



NEWTOWNARDS MODEL SCHOOL NEWS

PTA

Family Bingo Night

Wednesday 7th February at 6.45 pm. There are a number of very nice prizes available and cost will be £3 per adult and £1 per child. (Extra lines can be purchased on the night) A tuck shop will be available along with tea and coffee for the adults.

This was very well attended last year and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone, young and old!! Children should not attend unaccompanied.

Copper Coins

The Copper Coin collection was very successful once again and PTA volunteers are being sought to count coins during our Bingo Night.

Holidays

Half Term

School will be closed for Half Term from Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February 2018 inclusive. School finishes at the normal time on Friday 9th February.

Easter

School finishes for the Easter holidays on Friday 23rd March at 12.15 pm and resumes on Monday 9th April 2018.

The School will be closed for: -

May Day Holidays - Monday 7th May 2018 and for a half-day on Monday 28th May 2018 (School will close at 12.15pm)

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

Swimming

Our swimming programme finishes for the year on Tuesday 6th February.

Injury /Illness /Intimate Care Notification.

On any day in school we will always have a number of children who sustain minor injuries through falls and bumps. Should injuries occur, our children receive First Aid from the five trained First Aiders in school. Minor injuries are treated on site, but in the case of an injury where there is concern, the parents of the child will be contacted. In such circumstances we are always conscious of the implications of calling parents from their workplace, but we tend to err on the side of caution where injury is concerned. Given that we are not trained physicians and do not have X-ray equipment, it is possible to get a diagnosis wrong, with what appears to be a minor injury

For all but very minor injuries, a Report Slip will be sent home which will give parents information about injuries/illness or treatment that has occurred in school. The Report Slip will be placed in the child's schoolbag and will help parents understand the nature of any injury/illness or treatment that has occurred during the day.

Visitors and Events

History

Mr Alan Pinkerton, former Vice Principal of Ballyholme Primary School and keen historian has visited our P6 classes to talk about their Viking topic.

Castle Ward

Our P4 children will be visiting Castle Ward on Wednesday 7th February 2018

North Down Museum

Our P6 classes will be visiting North Down Museum on Thursday 8th February.

Radar

Our P7 classes visited the Northern Ireland Safety Centre in Belfast on Thursday 18th January.

E-Safety

As part of Internet Safety Week, we hope to have the PSNI visit school for a P4-7 assembly on Friday 9th February where the topic will be, staying safe on-line and general internet safety. Mrs Ryan will talk to our younger children in the P1-3 assembly on Wednesday morning

Maths Week

To highlight mathematics, a number of events were held in school. The P5's were making and selling at various stalls and the highlight of the week was a '100' day House Mathematics quiz organised by Mr Watson.

Orchestra

Sinead Hayes from N.I. Opera will be providing our orchestra with a workshop on conducting on Wednesday 7th February

Christmas Trees

Our thanks once again to McKee's Country Store and Restaurant for donating two lovely Christmas trees.

Charity

We have been supporting a school in Malawi over the last couple of years and presently the villages where the school is situated are suffering due to the drought and the failure of the maize crop. We recently sent £200 to the village, to help with the purchase of maize. We receive updates and photographs from the villages, which we are able to share with our children, to let them see how their charity work is helping the people there.

Healthy Break

We are continuing to provide our Healthy Break service each day for our P4-7 classes. It is great to see children bringing in a healthy break from home and others purchasing something from the trolley at break time each day (each item is priced at 30p)

This service was introduced in the hope that children will stop eating crisps and confectionery at break time, as these items are heavily laden with sugar and salt.

Sport

Soccer

Our soccer team were beaten semi-finalists in the Council Indoor Primary School Competition on Wed 31st January. The team however had a recent victory over Londonderry PS and are nicely positioned in the league table and will be attempting to emulate last year's team by winning the league.

Rugby

Budge Poutney a former captain of the Scottish Rugby team has been coaching our P7 children on fundamental rugby skills for the last few Fridays. These have been fun-filled sessions that our children have really enjoyed and our thanks to Regent House School for allowing us to avail of Budge's coaching.

Lunchtime Soccer Coaching

Our P3-7 children continue to receive coaching from an I.F.A. coach at lunchtime, on a rota basis each week. Not only does this improve fitness levels but it also develops skill levels with the children enjoying David Brotherstone's encouragement and fun approach.

Parental Meetings

Parental Meetings for Years 1 - 7 will take place in the week commencing 12th March.

P1 & P2 children will be released each day of that week at 12.15 pm and all other classes will be released at 1.15 pm.

Interview dates and times will be forwarded shortly.

Mobile Phones

Children are not permitted mobile phones in school or any technical device with a camera or recording facility. There have been numerous, well documented cases, where photographs have appeared on the internet after children have made bad decisions about camera usage. Schools do not actually have insurance, so we are not in a position to replace valuable items such as mobile phones or Fitbits, should they be misplaced.

Lost Property

Lost property will be on display on a table in the foyer on Friday 9th February, parents are asked to check the contents for missing school items.

Lateness

On Tuesday 6th February we still had over 20 children coming into school after the 9.00am bell. While this is an improvement on the number of latecomers just before Christmas, it would still be considered too high. Doors open in the morning at 8.45am with classes actually starting at 9.00am. Children entering the class after the 9.00am bell are often embarrassed and are often disrupting lessons which have started. While everyone can be late once in a while, persistent late coming is rude and contradicts the good life-skills we are developing in school.

January 2018