



MARCH & APRIL NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Guardians

As we begin the season of Spring and look forward to the brighter evenings and hopefully warmer weather, I would like to update you on some recent developments.

Firstly, **we were successful in our bid for £1000 from ABC Council through the Activ£500 project.** All classes will now have the opportunity to attend **FREE Afterschool Soccer** this half-term. All the Tullysaran groups were successful with their applications which was due to the excellent support provided for all the groups from the community. Thank you to everyone for your support.

Over the last few months there have been further **improvements to our school building.** The children's toilets have been fully refurnished with new bottle filling water fountains installed in all the cloakrooms. We have also ordered new interactive whiteboards for some of our classrooms with the first board fitted in Primary One over the mid-term break. We also received **approval from the Department of Education for a new learning area** to be added to our school building. We look forward to this project commencing which will provide us with much needed extra space.

During January and February our boys' and girls' football teams have participated in a couple of blitzes with our girls' indoor team qualifying for the County Armagh finals. The girls performed heroically during the finals. They were 5-0 down in the semi-final but went on to win the game against St. Teresa's PS, Lurgan, in extra time. In a very tense final, they played brilliantly against St. Mary's PS, Mullaghbawn, and were very unfortunate to lose by one point. Although the girls were disappointed, they can be proud of their performances and look forward to more games in the Malachy Mc Geeney competition with both the boys and girls playing their next blitz on 14th March.

We also had fantastic success in the Armagh Road Races with 38 runners competing. All the children ran brilliantly on the night with some children receiving trophies for finishing in the top ten in their respective races. Well done!

Finally, over the course of the next two weeks teachers will contact parents to update them on how their child(ren) are progressing in school. This is in response to feedback we received in our June 2022 parent surveys. Parents requested further communication between teachers and parents over the course of the school year. To date we have hosted face-to-face Curriculum Evenings in September and Parent Teacher Meetings in October. During the month of March parents will receive a **'Keeping in Contact' (KIT) Call.** This will be a five-minute call focusing on what is going well and how further progress can be made. The calls are limited to five-minutes so that teachers have time to contact all parents in one day. If you need to speak to a teacher for a longer period, this can be arranged with the teacher. I would like to thank our teachers for facilitating our KIT calls and I hope parents find the call beneficial. As normal parents will receive an Annual Report for their child(ren) in June which will mean that there has been communication between home and school in each term, this school year.

I would like to bring your attention to the following important dates and events occurring in March, April and during the third term:

World Book Day: Friday 3rd March – non-uniform day (**FREE**).

First Penance (P4): Tuesday 14th March @ 7pm in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Tullysaran.

Green Day: Thursday 16th March – non-uniform day (£1) all proceeds in aid of the Trocaire Lenten appeal.

School Closed: Friday 17th March (St. Patrick's Day).

Primary 6 Post-Primary Transfer Information Session for Parents: Monday 27th March @6.30pm (in school).

Easter Holidays: School closed @ 12 noon on Thursday 6th April – 14th April (inclusive). Children return to school on Monday 17th April (normal arrangements).

Reception & Primary One Notifications of Places for September 2023: Thursday 27th April.

Ceremony of Light (P7): Tuesday 9th May @7pm in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh.

Holy Communion (P4): Saturday 20th May @11am in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Tullysaran.

Apple Blossom Swimming Gala: Thursday 25th May in the Orchard Leisure Centre, Armagh.

Confirmation (P7): Saturday 27th May @11am in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh.

May Closure Dates: School closed on – 1st & 8th (Bank Holidays), 18th (Polling Centre – Local Elections) and 29th (Bank Holiday), 30th & 31st May (Staff Report Writing Days).

Summer Holidays: School closes for summer holidays on Friday 30th June @12noon.

Any changes will be sent out by text to Parents/Guardians or amended on our website. If you have changed your mobile number/address, please inform the school in writing.

World Book Day: Friday 3rd March is a non-uniform day to mark 'World Book Day'. Children may come to school dressed as their favourite character and should bring their favourite book. Teachers are promoting book related tasks in school this week.

Green Day: On **Thursday 16th March**, we will celebrate **St. Patrick's Day** with the children all coming into school wearing something green. We will have a special assembly and some Ceilí dancing to celebrate our Irish culture. All donations will go towards the Trocaire Lenten appeal.

Primary 6 Post-Primary Transfer Information Session for Parents: We will host a Primary 6 Post-Primary Transfer Information evening for parents on Monday 27th March @6.30pm, in school. We will provide an overview of the Post Primary Transfer transition process and explain how we will support children considering sitting the SEAG Transfer Test.

The Schools' Singing Programme: Our Primary 5 children are participating in a new musical initiative in the Archdiocese of Armagh. Two musical directors, Orla Nugent and Sarah Jane Kelly will lead whole class singing sessions once a week over the next few months. The Primary 5 children will perform the new songs with the other eleven schools involved in the programme on 16th May in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh.

After-school Activities: We have a wide variety of afterschool activities currently available: Fiddle, Gaelic, Camogie, Lego, Art, ICT, Cookery and Soccer for boys and girls. We thank all our afterschool leaders and staff who assist with the supervision of these activities.

Breakfast & 123 Clubs: Breakfast Club starts @8am and children should not be dropped off until this time. Breakfast Club runs from 8-8.40am for a small charge of £2. All children who enter school grounds unsupervised before 8.40am will be brought into Breakfast Club. 123 Club runs from 2-3pm and is open to all P1-P3 children for £3 per child, daily. Children should be booked into 123 Club however if a child is not collected by 2.10pm they will go to 123 Club. Breakfast and 123 Clubs can be paid via Parent Pay. Thank you.

Parent Pay: We continue to use Parent Pay to facilitate cashless payments however cash payments may be accepted on some occasions. Please ensure that you keep your payments up to date on Parent Pay to assist us in the running of our school. Thank you.

Please contact the school if you have any queries or concerns and keep up to date with school events via our school website, app, and twitter page [@OLPSTullysaran](#). Thank you for your continued support.

All the best and take care

Tomás Mc Kee

Mr Tomás Mc Kee
Principal