



Dunclug Primary School
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7th December 2020

Prospective P1 Tours

We have enjoyed showing many families around our school during these recent evenings. It is great to see our school community continuing to grow in numbers and ofcourse all the benefits that this brings to our current pupils. We can still facilitate some evening tours if you have any friends or families that are considering sending their child or children (P1-P7) to our school.

Admission Process for P1 Places - September 2021

On Thursday 7th January, the parent portal on the Education Authority website www.eani.org.uk will open and prospective parents can apply online for a P1 place. On Friday 8th January, our school *Learning Hub* room will be open 9-12pm to offer support for parents in completing their online application using the school computers.

School Closure (Monday 4th January)

Just a reminder that the school will be closed on Monday 4th January 2021 due to a School Development Day (teacher training). We look forward to welcoming pupils back on Tuesday 5th January 2021. Please note that there will be no breakfast club during this first week back.

Engage Programme

The Department of Education has provided funding for a new 'Engage Programme' at our school which enables us to offer further support throughout the year to small groups and individual pupils to catch up on lost learning from the March-June lockdown. This programme, led by Miss Thompson, will ensure that our children P1-P7 will benefit greatly from additional support.

School Nativity Service

Next week, keep an eye on our school website and school Facebook page for a short nativity play featuring pupils from P1-P7.

Hillside Community Church Carol Service

Also look out for this year's Hillside Community Carol Service which features some of our older classes.

Christmas Lunches

This Thursday (10/12/20), instead of the traditional Christmas Dinners, our pupils will enjoy novelty Christmas Party Boxes. If your child does not normally take school dinners, they are welcome to order one for this day at the usual cost of £2.60. Pupils may wear a Christmas jumper if they wish. As this is optional, normal school uniform can still be worn.

Virtual Pantomime

This Thursday is also our Virtual Pantomime Day, where pupils will enjoy a virtual Christmas Pantomime (Beauty and the Beast) which has been custom made for our pupils by a local performing arts company. There will be no break provided by the School Kitchen on Thursday as pupils may wish to bring in a snack for the pantomime.

Ballymena Care and Nursing Homes

Last Friday, I had the pleasure of speaking online to over 160 Care Homes from across Northern Ireland about some of the community work (and in particular inter-generational work with local care homes) that our school has been involved in since before lockdown began in March. It was a privilege to talk about the projects that our fantastic pupils have undertaken.

Mentally Elfy Day – Friday 11th December

We are really looking forward to this Friday – Mentally Elfy Day – to raise awareness and funds for Action Mental Health. This will be a non-uniform day with parents asked to consider a £1 donation to go towards this charity. Pupils will also complete various fun elf themed activities throughout the day.

Communication between School and Home

We now have a school text message service! This will be used to alert you to important updates. Please ensure that our school has your correct mobile phone number.

School Milk

It is great to see so many pupils benefitting from the new school milk scheme. Those families who paid for this current term, will receive milk up until Friday 8th January 2020. If you would like to order milk for next term, please complete the attached note and return to school before this Friday.

COVID-19

We understand that children may be absent from school more than usual due to restrictions around Covid-19. Children should not attend school when they or any member of their household have symptoms or are awaiting test results.

If you have any queries or if you need to inform us of a positive case of Covid-19 after school hours, please email school info@dunclugps.ballymena.ni.sch.uk or contact us via the school Facebook page. I check school emails out of hours and at the weekend. If a response is required, it will be made as far as possible during working hours, however if it is a Covid-19 related issue my response will be more prompt. It is important to keep the school informed so that we can advise you about returning to school. Please remember that we are following DE guidance and must continue to do so to protect our children and staff.

End of Term Arrangements

There has been much speculation about when term will end for the Christmas break, but until we are told otherwise by the Department of Education, we will be aiming towards our planned finish on the Friday 18th December at 12pm. Should anything change, we will let you know as soon as possible. Please note that there will be no breaks or dinner provided by the school kitchen on this last half day 18th December 2020. School will reopen on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

End of Term Note

May I take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support throughout this term. I would like to thank our dedicated governors and staff, our pupils, parents, carers and all those involved in our school community for coming together to keep our school safe during these times. We have been successful in giving our children an 'as close to normal school experience as possible' and nothing proves this more than seeing all the happy faces in the school corridors each day.

On behalf of all the staff and Governors of Dunclug Primary School, I would like to wish you all a very safe and peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mr A Beacom
Principal