

Dromore Central Primary School
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Principal: Mrs L M Allen MEd DASE (Sc) PQH ALCM

INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARENTS - OCTOBER 2019



WE UNDERSTAND THAT THIS NOTE IS RATHER ON THE LONG SIDE!!!

**PLEASE STICK WITH IT, AS IT CONTAINS SOME VERY IMPORTANT
INFORMATION AND DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!**



The Autumn term is now well under way and we would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all back. A special welcome to our P1 pupils and new pupils in other year groups – it is lovely to have you with us and we hope you quickly feel at home in Dromore Central Primary School.

PAPERLESS SYSTEM - WEBSITE E-MAILING SERVICE AND SCHOOL APP

We encourage you all to register for receiving communications via email and/or the mobile app from the school website.



Please visit the school website www.dromorecentral.co.uk

- ~ Look on the Home Page
- ~ 'Dromore Central App' & 'Subscribe to Newsletters and Notifications' sections
- ~ Enter the required details.

We have now moved to a primarily 'paperless' system using the school website as our main communication method. Cost of paper for school is spiralling upwards and we feel this is one way to make savings whilst also caring for our environment. We may, on occasion, send out important letters/permission slips in paper form but will be, as far as possible, using the app on the website to keep parents informed. If you would prefer to continue receiving notes in paper form, this can be requested through your child's class teacher or the school office.

**PLEASE NOTE: Letters going home with permission slips attached will require printing,
so the permission slip can be completed and returned to your child's class teacher.**

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

Could we please remind parents to send a note to the teacher if their child has been off school for any reason. We also ask that, in order to stop the spread of sickness, children who have been ill with vomiting or diarrhoea do not return to school until 48 hours after their last episode. Thank you.

PAPER £5 AND £10 NOTES

As from 30 September 2019, paper £5 and £10 notes have been withdrawn from general circulation in Northern Ireland. We are, therefore, no longer able to accept these in school.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

As far as possible, the majority of parents have been sending their children to school wearing the official school uniform of a white shirt, with a school tie, and black school shoes. We must say, the children look very smart! Thank you so much for your support in this regard.

CAR PARKING

We are all working to ensure the safety of our pupils and to endeavour that the leaving off and collection of children operates as smoothly as possible.

A number of issues have been brought to our attention recently and we would like to highlight these to you:



- Please do not park across the pedestrian zone at the traffic lights outside school. Children have been 'dodging' around cars to cross the road
- Please be considerate and mindful of others when parking outside of school
- Please do not block entrances/exits in local developments - on occasion, residents have been unable to get in or out of their own driveways
- Please do not obstruct the footpaths – children have been forced to walk onto the road to pass parked cars; this is incredibly dangerous
- Please do not park on the crossings inside the school grounds
- **Please do not park blocking the emergency vehicle exit gates** - signs are posted, yet parents are still parking across these gates - some even moving 'no parking' cones to park their car
- Please do not park in the staff car park in the mornings or afternoons, with the exception of spaces marked with a red X
- Parents/carers are still parking cars on the drop-off zone and walking their child into school. This area is meant for those parents who are only stopping long enough to allow children to get out of the car, then moving on. Arriving early and parking in this area to wait or parking your car and leaving it disrupts the flow of traffic and causes unnecessary aggravation to other parents
- If there are no spaces in the drop-off zone, please do not stop in the 'driving lane' to allow children to get out of the car, as this is dangerous for the children and blocks other traffic
- Please drive slowly when on school grounds as last year there were instances of children almost being knocked down when crossing the car park with their parents
- **Please do not turn right into the car park at the mini-roundabout, follow the one-way system**

Regrettably, if correct guidelines for dropping children off or parking on school grounds are not followed, we may be forced, in the interests of safety, to close both the turning circle and the car park to parents.

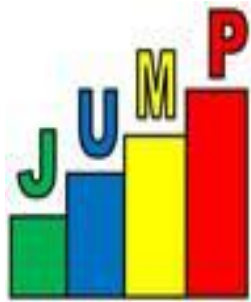
SCHOOL DINNERS

The price of a school meal is £2.60 per day. This would be a total of £13.00 for a full week.

We request that, no matter which day your child plans to take dinner, payment is sent into school on the first day of each week. Please place money in an envelope with your child's name, the name of their teacher and which days that week you wish your child to take a school dinner clearly written on it.

Menus can be viewed on the school website www.dromorecentral.co.uk

Please note, we are no longer able to accept cheques to pay for school dinners.



JUMP

Once again we are partnering with Youth for Christ, to deliver our JUMP programme; a club whose core themes are Joy, Unity, Message and Purpose.

We can't wait to see many Year 5, 6 and 7 pupils returning as well as lots of new Year 4 faces joining us in a fun-filled hour.

HARVEST

Children will attend a special assembly in school on Tuesday 22 October 2019, when we will celebrate God's goodness to us at harvest time. As always, we are teaching our children to be thankful for all the good things they have and encouraging them to help others when they have the opportunity to do so.

Once again this year we are inviting children, who wish to do so, to bring one item of food into school on either Thursday 17 or Friday 18 October 2019, (preferably either dried, tinned or packet foods please, as these will keep for a longer period of time). Items will be donated to Via Wings' food bank, to help support families who are experiencing difficult times at present. We are always moved by your generosity and thank you in advance for the items that will come into school this year.

CANCER FOCUS

We would just like to remind you that we have a donation box in the school foyer in support of Cancer Focus. Books, toys, clothes, shoes, CDs and DVDs are all accepted.

MOBILE PHONES AND OTHER PERSONAL BELONGINGS

If you permit your child to bring a mobile phone into school, it must be switched off, (not just put on 'silent'), and stored in the child's schoolbag until they are dismissed at the end of the school day. Children are not permitted to check for messages or make phone calls unless instructed to do so by a teacher. Also, some pupils have been bringing personal belongings from home into school – we especially would like to highlight that a number of children are now wearing expensive watches. These are costly pieces of equipment which could very easily be misplaced or damaged, as children remove them to do PE and to wash their hands, and could knock them against something whilst playing in the school playground.



We wish you to be aware that, whilst every care is taken, we cannot be held responsible for loss or damage to mobile phones or any other personal belongings that are brought into school.

PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Our Autumn Parent/Teacher interviews will be held from Monday 14 to Thursday 17 October 2019. Please be aware, to accommodate the interviews, school will finish early ALL WEEK, including Friday, as detailed below:

11.50 am P6 & P7 pupils along with their younger siblings, leaving via gate C
P6 & P7 pupils without younger siblings will leave via their usual exit gate

12.00 noon P4 & P5 pupils along with their younger siblings, leaving via gate C
P4 & P5 pupils without younger siblings, leaving via their usual gate

12.10 pm P1 to P3 pupils all leaving via their usual gate
Children collected by after-school day-care nurseries, leaving via gate C



Children will be able to have an early lunch before leaving school so should either bring a packed lunch with them or can purchase a school meal. As lunch will be served early, pupils will not need to bring a snack during this week.

****** *Please note: If you wish your child to have a school meal during interview week, please complete the Menu Choice form which was sent home with your child on Tuesday 8 October 2019. (May also be downloaded from our school website.) Please return forms to school by Friday 11 October 2019, to aid with catering.*

OPEN NIGHT

Our Open Night for prospective P1 pupils will be held on Tuesday 26 November 2019 from 5.00 pm to 7.00 pm. This is a great opportunity to learn more about Dromore Central Primary School and get an impression of 'school life'. All parents of prospective P1 pupils, along with the children themselves, are warmly welcome.

HOLIDAYS

School will finish on Thursday 24 October 2019, at the usual times, for the half term holidays and will reopen on Monday 4 November 2019.

We have attached a copy of the 'Fair Processing', 'Electronic Transfer of Pupils' Data to the Child Health System' and 'GDPR' notices, for your records, along with this year's holiday list.

Please note that school will no longer be closed on Tuesday 26 May 2020 but, instead, will be closed on Friday 12 June 2020. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

AND FINALLY!



Mrs L Allen
Principal

DROMORE CENTRAL PRIMARY SCHOOL

2019/2020 SCHOOL YEAR

HOLIDAYS

Please be aware that, whilst we make every effort to adhere to these dates, occasionally it may be necessary to amend them, due to unforeseen circumstances. Parents will be notified of any changes via the school website.

Autumn Term

School Closed	Friday	25 October 2019 to Friday 1 November 2019 (Inclusive)	Half Term
Term Ends	Friday	20 December 2019	Half Day

Spring Term

Term Begins	Wednesday	8 January 2020	Normal Day
School Closed	Friday	14 February 2020 to Tuesday 18 February 2020 (Inclusive)	Half Term
School Closed	Monday	16 March 2020 and Tuesday 17 March 2020	
Term Ends	Friday	3 April 2020	Half Day

Summer Term

Term Begins	Monday	20 April 2020	Normal Day
School Closed	*Friday	8 May 2020 (May Day/75 th Anniversary VE Day Amalgamated)*	
School Closed	Monday	25 May 2020	
School Closed	Friday	12 June 2020	
P7 Term Ends	Thursday	25 June 2020 Prize Day & 'Farewell' to our P7 Pupils	
P1 – P6 Term Ends	Tuesday	30 June 2020	Half Day

On a half day, dismissal times will be as follows:

12.00 noon P7 and P6 children, along with younger siblings

12.15 pm P5 and P4 children, along with younger siblings

12.30 pm All remaining children, along with those pupils collected by Day Nurseries

FAIR PROCESSING NOTICE

In keeping with guidance on Data Controller responsibilities, the Department of Education recommends, as good practice, that schools issue a 'Fair Processing notice' to parents. This is simply a statement advising parents of how their child's information is used and shared by the school.

Our Fair Processing Notice is as follows:

Your child, as part of their education at Dromore Central Primary School, will have access to a range of electronic resources designed to enhance their learning experience and allow them to collaborate with their peers. In order to facilitate this, the school may need to share some limited personal information with the relevant Education Authority and the Department of Education. This will allow user accounts to be set up and managed, enabling services to be integrated. Any data sharing is kept to a minimum and when your child leaves the school the information will be permanently deleted from such systems. At times, the school may also share personal information with the Education Authority to support the direct delivery of educational services. Examples include the Authority's Special Education and Educational Services. All sharing will be conducted under the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998. If you would like to know more, please feel free to contact school.

ELECTRONIC TRANSFER OF PUPILS' DATA TO CHILD HEALTH SYSTEM

The Department of Education has requested that all schools should write to parents/guardians to explain that new arrangements were put in place from September 2015 to transfer pupils' information to the Child Health System (CHS).

Each school year the School Health Team carry out important child health programmes, such as Nurse checks, Immunisations, Health Appraisal, Vision and audiology screening, on children in schools throughout Northern Ireland. The regional CHS is used to support the planning, preparation and delivery of these school health programmes.

When children start school their relevant school information is matched with the CHS records using name, date of birth, gender and address. (Previously, this had been a manual, paper exercise.) This matching, which takes place regularly, enables the specific information about the school and class your child attends to be recorded on the CHS to support the delivery of the Child Health Programme.

From October 2015 new arrangements meant that the system for matching information changed from a manual to an electronic system. This involves the transfer of pupils' information from the Schools' Information Management System (SIMs) to the CHS. School and class records will be matched electronically with CHS records using name, date of birth, gender and address.

This notice is for information only and you do not need to take any action.

This secure electronic process will ensure that CHS's records are up to date and will reduce the potential for errors or information gaps in your child's health records. This is the sole purpose for providing the data and this information cannot be used for any other purpose by the Health and Social Care Trusts or the Public Health Agency. If you would like further information about the Child Health System you can contact the Public Health Agency at:

CHSinformation@HSCNI.net or CHS Information, Public Agency, Tower Hill, Armagh, BT61 9DR.

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS (GDPR)

We are compliant with current GDPR guidelines.