

Kirkistown Primary School Newsletter

September 2018



**Learning together,
building for the future**

Welcome

Thank you for the warm welcome I have received from the school community. I have been very impressed with how the children have settled on their first day back and will be delighted to say hello to all our school families in person over the coming days and weeks.

Today marks a new chapter in the history of Kirkistown Primary School. I am very excited to be working alongside the highly motivated, capable staff at Kirkistown and wonderfully supportive governing body to educate the fantastic children of our school community. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks to everyone who has supported Kirkistown Primary - we look forward to continuing to make you proud of your local school.

Contact Details

At the start of the new academic year you will receive a number of documents to be completed and returned to school. Chief among these are the contact details (including mobile numbers) and medical forms. It is vital that we have an up to date record of your contact details and knowledge of the medical needs for your child in the event of an emergency. Inhalers and epi-pens are required to be available in school at all times. Please check and note the expiry date on any such medicines before sending these into school.

Dropping Off and Picking Up

I am very conscious that Main Road can be very busy with traffic and would therefore politely ask families to consider walking to school, where this might be possible, while the weather is pleasant.

Children must be collected at the end of the school day from the main entrance by a responsible adult. Children in **P6** and **P7** may be allowed to walk home alone with **written permission** from parents / carers but will not be allowed to take younger siblings with them as we feel this places a lot of responsibility on young shoulders.



Registration

Classroom registers close at 9:05am with lessons beginning promptly after. Children arriving after 9:05am will be recorded as late and must sign in at the school office before proceeding to class. While we understand that it can take a day or two to get back into the term-time routine, arriving late disrupts learning and we very much appreciate your support in helping avoid this where humanly possible.

Please also note that final numbers for school dinners are required to be received by 9:30am. If your child arrives after this time, it may not be possible for them to receive a school meal. Please alert the school office in advance (eg- if your child is at an appointment) or as soon as possible if you would like your child to have a school meal but they won't be in school by 9:30am.

Medical Appointments

Where possible, we politely ask that appointments are made either side of the school day. Where it is necessary for your child to attend an appointment during the hours of school, we would ask for notice if at all possible.

Healthy Break and School Dinners

The cost for healthy break and school dinners this year is as follows:

Fruit / Toast – 20p per day (£8.80 for August, September and October)

Milk - 21p per day (£9.24 for August, September and October)

School Dinners - £2.60 per meal.

Payments should be sent to school **on Mondays** in a small pink envelope that can be obtained from the school office. If a child is absent or school is closed on Monday, payments should be sent on the next school day. Please make sure that names and classes are clearly marked on the envelope.

Healthy Break Volunteers

We are currently looking for volunteers to offer 30 minutes (10:00-10:30am) to assist in the preparation of the healthy break by cutting up fruit, preparing toast etc. This valuable service relies on the good will of the wider school community and we very much appreciate the support of our school community in helping us facilitate it. If you are regularly available between these times on any given day of the week, we would greatly appreciate your help. Please contact the school office if you can be of assistance.

Kid's Club

Our after-school Kid's Club will continue to run this year, facilitated by Ms Matthews. At £3.50 per hour and £2 per half hour, we believe it is good value for money and hope that it continues to be of service to the community. Additional children will continue to be charged at £2 per hour and £1 per half hour. The first session will be on Monday 03 September 2018.

For further information or bookings, please contact the school office.

Operating hours are as follows:

Day	Times
Monday – Thursday	2:00 – 5:00pm
Friday	2:00 – 3:00pm

Lost Property

A number of items left in school over the summer holidays are available for collection from the school office during the first week of term. Please pop in to have a look for any missing items you may have. Items unclaimed by the end of September will be donated to a charity shop to ensure they get put to good use.

Lunchtimes



Please note that telephone calls made during the hours of 12:00 and 1:15pm may not be able to be answered as our office staff are involved in the lunchtime supervision of children both inside and outside the building. We appreciate your patience and understanding in this matter.

Primary 1 children

Primary 1 children will finish at 12 noon this week and the following week. From **Monday 10 September 2018**, they will then remain in school until 2pm.

Used stamps- RNIB

We collect used stamps for RNIB, supporting people with sight loss. If you've any used stamps that you'd like to donate, there is a collection point in the front porch.

Friday Assemblies- starting Friday 07 September

Each Friday, we will have a celebration assembly where we celebrate the hard work, commitment and resilience of our children. One child from each class will receive a 'Star Worker' award while a second child will be awarded the 'Gold Award', a certificate that honours the good choices that our children make in following our golden rules:

We are gentle
We are honest

We are kind and helpful
We work hard

We listen
We look after property

In addition, we would warmly encourage families to send in any awards, certificates, trophies or badges that children have received outside of school to allow them to receive the recognition for the commitment that they have shown to earn these. Examples include: swimming certificates, sporting awards, acts of community spirit, Blue Peter badges, musical achievements, awards from Brownies, Cubs, Girl Guides etc. We firmly believe in celebrating the '*whole child*' and value the support families give to allow their children to flourish in these areas.

Each class will also conduct a termly 'Class Assembly' where children will present aspects of their learning to their peers and friends of the school. Our Friday assemblies will begin shortly after **9:10am** and will be open to families who wish to celebrate the success of our children with us. If you would like to join us, please make your way to the assembly hall and help yourself to one of the seats available at the back of the hall. Assemblies should last approximately 15 minutes though class assemblies might take a little longer.

Curriculum Information Sessions

Teachers will host curriculum information sessions very shortly. These sessions are an opportunity for you to meet your child's teacher and hear about the curriculum content that your child will engage with this year. As ever, it is hoped that these sessions will be informative and help you to assist your child.

Day	Times
Mon 10 Sep 2018	2:30pm - Curriculum Meeting: Mrs Harbinson's class
Wed 12 Sept 2018	2:30pm - Curriculum Meeting: Miss Taggart's class
Thu 13 Sept 2018	2:30pm - Curriculum Meeting: Mr Graham's class
Fri 14 Sept 2018	2:30pm - Curriculum Meeting: Mr Irwin's class

Nut Free School

All parents are asked to note that we have children in school who have allergies to nuts. Children with this condition could have a severe reaction if they come into contact with nuts, or nut related products. For some of these children a severe allergic reaction may be caused simply by touch or smell alone. Consequently, we are asking that no nuts or nut related products are brought into school for your child's break or packed lunch. Your support with this could prevent a serious medical emergency developing. I am sure you will appreciate the reasons for making this request and trust that you will give it your full co-operation.

Parent / Teacher Interviews

Parent interviews will be held in the **weeks beginning Monday 22 October** and **Monday 11 February**. School will finish at 12.45pm for all classes during these weeks to facilitate the meetings.

Diary Dates

Date	Details
Mon 10 Sep 2018	2:30pm - Curriculum Meeting: Mrs Harbinson's class
Wed 12 Sept 2018	2:30pm - Curriculum Meeting: Miss Taggart's class
Thu 13 Sept 2018	2:30pm - Curriculum Meeting: Mr Graham's class
Fri 14 Sept 2018	2:30pm - Curriculum Meeting: Mr Irwin's class
Tue 16 Oct 2018	Donations received for Harvest Assembly (to be given to local foodbank)
Mon 22 Oct 2018	Flu Vaccination (Further information to follow)
Mon 22 Oct – Thu 26 Oct 2018	School finishes at 12:45pm to allow Parent Interviews to commence at 1:15pm
Fri 27 Oct 2018	Non Uniform Day in exchange for £1 donation. School closes at 1pm for half term.
Mon 29 Oct – Fri 02 Nov 2018	School closed for Half Term

Mr R Graham
Principal

Term Dates 2018/19

School starts	Tuesday 28 August - 12pm finish all week. Monday 3 rd September - normal finishing times
Last Day of Term	Friday 26 October – 1pm finish
Half-Term	Mon 29 October to Friday 02 November
School Restarts	Monday 05 November
Last Day of Term	Friday 21 December – 12pm finish
Christmas Holidays	Monday 24 December to Monday 07 January
School Restarts	Tuesday 08 January 2019
Last Day of Term	Friday 15 February – 1pm finish
Half-Term	Monday 18 February to Friday 22 February
School Restarts	Monday 25 February
Last Day of Term	Friday 12 April – 12pm finish
Easter Holidays	Monday 15 April to Friday 26 April
School Restarts	Monday 29 April
Bank Holiday	Monday 6 May
Bank Holiday	Mon 27 May
Inset Day	Tue 28 May
Last Day of Term	Friday 28 June – 12pm finish