therefore encourage you to leave in any unwanted uniforms to their shop and to use the shop if you would like to purchase Donaghey PS uniforms. Details of our supplier of new uniforms can be found in the 2023/24 Parent Information Booklet on the app.

Dates for your diary

- P1-P4 trip to **Balmoral Show** – Wednesday 15th May 2024. Please pay any outstanding fees through the app.
- **Post-Primary place outcomes** to be emailed to the parents of our P7 pupils – Saturday 18th May. More details can be found at <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/admissions-key-dates>
- **P4-P7 Standardised Tests** – Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st May. Please make sure your child attends school on these days. The tests are nothing to worry about for you and your child. They provide information for the teacher and me regarding areas of strength within our curriculum delivery and areas we need to focus on. Your child's score along with their written report will be sent home on Friday 21st

June. I would urge you to pay closer attention to the written report. Standardised tests do not assess your child's Talking & Listening, Writing, Problem Solving etc capabilities.

- **Girls' Tri-County Hockey** (Cookstown) – Wednesday 22nd May, 10.00am - 12.15pm. We will be asking parents to help with transporting your child to and from Cookstown. More details to follow.
- **Donaghey Parents' Association (DPA) meeting** in the staffroom – Wednesday 22nd May, 7.30pm. Parents are most welcome to attend.
- **Boys' Tri-County Hockey** (Cookstown) – Thursday 23rd May, 10.00am - 12.15pm. We will be asking parents to help with transporting your child to and from Cookstown. More details to follow.
- **DPA Movie Night** – Thursday 23rd May, 6.00pm start. More details to follow.
- **P1 & P7 Class Photos** (including friendship photos for P7) – Friday 24th May. More details to follow
- **P6 Cookstown High School Taster Days** – Friday 24th May and Tuesday 18th June, both days 9.15am – 1.15pm. Parents leave their child off at Cookstown High School and collect them. Lunch is normally provided. I will contact you as soon as the High School send me more details.
- **Stars of the Month Assembly** for May – Friday 31st May, 1.15pm. Parents and family members are very welcome to attend. This day will also be a non-uniform day. Please donate £1.00 per child with all proceeds going to the DPA.
- **Sport's Day** – Tuesday 4th June (P1-P4: 9.30am – 10.30am; P5-P7: 11.00am – 12.00pm). Parents and family members are welcome to come along. Tea and coffee will be provided at 10.30am. Please note, Sport's Day will not run on this date if the weather deems it unsuitable for the event to take place. We will look at an alternative date. More details to follow.
- **P1 Induction Day** – Wednesday 5th June.
- **P5-P7 trip to the Rink Sports Arena** – Friday 14th June. More details to follow.
- **DPA Summer Carnival on the school's grounds** – Friday 21st June, 6pm-8pm. More details to follow.
- **P7 Leavers' and whole school celebration assembly** – Monday 24th June, 10.00am. This will be an opportunity for parents, family members and all our pupils to come along to celebrate another successful school year at Donaghey Primary School and to say goodbye to our wonderful P7 pupils. Formal prizes will not be given out. Please make every effort to attend. More details to follow.
- **P7 barbecue and party** – Monday 24th June, 12.00pm.
- **P1-P4 trip to Portrush** – Tuesday 25th June. More details to follow.
- **P7 trip to Portrush** – Wednesday 26th June. More details to follow.

School Closures

School will be closed Monday 27th May to Wednesday 29th May. School will then close at 11.30am on Friday 28th June for the summer holidays. The 2024/25 school closure list can be found in the 'General Information' section on the app. Please continue to inform the school if your child is absent from school for any reason.

We have a busy and exciting seven weeks ahead of us until the end of term. Your support is much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Mr S. Harrison
Principal