



Dromore Central Primary School
25 Mossvale Road
DROMORE
BT25 1DG

Tel: 028 9269 2134

Principal: Mrs H M Bentley BEd (Hons) PQHNI

2nd October 2023

Dear parents/guardians,

May I begin this letter by thanking you for your many kind words of congratulations, support and encouragement as I take up the post of Principal of Dromore Central PS. I look forward to continuing to work closely with you, and to seek new ways of building up our school community together.

May I also take this opportunity to thank you for your generosity in contributing to Mrs Allen's retirement. The special assembly showcased the pupils' many talents and your help in preparation for this event is much appreciated by the staff – the children were fantastic, fulfilling every task with a sense of joy, humour and dedication to DCPS. If you have not yet had the opportunity to watch the short video which was part of Mrs Allen's assembly, I encourage you to do so – it can be found on the school's Facebook page.

Moving forward, October will be another busy month as we host several key school events.

Harvest Celebrations:

Our Harvest assemblies will be held on Wednesday 18th October 2023. Our normal practice is to aid the local foodbank at Via Wings by collecting non-perishable food items. If you would like to donate tins of food, biscuits etc. please send these items into school by Monday 16th October.

Cash for Clobber:

Our next Cash for Clobber collection will take place on Friday 13th October 2023. Please send any unwanted clothes, shoes (in pairs), bedding, belts, handbags, curtains etc. into school during the week beginning 9th October. Please note that pillows and duvets cannot be reused for hygiene reasons. All money raised will go towards the purchasing of ICT equipment in school.

Parent-Teacher Consultations:

1. These are planned to take place during the week beginning 23rd October 2023. As these must be carried out during teaching hours, all pupils will leave early each day (please see times at the end of this letter). Many of you have expressed a desire to see these return to face-to-face meetings with teachers, however I am also conscious that a 3-year contract has been purchased for online meetings via School Cloud. Therefore, for this final year of the contract, we will move to a hybrid model – all appointments will be booked online using the following link:
<https://dromorecentralps.schoolcloud.co.uk/> from 9th October 2023 @9:00am to 18th October 2023 @11:59pm.

Appointments booked for Monday and Tuesday will take place in school in each teacher's classroom. Appointments booked for Wednesday and Thursday will take place online. Appointments will be booked on a first-come, first-served basis, so please book early to avoid disappointment!

New Vice Principal

Our new Vice Principal, Mrs Catherine Murray, is due to take up her post on Thursday 26th October 2023. In preparation for this, Mrs Murray will spend one day meeting the pupils and staff in school. To give her an opportunity to meet the teachers altogether, school will finish early on Friday 20th October (please see times at the end of this letter). I apologise for any inconvenience this may cause, but feel it is essential for Mrs Murray to spend some time with her teaching colleagues before having to "hit the ground running" on Thursday 26th. Once again, thank you for your understanding regarding this matter.

SENCo:

As many of you will already be aware, Mrs Mackay changed her name over the summer and is now officially known as Ms Leonard. I know this will take some of us a period to adjust, so she assures me she will continue to respond to both names for the foreseeable future!

School Fund:

At the last Board of Governors' meeting in June, the resourcing for ICT was discussed. As we all know, ICT is an ever-changing area and money is continuously needed to replace broken items and purchase new apps/equipment etc. The aim would be to eventually have 1 iPad per 2 children. Currently, we have 8 iPads per classroom, thus needing to increase this to 15 per classroom, meaning we would like to purchase an additional 176 iPads.

To assist with raising these funds, we are asking parents for a voluntary contribution of £20.00 per child (eldest child only; £10.00 per each additional sibling thereafter) which can be paid using the School Money app. This would give us more than £10 000 to further progress the work of ICT in school. Many thanks for giving this some consideration.

Half-Term Holidays:

School will be closed from Monday 30th October 2023 to Friday 3rd November 2023 (inclusive), with school reopening on Monday 6th November 2023.

Flu Vaccine:

Your child should already have received a letter from the School Nurse inviting them to receive their annual flu vaccine in school on either Mondays 13th/20th November 2023. Please return these letters to your class teacher(s) as soon as possible.

School Photographs:

Cool for Schools will be with us on Wednesday 8th November 2023 for individual and family photographs – further information regarding this will be forwarded to you before the half-term break.

Kind regards,

H M Bentley

H M Bentley

PTO

Early Closure times will be as follows:

11:40am	P6 & P7 children along with their younger siblings.
11:50am	P4 & P5 children along with their younger siblings.
12:00pm	All remaining children.
12:10pm	Nursery providers.