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| November & December 2017 Newsletter |
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Windmill Integrated Primary School


# Upcoming Events

**November 24**

Non-Uniform Day

£1 for privilege

**December 15**

Non-Uniform Day

£1 for privilege

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| **Holidays**The school will be closed on the following dates:21st December 2017 at 12 noon school closes for the Christmas Holiday.School reopens on Thursday 4th January 2018 |

30 Old Eglish Road, DUNGANNON, Co. Tyrone, BT71 7BE

www.windmillips.com Tel: 028 87 727277

**Life- saving (AED) Defibrilllator Training**

Members of staff were trained in using the Life- saving Defibrillator on Wednesday 1st November. This life-saving device is easily accessible in the Key Stage 2 resource area.

**Vineyard Foodbank**

Thank you to all those who sent in non-perishable food items for our recent Harvest assembly. Miss Cheryl Roberts from the Vineyard came in to school on Friday 10th November to receive the items and to talk to the children about how the donated food will help those in need within our local area.

**Reading Workshop**

Thanks to all those parents who attended the Reading workshop that was facilitated by Mrs Kate O’Hanlon (Previous Literacy advisor with EA- Southern Region) on Thursday 2nd November. Mrs O’Hanlon gave lots of advice as to how parents can support children with their reading. Thanks to Mrs O’Neill for supervising the children on the night.

**Accelerated Reader Workshop**

On Thursday 9th November parents of pupils from Primary 4 to Primary 7 were invited to attend an information evening about the Accelerated Reader computer program, which Windmill has been using for the past couple of years. This information session took place at Bush Primary School from 7pm -9pm. Thanks to all those parents who attended.

**School Meals**

The price of school meals cost £2.70 per day or £13.50 per week. To save valuable secretarial time meals money should always be brought in on Monday or first day of school week in a sealed envelope with your child’s name and the day(s) they are having meals clearly labelled. **Please send in the correct amount as change will not be given.** Cheques for dinner money should be made payable to **Windmill Integrated Primary School.**

**If your child has an allergy you must obtain written confirmation from your doctor and forward this information to the staff in the kitchen.**

**Milk**

The cost of school milk for next term (January – March 2018) is £11.13 per child. Orders must be placed by Thursday 14th December. Cheques for milk should be made payable to the Education Authority - Southern Region.

**Policies**

Throughout the course of the year, members of staff, the pupil council, parents and Board of Governors will be reviewing a number of policies. This month we will be reviewing and updating our School Behaviour and Discipline Policy. We would appreciate it if you could look at the School Behaviour and Discipline Policy which you will find under the Parents Tab on our school website. **Please ensure that any comments you would like to make on the School Behaviour and Discipline Policy are returned to school no later than Wednesday 29th November 2017.**

**School website**

Hopefully many of the answers to your queries can be found on our school web-site. Please keep a close eye on it as you never know what may pop up.

You can also download our School App. The ‘**Schools Northern Ireland’ app** can be downloaded from the App Store or as an Android App on Google Play.

The school website and its contents can be translated into a number of different languages using the **Google Translate button** which can be found at the top of the website.

**Attendance**

The Department of Education are asking us to pursue reasons for absence from any child who misses a day this year. To aid us in this task I would ask that you send in a note on your child’s return to school following a period of absence detailing the reason(s) why and the likely duration. If you prefer this can be emailed to tmurtagh955@c2kni.net. Please note that the absence of any child due to a holiday must be recorded on our system as unauthorised. Please try to ensure holidays do not coincide with term time.

Any medical/dental appointments should be made where possible outside of school hours.

**Absences for appointments etc**

All children leaving during the school day for appointments etc must be signed out.

**OPEN ENROLMENT**

Official Educational Authority Enrolment forms for Nursery and Primary 1 for September 2018 will be available before Christmas. The EA will publish information on their website on Wednesday 29 November. Please ensure that you have also completed a Pre-enrolment form for Windmill. Forms must be returned to the school of your first choice no later than 12 noon on Wednesday 10 January 2018.

 **Non-uniform Day**



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|  Reminders**Clothing Bank**Please donate all your unwanted clothes to the school clothing bank at the front of the school and help raise much needed funds for the school.**Medicine**Medicine should not be sent into school in your child’s school bag. Please see your child’s teacher. All medicine should be labelled with child’s name and the correct dosage. For long term medications i.e. inhalers a medical form must be filled in. These can be obtained from the school office.**Jewellery**The only jewellery children should wear in school, are a watch or stud ear-rings. No jewellery should be worn on days when there is P.E. **Data Sheets**If you have changed you address or telephone number it is vital you let us know this particularly in the event of an emergency. Up to date mobile numbers are essential for our text messaging service.**PE KIT**Please ensure your child wears a proper PE Kit, clearly labelled, brought in to school on a Monday and taken home to be washed on a Friday. |
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Our non-uniform day in November will be held on Friday 24th November 2017.

Our non-uniform day in December will be held on Friday 15th December 2017

Please send in £1 with your child. Our pupil council and eco-council representatives rely on this money to help them make improvements throughout the school.

Money raised to date will go towards erecting a bicycle storage facility, enabling those children who wish to cycle or scoot to school to park safely. This bicycle storage facility is currently being erected beside the pedestrian entrance.

**Eco-Council News**

Our Eco-Council will be working alongside the Conservation Volunteers to plant 420 saplings along the newly erected boundary fence at the back of the school. It is hoped that these saplings will create a hedgerow that will entice a number of different pollinators onto our school premises.

We are delighted to announce that our school received the Sustrans Active School Travel Award- Bronze level. The Eco-Council was presented with the award by Miss Ann-Marie Cox ( Sustrans co-ordinator) for the work undertaken during 2016/2017. This year we are working towards the Silver Level Award. The Eco-Council is also working towards the Green Tree Award.

 **Birthday cakes**

In order to ensure the well- being of those children with specific allergies and medical needs we can no longer allow birthday cakes to be brought into school for sharing with classmates.

**School Carol Service**

This year our whole school will be holding a Carol Service in St. Patrick’s Church. This will take place on Tuesday 5th December 2017 at 1.30pm. I hope you can join us for what should be a very special way to start the festivities.

**Football**

We are delighted to inform you that Miss Judith Reid (IFA) will be continuing football coaching with children from Primary 1 – Primary 5 every Wednesday till at least the end of March 2018. Due to funding cuts this worthwhile initiative may finish at the end of March. Please ensure your child has his/her P.E. kit in school.

**A.Q.E.**

Test 1 took place on Saturday 11th November

Test 2 is scheduled to take place on Saturday 25th November

Test 3 is scheduled to take place on Saturday 2nd December.

**GL Assessment**

Test 1 is scheduled to take place on Saturday 18th November.

The supplementary test is scheduled to take place on Saturday 9th December.

Wishing all the Primary 7 pupils every success in the above tests.

**Piano Tuition**

Mrs Eleanor Crymble (LTCL, Dip Mus, MTD) is offering to teach Piano to pupils after school. Lessons would last for 20 minutes and cost £7.50 per lesson.

Anyone interested is availing of this service please send in a note with your contact details and your child’s name and class. We can pass this information on to Mrs Crymble.

**Parking**

We have two disabled parking spaces in front of the school and one in front of the nursery building. These should only be used by those who genuinely need them. The staff car park is for staff cars only. There is a visitors car park and there are bays at the front of the school, please use these.

I would ask that you:

* Do not park along the curb blocking the entrance and exit points.
* Respect the one way system in place.
* Do not park around the junction at Dunclare Park.

The school has a limited number of off road parking spaces, however with a little consideration and patience there is no reason why this current system should not run smoothly. The safety of the children is paramount.

**Changed your address or mobile telephone number?**

If you have changed your address or mobile telephone number please let us know. Up to date mobile telephone numbers are essential for our text messaging service and to enable us to contact you in an emergency.

**Emergency Weather Plan**

If there is a forecast that gives severe weather for the following day, firstly the Principal (or Vice Principal in her absence) will place a message on our school website [www.windmillips.com](http://www.windmillips.com) . Secondly by text message, to all families and staff using the school text messaging service. This service uses the main mobile contact number which has been given to the school. It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that school is notified of any changes to contact numbers. Thirdly by notification to BBCNI News who will produce a list. A list of closures will be found at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsni>. If we do get snow you should send your child to school with wellingtons/snow boots, hat and gloves etc.so that those who wish to do so get the opportunity to go outside.

However, if there is doubt as to whether or not the school will be open, staff and children should come in as normal unless conditions where they live mean they are blocked in or that driving conditions are hazardous.

A member of the senior management team will monitor the situation at school and make a decision on whether or not to keep the school open or make arrangements to get children home who have arrived at school. Staff are expected to ring in their intentions before 7.30am. However, should weather conditions improve sufficiently before 12 o’clock staff will be expected to come in to work.

Unless the weather deteriorates during the day staff will be expected to work their normal hours.

If a parent has been able to bring his/her child in to school he/she should be able to expect his/her child to remain in school until the normal finishing time (unless the school has announced that it will be closed or unless the weather begins to deteriorate sufficiently to warrant that it would be advisable to get the children home as soon as possible.

**Annual General Meeting**

Windmill Integrated Primary School held its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 14th November at 7.15pm. Please find the Annual General Reports for both 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 academic years under the Parents Tab-‘Governors News’

**Trips**

Swimming lessons for Primary 4EV commenced on Thursday 9th November for 6 weeks.

Primary 4 pupils from Bush Primary School visited P4JM on Thursday 16th November as part of their Shared Education programme.

Primary 5 will be holding their class assembly on Friday 24th November at 9.30pm. Family and friends are invited to attend.

Primary 6 will be holding their class assembly on Friday 15th December at 9.30pm. Family and friends are invited to attend.

**Dates for your diary**

30th November 2017- Constable Sue Wright will be visiting school to talk to Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils .

3rd December 2017 – Carols 4 All service at St. Anne’s Parish Church , Dungannon- 3.30pm.

4th December 2017- Ulster Hockey Tournament for boys and girls will be held at the Royal School Dungannon from 10-12 noon.

School Christmas Dinner- Friday 8th December 2017.School closes at 1.30pm for Primary 1-Primary 3 children and older siblings; 1.45pm for Primary 4-Primary 7 children.

12th December 2017 from 2-4pm- Open Afternoon for prospective Nursery and Primary 1 parents and pupils.

14th December 2017- Primary 1 Christmas Performance at 1.30pm.