



NEWTOWNARDS MODEL SCHOOL NEWS



Music Concert

Congratulations to all those children who performed in our Music Concert on Tuesday 19th June. This was an opportunity for our children who play musical instruments to perform and highlight their skills. Special thanks go to Mark Flanagan for giving so much of his time in preparing the guitarists and to Gary Myles for accompanying on the piano. Mrs Leathem and Mrs Ryan deserve huge thanks for their dedication and contributions to the choir and the orchestra.

Leavers Event

Our Leavers event will take place on Tuesday 26th June at 3.30pm. At the event we will have musical performances by our P7 musicians and the P7 children will receive various trophies and awards. All P7 parents are very welcome to this, 'graduation.'

P1 visit to Crawfordsburn Beach

Our P1 children will be going to Crawfordsburn beach on Wednesday 27th June. The weather forecast for Wednesday is excellent so we would ask P1 parents to make sure that sun cream is applied at home before leaving and that the children have a sun hat to wear.

Last day

School finishes for all classes on Friday 29th June at 12.15pm. (P1s will leave a few minutes before to avoid congestion)

First Day of New Term

School reopens for the new school year on Tuesday 28th August for a half -day. (School will finish on Tuesday 28th August at 12.15pm for all classes)

Dinners

Dinners for P2-7 will cost £2.60 daily from Wednesday 29th August. Parents are asked to order dinners on Monday of each week. We would also ask parents to pay for small amounts (£5/£10) with cash as cheques lodged cost the school 36p each. Cheques for dinners should be made out to EA (Education Authority). Dinner menu for next year will be on the school website.

All monies must be enclosed in a labelled envelope. Money envelopes are available to purchase from the Office priced £2.20 for 40 envelopes.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL ENTITLEMENT TO FREE SCHOOL MEALS ENDS ON 30 JUNE AND A RENEWAL FORM SENT OUT BY THE EDUCATION AUTHORITY MUST BE FILLED IN AND RETURNED TO E.A. FOR ENTITLEMENT TO CONTINUE IN August.

Safety

Coming to school in the morning. In the new term I would ask parents to use the pedestrian gates at the front of the school. We need to educate our children that the gates to the car park should not be used to enter or leave school. These gates are used by delivery drivers who can at times be rushing to the next job and may not be aware that children or adults are in the vicinity.

Parents should note that there is no supervision in the mornings until 8.45am when children may enter the school building and go to their classes where their teacher will be in situ.

P1&P2 parents should enter and leave school via the door outside Mrs Langley's room and children in P3-7 should enter school through the front door.

Only children in P1&2 can be accompanied into school by a parent.

Children attending Breakfast Club should arrive no earlier than 8.00am and no later than 8.30am. Breakfast Club will be available on the first morning of the new term.

Shoes and Earrings - I would ask parents with daughters at the school to ensure that new school shoes do not have platform-style high heels as these are very dangerous and can lead to serious ankle injuries. Likewise, we have found that girls can slip out of 'pump' type shoes and a shoe with a strap or laces is compulsory. Hoop earrings must not be worn at any time as they can cause an injury risk and no stud type earrings should be worn on swimming or P.E. days.

Sports Kits

I would be grateful if parents of children who have worn School Sports Kits and/or School Tracksuits at any stage this year, would check that all items have been returned and no 'souvenirs' have been retained!

Swimming

The swimming programme for P5-7 will start on Tuesday 4th September and will cost £3. The programme will end on Tuesday 11th December. In the new year, swimming starts on 8th January 2019 and ends on Tuesday 5th February 2019.

Schoolbags

Current P1 – P3 pupils can purchase a lightweight bookbag from the office, priced £6.

Parents of P4 - P7 pupils may be purchasing schoolbags for the new term. Can I ask parents to buy small schoolbags as some children are arriving in school with huge rucksack like schoolbags that not only can cause injury when filled with unnecessary bits and pieces but can dislodge pegs in the cloakrooms due to their weight!

Uniform

Parents should remember to label all items of clothing and lunch boxes with permanent marker as it is sometimes difficult for children to retrieve their own personal items when discarded if not clearly labelled.

PE Uniform

P.E. uniform for P2-7 children can be ordered through David Crawford Schoolwear for the start of the new year.

Healthy Eating - From the start of the new term our kitchen will again be providing a Healthy Break each day for 40p. Wednesday and Friday are 'treat' days when the options are more varied. We continue this initiative in the hope that parents have recognised the dangers of the high salt, sugar and e-numbers found in crisps and confectionery. The scheme should also reduce costs given the high price of non-healthy breaks. We highly recommend that confectionery is not provided for break.

PTA

Our PTA has worked extremely hard this year and has raised a fabulous total of £5977.06. We had a successful "Virtual Balloon Race", raising over £500. Congratulations to Amelia in P1 whose balloon travelled just over 3,000km. She has won a £50 voucher for Smyth Toys. Mrs D Stannage has won a £20 One4All voucher as runner-up. Mrs Raphael's P2 class sold the most balloons and they are having a special treat this week!

Throughout the year, the PTA have purchased a variety of items and equipment including 1 Interactive Whiteboard and new play resources for P3 & P4. Once all other expenses are paid, the PTA will be able to present a cheque in the region of £5,000 to the school for new resources. We would like to thank all those individuals and companies who have supported the PTA this year by donating prizes. A huge "thank you" also goes to all the parents and children for supporting the events. Many thanks to the chairman, Mark Ryan, and his team of volunteers for all their hard work.

Medication

I would ask parents who have children with medical conditions that require an Action Plan and/or asthma which requires their child to have an inhaler in school, to contact Mrs Simpson before the start of the new term. Mrs Simpson can be contacted in school from 20th August 2018.

Likewise, any medication, retained in school must be collected from the School Office on the last day of term. Inhalers will be sent home in schoolbags.

Staff

Can I take this opportunity to thank both Miss Owen and Mrs Braniff who will be leaving school in June having secured permanent posts in other schools. We thank them very much for their contribution to school life over the last number of years and wish them every success in their careers.



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Lost Property

Lost property will be displayed in the foyer during the last week of term.

Ards Community Network Centre

Ards Community Network Centre are running a school uniform recycling project. If parents no longer need school uniforms that are clean and in good condition they can be dropped off at 43-45 Frances Street, 2nd July - 5th July, 10.00am - 3pm and from 23rd July – 26th July 10.00-3.00pm.

Summer

Can I wish everyone a relaxing and sunny summer break.

22nd June 2018