

OUR LADY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

12 MILLTOWN ROAD
BENBURB, DUNGANNON
CO. TYRONE
BT71 7NJ

Tel/Fax: 028-37548237

E-mail: info@ourladys.tullysaran.ni.sch.uk

Website: www.ourladysptullysaran.com

Principal: Mr Tomás Mc Kee

Our Lady's P.S.



OCTOBER & NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER



PRIMARY 5 HOLY COMMUNION

On Saturday 3rd October our Primary Five children celebrated their Holy Communion with a beautiful Mass in the Immaculate Conception Church, Tullysaran. It was a very special day for all the Primary Five children and their parents, as it had been a long awaited and anticipated celebration as a result of COVID 19. The children were brilliant. They performed all their roles to perfection and finished the celebration with a beautiful post Communion reflection. I must acknowledge the excellent work of Mrs O'Hara (P5 teacher), Mrs Mallon and Mrs White (P5 Assistants) in preparing the children for their Holy Communion with the valued support from parents and families. Thanks to Mrs Comiskey and Aoibheann Scullin for the fabulous singing and music; Mrs Mc Cloy and Mrs Maxwell for all the photographs that were taken (Mrs Mc Cloy has uploaded an excellent short video reflecting the day on the school website) and everyone who assisted in making this a very special occasion for the children and their families. Thanks to all and congratulations to the Primary Five boys and girls.

HALLOWEEN SCHOOL CLOSURE – The Minister of Education has announced that schools will close for the Halloween mid-term break for two weeks from Friday 16th October. We were scheduled to close for one week but this has now been extended to two weeks. I appreciate that we may all have our own opinions about the extended closure but I feel it is important that we end the half-term on a positive note for the children. They have all been brilliant since they returned to school from the end of August so I think it is only fair that they have a **FUN DAY** to conclude the half-term. I do not wish to put parents under pressure to organise Halloween costumes so we will have a **free non-uniform day on Friday** to reward the children for their excellent behaviour and work. We will organise some fun activities and a special treat for them. We will also send a small Halloween pack home with the children on Friday, for them to complete over the extended school closure, so please ensure they bring their school

bag in with them. Thank you. School is scheduled to reopen on Monday 2nd November. Hopefully this is the case but if the school closure is extended we will use the Seesaw app to support home learning.

FLU VACCINE – Children were scheduled to receive their flu vaccination next Wednesday, 21st October. The School Nurse has been in contact with the school regarding arranging for drive through vaccines to take place next week in the school carpark. We will update you on these arrangements on our school website once the plans have been confirmed.

CURRICULUM INFORMATION EVENING – Our annual Curriculum Information sessions were held over two evenings at the end of September (**Tues 29th & Wed 30th**). Thanks to everyone who logged in and joined us on Zoom. We had excellent attendance for all the online sessions and I would like to thank all our teachers for preparing and presenting their overviews for the year. The presentations will be uploaded on to Seesaw for your reference.

SEESAW – Seesaw Home Learning Codes have now been sent home for all P1-P7 children. Please ensure that you have downloaded the Class Seesaw App, however if you are unable to download the App, it can also be accessed via the internet. Teachers have been uploading weekly spelling tasks and some classes have also set homework activities via Seesaw. We will be using Seesaw to set students work in the event of a class having to isolate or if the school closure is further extended after Halloween; so please ensure that you have access to Seesaw. Thank you.

MATHLETICS – Mathletics has been set up for all P2-P7 children and weekly tasks are being set by teachers as an essential part of the children's learning. It is vitally important that all children complete their Mathletics tasks as part of their homework. Teachers will be monitoring children's work on Mathletics and will contact parents if children are not accessing the program.

PARENT-TEACHER MEETINGS – Parent Teacher Meetings will be postponed until later in the year, possibly January. If you would like to speak to your child's class teacher, you can ring the school between 3-4pm on any week day or email your child's teacher; during the school term. Teachers should not be contacted outside of normal school hours and they have been advised to only reply to emails during school hours. Please be mindful that teachers' have their own commitments outside of school. In an emergency please use the school info address (info@ourladys.tullysaran.ni.sch.uk). Thank you.

Teacher's email addresses:

Reception/Primary One: Ms Loughran: nloughran844@c2kni.net

Primary Two: Mrs Dillon: kdillon751@c2kni.net

Primary Three: Mrs Comiskey: kcomiskey765@c2kni.net

Primary Four: Mrs Mc Cloy: amccloy737@c2kni.net

Primary Five: Mrs O'Hara: kohara636@c2kni.net

Primary Six: Mr Mc Cusker: rmccusker298@c2kni.net

Primary Seven: Mr Mc Kee & Mrs Maxwell: tmckee362@c2kni.net and amaxwell453@c2kni.net

PARENTPAY – I would like to thank all parents who have authorised their Parent Pay accounts and have begun to use Parent Pay to pay for dinners, Breakfast and 123 Clubs. We are still having one or two technical issues but generally Parent Pay is working well and is reducing the amount of cash coming into school. It also allows parents to manage their own school accounts. We still accept cash or cheque payments in school but would prefer if these payments were made via Parent Pay. If we do not receive payment for dinner, Breakfast/123 Clubs or any other school activity after two weeks we will send out a written notice. If payment is not received for dinner the Education Authority will not permit the child(ren) to receive dinner and they will have to take lunches until the bill is paid. We have also adopted the same rule for all other activities. If a bill is not paid by the end of the third week, entry/participation will be refused until it is settled. We do not want to implement this protocol but will if necessary. I would like to thank Mrs Mc Anallen, Berni, our school secretary for all the work she has undertaken over the past few months setting up and managing 'Parent Pay'.

BREAKFAST CLUB – I am delighted to inform you that Breakfast Club is back up and running with a consistent number of children attending daily. Could I remind you that it commences each morning at **8am** (children must not arrive before 8am in the interests of Health & Safety and Child Protection protocols) and runs to 8.40am, with a concessionary charge of **£2 (which should be paid in advance via Parent Pay)**. Current food options include toast,

pancakes and sometimes waffles. In the interests of fairness and to assist the school with the costs involved all children who arrive into school before 8.40am must pay, even if they don't take food.

123 CLUB – 123 Club continues to operate for **P1, 2 & 3 children** for a concessionary fee of **£3 per day (which should be paid in advance via Parent Pay)**. Mrs Helen Gillespie, Mrs Joanne Kearney and Mrs Aisling Rooney supervise the children, in their classrooms, for 123 Club and provide a variety of fun activities for them. 123 Club facilitates one pick-up time for families and younger children can also travel home on the bus at 3pm. It is also a good social opportunity for the younger pupils to engage and play with their peers. Please contact the school if you would like your child to attend 123 Club.

SCHOOL DINNERS – The cost of a school dinner is currently, £2.60 per day = **£13 per week (which should be paid in advance via Parent Pay)**.

LUNCHES - All pupils who take lunch must have a lunch box/bag with their names clearly visible. Fizzy or energy drinks are not permitted in school as we try to promote a healthy balanced diet for all. **As we have children who suffer from specific and severe food allergies, we request that no peanuts, seeds or related products are brought to school. The school strives to be a 'NUT FREE ZONE'.**

MEDICAL - Please contact the school directly if a new medical diagnosis has been made or an existing one no longer applies or has been amended. If your child has an asthma plan, please provide a copy of it with relevant medication to the office/class teacher. **Please make sure that you have returned the medical form and that all medication sent into school is within its best before date.** Thanks.

IMPORTANT DATES: (Please find an updated list of school closures on the school website.)

Flu Vaccine – Wednesday 21st October (possible drive through arrangement for families).

Mid-Term Break Fun Day – Friday 16th October (free non-uniform day).

Halloween holidays – Monday 19th October – Friday 30th October. School reopens on Monday 2nd November 2020.

Christmas Holidays – Wednesday 23rd December – Tuesday 5th January 2021 (School will close @ 12 noon on Tuesday 22nd December – no dinners will be served). Children return to school on Wednesday 6th January 2021.

AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES – Fiddle classes have commenced for P5-7 children this month and some P7 children have been attending Transfer Class. All other Afterschool activities will hopefully commence in term 2.

WEBSITE SPONSORSHIP – I would like to thank PD Electrics (Pearse Donnelly) and Discount Furniture and Appliances Ltd. (Tommy Madden) for sponsoring our school website. If any other local business would like to sponsor the website, please contact the school. Thank you.

CONTACT DETAILS - Please advise the school in writing of any change of address or telephone contact details. It is **essential** that each pupil has a **Contact Mobile Number** for at least one parent to be used in the **event of an emergency** or to be updated for our text messaging service. It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to inform the school if you are not receiving communication from the school.

On behalf of all staff I would like to thank you for your continued support, especially in the challenging times that we are continuing to experience. We have been extremely fortunate that our school has been able to operate as it has over the past seven weeks which is due to everyone working together in the best interests of our whole school community. Unfortunately, this half-term has been cut short but hopefully we will return to school at the beginning of November and continue to work together in the best interests of the children and the whole school community.

Please continue to follow the COVID-19 guidance and keep your child off school if they are feeling unwell or have come into contact with a positive case. If in doubt contact the school. Please also contact the school to arrange an appointment if you have any concerns or queries regarding your child(ren)'s education.

Take care and all the best,

Tomás McKee

Mr Tomás McKee
Principal