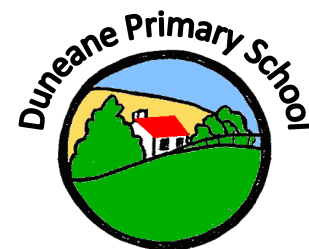


MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2018



Welcome Back!

So...the uniform is on, the school shoes are still shiny and new, the school bag is packed, the 'first day back at school' photograph has been taken and off they go through the doors for the start of a new adventure – a brand new year and the chance to catch up with all their friends, to talk about the experiences they had over the summer! Great! We are delighted to see all the children back here with us and are looking forward to teaching them and supporting them during this new year.

WELL DONE Team Duneane on a very Successful 2017-2018

As you know we are always updating our practice and endeavouring to reach higher standards of experiences for our pupils in school. To this end the staff work very hard, much in their own time, to ensure our pupils are getting the best we can offer. Over the last year we have gained/applied for the following awards:

- ◆ National Online Safety competition winners – led by Mrs Cuthbertson
- ◆ Official Forest Schools Accreditation– led by Mrs Doran & Miss McAuley
- ◆ Eco Green Flag (3rd Time Gold Award) led by Mrs Anderson
- ◆ Bronze Rights Respecting School Award
- ◆ Level Five Food Hygiene Certificate for our Healthy Breaks
- ◆ Global Learning Award Level 1– led by Mrs Anderson
- ◆ NI Winner in Enthuse Award for STEM awarded to Mrs Wilson
- ◆ Mrs Devlin was awarded Highly Commended Teaching Assistant of the Year in The National Community Education Awards
- ◆ Level 1 Google Educator Award was presented to Mrs Cuthbertson
- ◆ The school won the Antrim & Newtownabbey Council Best Kept School Award

It takes a whole school commitment to school improvement to gain such success and we thank you for supporting us in these pursuits. Well done to all the staff who led these initiatives and also all the staff and pupils who participated.

Staffing Arrangements 2018-2019

Mrs Kerrie Wilson	Principal, P5-P7 class teacher
Mrs Cathy Anderson	P5-P7 class teacher , shared teacher
Mrs Arlene Dornan	Reception– P3 Teacher
Mrs Gail Cuthbertson	Reception– P3 Teacher
Mrs Paula Devlin	Classroom Assistant
Miss Brighdin McAuley	Classroom Assistant
Ms Laura Greene	Classroom Assistant
Mrs Margaret Hill	Caretaker
Mrs Róme Dobbin	Secretary
Mrs Sarah McPherson	Secretary (temporary, sickness cover)



A FEW DATES FOR THE DIARY

A provisional list of dates for 2018-2019 is included in this maildrop. Remember these are provisional and may change.

- 3 September & 7 September– Class Drop in Sessions**
- 4 September– First day of swimming**
- 7 September– School Council Elections**
- 10 September– Shared Lessons start**
- 14 September– Eco Elections**
- 19 September– Little Adventurers' Club 2-3:30pm/ SU Event P5-P7**
- 26 September– European Day of Languages**
- 27 September– P1 Nurse**
- 22 & 23 October– Pupil Progress Meetings**
- 24 October– Harvest Assembly**
- 27 October– Charity Coffee Morning**
- 30 October– Half Term Holidays**
- 5 November– Back to School**

Child Protection & Safeguarding

Please remember that if you have any concerns about your own child or another child you should share these concerns with:

Mrs Cuthbertson

(Designated Teacher for Child Protection and Safeguarding)

or

Mrs Wilson

(Deputy Designated Teacher)

Swimming Lessons

Swimming Lessons will recommence next Tuesday. The Primary 5, 6 & 7 pupils will be attending from September to December. To assist with transportation two Primary Seven pupils will stay behind each week. This will be on a rota basis. The children should bring goggles and a swimming hat, along with £1 for a locker.

Violin & Piano Lessons

Violin lessons will also resume next week. Pupils in Primary Three will be tested and parents will be notified if their child is to be offered the opportunity. Marbeth Nicholl will be back in Duneane as our piano tutor. If your child would like to commence lessons please contact the school.

Congratulations

Well done to Amy from Primary Seven who was awarded her Grade One Violin and passed with merit.



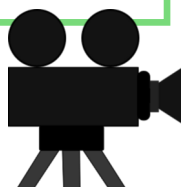
Medical Register

Several members of staff attended training at Antrim Board Centre last week, which focussed on first aid, asthma and allergies. It is important that the school is aware of any medical conditions your child may have, particularly if they need to take medication.

It is the parent/ guardian's responsibility to ensure all medication has been given to school and that it is kept in date.

We know that several children within school have asthma and in line with current guidance an inhaler should be available for them inside school. This should be stored within the classroom in a labelled bag or box. An additional inhaler may be kept in the child's bag if the appropriate documentation is completed.

We also have a bottle of antihistamine within school and we are seeking permission to administer this if your child is stung, bitten or suffers from a mild allergic reaction.



Wrap Around Care

We are very keen to help those parents who are working or those need assistance with care before and after school. Breakfast Club has recommenced for this year and is open from 8am each morning.

We have a range of After School Clubs which are open to Primary 3– Primary 7 pupils at the cost of **£1 per session**. This minimal cost is to cover supervision and resources. This term children can attend Drama or Film Club.

Transfer Club will take place on Tuesday and Thursday at **no cost**. On a Friday we hope to launch a Multi Sports Club with the support of Burn Skills School. The first session will be for P1-P3 from 2:00pm-2:40pm and the second session is from 2:40pm-3:40pm. Given the cost of hiring a professional coach the cost of each session is **£3**. A minimum number of pupils is required and if this is not achieved the club can not run.

Moneynick Primary School offer an afterschool club until 5:00pm. Our children may attend this if they have completed the appropriate registration forms. (These are enclosed in this mail drop) Transport from Duneane to Moneynick will be arranged at 2:40pm, via school bus, SACT bus or car. Twenty four hours notice should be given for Breakfast Club or Moneynick After Schools.

Transfer Arrangements 2018

Please be aware that registration for those Primary Seven children who wish to sit the AQE tests in Nov/Dec 2017 closes on **08 September 2018**. Registration forms and useful information can be found on the AQE [website](http://www.aqe.org.uk) – www.aqe.org.uk. Registration for the GL test closes on **21 September 2017**. **If any parent has any concerns regarding their child and the arrangements for transfer can they please contact me at their earliest convenience.**

Little Adventurers' Club

We are launching a new and exciting community group. This is for local children and their carers. During each session the children will travel off on a new adventure. On 19 September from 2:00pm-3:30pm we are heading to the jungle, where the children will be searching for animals, making some scary snakes and joining in with stories and games. It is hoped our own Primary 1-3 children will stay along with their carers. We would love to see some new preschool faces come along too. It will be finished off with a cuppa and juice for the children. Please spread the word as we want this to be a great success!

Online Safety

Please visit NSPCC's new NetAware guide on <https://www.net-aware.org.uk> to keep children safe online. The aim of NetAware is to equip parents and professionals with information about the most popular sites, apps and games that young people are playing. This includes recommended age, the safety features and settings available and the types of risks that young people might encounter. The NSPCC found that nearly 1 in 4 young people are contacted by people they don't know by the time they are 13 years old and too many children are seeing inappropriate content online. We do teach online safety in school but we all

Uniform Allowance

Claims must be renewed each year with the Education Authority. If you think your child is entitled to avail of these please request a form from the school office. The qualifying benefits are: Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance or Child Tax Credit with an income under £16,190. **It is very beneficial to the school if claims are made.**

Contact Details

A copy of the Data Capture Form has been reissued within the mailing pack. Can you please ensure we have at least two emergency contact numbers for each pupil? If your mobile number has changed please update this. Your email address is also important so we can set up a group email account for parent mail. This means we can contact all parents via email at any time and forward The Monthly Newsletter and notes to you. Please return the signed, updated form as soon as possible.

School Council Elections

Article 12 Every child has the right to express their views in all matters affecting them.

Next week in school we will be holding our annual School Council Elections. Primary 3– 7 pupils will have the opportunity to develop their own election and manifesto and poster and will present these to the remainder of the school on Friday.

Drinks

We encourage the children to bring water into school and they are permitted to drink this during class. For convenience we would ask you to use the sports-type drinks bottle.



Road Dahl Day

Road Dahl Day will take place on 13 September. Children are encouraged to come dressed as a character from a Roald Dahl Story. We will be organizing some Roald Dahl themed activities during school in order to encourage a love of reading.



European Day of Languages

European Day of Languages is on 26 September. This year we have decided on an Italian theme.

Healthy Break

Article 24 of the UNCRC states that “children have the right to...nutritious food...so that they will stay healthy.”

Healthy children are happy children! Duneane is a ‘Health Promoting’ school. We thank you in advance for your support in our Healthy Break Scheme. We aim to provide the children with a variety of breads and fruit each day. Due to the fact there is no school meals provision within school, the milk is provided by the Education Authority free of charge.

Money Envelopes

All money should be sent to school in a labelled envelope. We know it can be difficult trying to find spare envelopes around the house when sending money into school. To make life a little easier, you can purchase a booklet of money envelopes from the school office for £2.50. If you make payments via the online banking service please ensure that an email is sent or a note to the class teacher so all money can be accounted for.

Lateness

Classrooms are open from 8:45am. Lessons begin at 9:00am each morning, when children are expected to be ready to commence their learning. The school security system is activated at this point and the gates are closed. Please ensure that there is a smooth undisturbed, transition from home to school by having your child at school on time ready to learn and participate.

Parent Ideas

We are a self-evaluating school and each year we endeavour to review our practices to see where we can improve or celebrate the work going on within our school community. Please contact email Mrs Wilson should you have any comment to make re: current practice and any suggestions or ideas you would like to make. We cannot guarantee to do them all but we are keen to consider them.



Drop in and Meet the Teacher Session

Next Monday and Friday have been set aside as Meet the Teacher sessions. In line with our ‘Open Door’ policy, teachers will be available at the end of the school day to meet with you informally.

We would like to encourage you to come to your child's classroom to meet his/her teacher. This is an opportunity to find out what your child needs for this year, become familiar with any new homework routines, changes to our spelling approach and to ask any questions. We want you to ensure you have all information you need to fully support your child in school this year.

Spellings & Phonics

A highlighted area of development for this year is phonics and spellings. We have decided to adopt a more consistent approach and will be using spelling lists and strategies from Jolly Phonics, Spelling and Grammar throughout school. With this in mind all children will be given a daily spelling activity to complete each morning. For the younger children this will be phonics carpet time, when the children learn their sound and action and engage in oral segmenting and blending tasks. At Key Stage Two the children will be explicitly taught a range of spelling strategies to develop their long term retention. On Tuesday evening spelling homework will be definitions and on Wednesday the children will have spelling sentences to produce. Daily tests will be replaced with daily tasks. This will take the focus away from a short term memory task. Spelling Lists will be tested and the children will listen to a dictation each Friday. The Spelling City reinforcement app will also be available for a targeted group of children.

Duneane Primary School

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www.duneaneps.co.uk

Outdoor SOS

Thank you to our wonderful PTA for organizing the Back to School Clean Up. Everyone had a wonderful time helping. Doesn't Duneane look great?

