



Dunclug Primary School  
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10<sup>th</sup> January 2022

### Welcome Back

On behalf of the staff and Governors, I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year. I trust everyone had a peaceful and restful Christmas and enjoyed some family time together. As we start the new term, we hope that all our pupils are ready for another busy term ahead. As always, there will be lots of hard work over the coming weeks and plenty for our pupils to enjoy.

### Well Done

Well done to all involved with the successful events that were organised at the end of last term – our Foundation Stage Christmas Nativity (online), our choir performance at a local care home, participation in Hillside Church carol service etc. Although it was very disappointing that we were unable to have live audiences to the performances, the staff and children deserve much praise for the high standard of each production. Thank you to our parents and carers for your continued support.

### Covid-19

At present there have been no changes to the additional restrictions introduced before Christmas and there is no change to the operation of schools. We will continue to operate with our increased hygiene measures, Key Stage bubbles, outdoor PE and increased social distancing between adults, to ensure the health and safety of everyone.

However, given the high levels of community transmission and infection rates locally and across Northern Ireland during the holidays, the Omicron variant remains a significant concern as it impacts public services and in particular schools.

We were able to maintain in-school teaching for all classes before the break, however, the Department of Education recognised that further shortages of teaching and non-teaching staff, may necessitate a move to remote learning for a period of time. We hope that this will not happen and we will always endeavour to put cover in place and keep the school running normally but if this cannot be achieved procedures for remote learning will be implemented.

Parents should note this may happen at short notice but we will keep you informed of this via the text message service. Also, in the event of a positive case in your child's class, a 'warn and inform' text message will be sent to the parents/carers of that class. This is instead of the paper letters that were sent out last term. For this reason, it is essential that all pupil contact details are up to date in the school office.

### Pupil Information/ Data Collection Page

Please see the data capture sheet attached which displays your contact details, doctor and medical details etc. Please could you check this form and ensure that all the details are correct.

### If necessary, please make any corrections on the form and then return to the school.

It is very important that our records are kept up to date. In particular, please ensure that your mobile number is up to date.

### P1 Enrolment

Applications for Primary 1 open today Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January. The closing date for online applications is Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January.

### School Visits

If you know of any friends or extended family who are considering sending their child (P1-P7) to Dunclug Primary School it is not too late for them to visit and have a look around our school.

To arrange an alternative visit please call us on 028 2565 2327.

### Friends Of Dunclug PS (PTA) Christmas Raffle

Thank you to everyone who supported our raffle before Christmas. Approximately £500 was raised which will go towards educational resources for our pupils. It is hoped that when restrictions lessen, future PTA meetings and events can be arranged.

### P1-P7 Parent-Teacher Interviews Week – In person

Please note that the dates set aside this term for Parent/Teacher meetings will be week beginning Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022. These meetings will be in person and in your child's classroom with the teacher. During this week, school will finish each day at 1pm for pupils to ensure that all pupils get school dinners/packed lunches. Closer to the time, a specific parent/teacher interview date and time will be sent out to parents and carers.

### Half Term Break

Just a reminder that there will be no school for pupils from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022 (inclusive).

### School Counselling Service

Over the past two years, we have received extremely positive feedback about our School Counselling Service. However, please be advised that there is a waiting list for this service. If you feel that your child would benefit in some way from this service please contact me directly.

### Healthy Breaks

The school's healthy break system continues to be well supported. Sweets, chocolate etc are not to be brought to school unless on days advised by the school/teacher. **Please** can we ask that children have **no nut products** of any description as we have children in our school who suffer from nut allergies.

### Kids' Club Afterschool Care

P2 and P3 Kids' Club Afterschool Care resumes this week for parents who wish to avail of this service. All booking forms and payment must be in by the Monday, in order for staffing to be organised. We are planning for our P1 and P3-7 afterschool clubs (3-4pm) to recommence after the February half term break.

### General Illness Protocol Reminder

Any sick or ill children will be seen in the first instance by their class teacher. If felt necessary, a First Aider will be contacted. The School Principal or another qualified First Aider will make the final decision on whether a child needs to be sent home. If it is felt necessary to send a child home, the parent or guardian will be contacted to make arrangements for collection. A child who has been physically sick should be kept at home for at least 48 hours after they have been sick.

### 2021/22 Start and Finish times

Parent and Carer feedback has been very positive about the start and finish times that were introduced last year, in an effort to avoid the Dunclug College traffic.

These times will continue:

Breakfast Club for participating pupils: 8:30-8:40am

School begins for all pupils: 8:45am

School finishes for P1-P3: 1:50pm

School finishes for P4-P7: 2:50pm

Many thanks and Happy New Year.

Mr A Beacom  
Principal

