



# NEWTOWNARDS MODEL SCHOOL NEWS

Can I take this opportunity to wish the whole school community a happy and successful New Year. I would also like to thank all our musicians, singers, narrators, actors and all our P7 helpers for some splendid performances over Christmas, especially those children who performed at our Carol Service in St. Mark's with such aplomb and skill.

## P.T.A.

My thanks to the PTA for all their hard work over the Christmas period. The Christmas Fair and Santa's Grotto were enjoyed by all and refreshments provided at the Open Night and the Nativities were very much appreciated. We anticipate that our fund raising activities over the Festive period was close to £2000 !

The next PTA meeting will take place on Tuesday 23rd January 2018 at 7.00pm.

The next P.T.A. venture is our copper coin collection which will start on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January. Children are asked to bring in 1p's and 2p's throughout this week with the class raising the greatest amount getting a prize.

The P.T.A. Bingo Night will take place on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 7.00pm. (More information forthcoming)

## P1 Admission for September 2018

I would be grateful if parents would remind family, friends and neighbours that application forms for P1 places must be completed and returned to school for all children before noon on Wednesday 10th January 2018. (This also applies to children already enrolled in school with younger siblings wishing to start primary school in September 2018). Applications delivered after this date must be treated as Late Applications and places will only be allocated if the school is undersubscribed.

## Open Morning

Prospective parents who were unable to attend our Open Evening will be able to avail of a guided tour of the school in operation from 9.30am - 10.15am on Wednesday 10th January 2018.

## Parental Meetings

Parental Meetings for Years 1-7 will take place in the week commencing 12th March 2018  
P1 & P2 children will be released each day of that week at 12.15pm and all other classes will be released at 1.15pm.

## Mobile Phones

I would be grateful if parents could inform the Secretary if mobile numbers or email addresses have changed. Important information is often disseminated via the School Texting Service and email, so it is important that all mobile numbers and email addresses are up to date.

## Punctuality

On the Tuesday of the last week of term, 31 children were recorded as being late into school and unfortunately a trend is developing for a small number of children who are recorded as regularly being late for school. Everyone can be late once in a while due to traffic or unforeseen circumstances, but continual lateness is not acceptable as it teaches our children bad habits. I would hope that this trend will be reversed in the new school year.

## Transfer to Post Primary

The Department of Education has asked schools to forward to P7 parents, Transfer Forms with relevant information which will allow the forms to be completed at home. I will however continue to provide opportunities for parents to discuss their child's transfer to post- primary schools in Transfer Meetings which will take place in the week commencing 29th January.

Letters containing information and the dates of the above meetings will be sent home with the P7 children on Thursday 11th January 2018.

AQE results are received on Saturday 27th January 2018

Post primary schools will shortly be holding their Open Nights when parents can visit and ask questions about the school. I would recommend that all parents visit a variety of schools as the Transfer process and choice of school is not always straightforward. It is very important that all parents are familiar with the new admissions criteria being used, especially anyone considering a grammar school.

Dates and times of post primary Open Nights can be found on our school Facebook page.

The Education Authority's website: [www.eani.org.uk/admissions](http://www.eani.org.uk/admissions) (Post Primary Admissions) contains all the information required to complete the process.

## Clubs & Swimming

Clubs and swimming recommence on Tuesday 9th January 2018.

The swimming programme finishes on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February.

## Holidays

Half Term

School will be closed for Half Term from Monday 12th February to Friday 16 February inclusive.

## Easter

School finishes for the Easter holidays on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 12.15pm and resumes on Monday 9th April.

The School will be closed for:-

May Day Holidays - Monday 7th May 2018 and for a half day on Monday 28th May 2018

School Development Days – Monday 21st May, Tuesday 22nd May and Wednesday 23rd May 2018

Diary dates.

Date	Event
Tue 9th January	Swimming & Clubs start
Wed 10th January	Open Morning 9.30am -10.15am
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> January	P7 famine Workshop.
Thur 18 <sup>th</sup> January	P7 visit to RADAR.
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Copper coin collection this week.
Tue 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	P.T.A. meeting 7.00pm
Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> January	A.Q.E. results
Tues 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Swimming programme finishes.
Wed 7th February	P4 visit to Castleward
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup> February	P.T.A. Bingo Night
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> –Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Half Term
5th-9 <sup>th</sup> March	Science Week
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup> March	P1 visit from the Vet
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Waterbus visiting P5
12th-16th March	Parental meetings
20 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup> March	School production- What a Knight!
Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> March – Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Holiday
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday
14th -17th May	P7 residential to York
28 <sup>th</sup> M ay	Bank Holiday-school finishes at 1.15pm.