

Kirkistown Primary School Newsletter

October 2018



**Learning together,
building for the future**

Kirkistown Primary in the Chronicle!

We were delighted to recently to have some of our youngest children featured in the Chronicle. Photographer Jonathan Coates was very impressed by the smart appearance, smiles and behaviour of our children (and our staff!). Well done to our Primary 1 and Primary 2 team!



Curriculum Information Sessions / Parent Interviews

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our Curriculum Information Sessions on the week beginning Monday 10 September. We hope the sessions were useful and gave you a flavour of what your child should expect to experience this year.

Parent Interviews will take place from Monday 22 October – Thursday 25 October with school closing at 12:45pm each day to allow appointments to begin at 1:15pm. Families wishing to secure places at Kids Club for their children will be required to book in advance for this week. Further information will be sent via letter closer to the time.

School Projects

As outlined at our Curriculum Information Sessions, all our classes are working on narrative writing with the aim of having every child in the school published by Christmas. Our wonderful PTFA have kindly agreed to fund the artwork for our book and we look forward to bringing you further information on this project nearer the time.

Mr Irwin and Mr Graham have been busy writing and rehearsing with the choir on an original Christmas song! We hope to have the single available for download in early December. Once more, our wonderful PTFA have agreed to fund the recording of the single and we look forward to sharing the results of this project in the near future.

Kids Club

Families accessing our wrap around care service must collect children directly from inside school. Unfortunately we cannot send children out onto Main Road unaccompanied. It is extremely helpful if payments can be made on the day of use or by Friday of that week at the latest to assist school with banking.

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. Where humanly possible, please use the pink envelopes available from the office to send monies to school, having them marked clearly with your child's name and class.

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

Primary 2 & 3 Arts and Crafts Club

The PTFA have very kindly offered to run an Arts & Crafts Club specifically for children in Primary 2 and 3. The club will run on a Friday from 2-3pm at a cost of £2 per child with all funds coming directly back into school to benefit the wider school community. You will have received further information recently by letter. Please contact the school office should you wish to make a booking.

Healthy Break Volunteers

As discussed at our Curriculum Information Sessions, 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.

A very large thank you to those who have come forward to offer assistance. Without your support, school cannot offer this valuable service for the children of our school community. 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.

PTFA Events

Halloween Disco

On Friday 19 October, the PTFA will host a Halloween Disco between 1 & 3 pm in school. All children are invited to come to school in their halloween costumes for the day. Costumes should be mindful of our youngest children in school who, at such a tender age, might be easily alarmed or unsettled. Please, therefore, be mindful not to be too gruesome or gory with your outfits. On this special occasion, children in Primary 1, 2 and 3 will be invited to remain with us until three o'clock to soak up the fun. DJ Tommy will provide the soundtrack for the disco and children are asked to pay a cost of £1 to contribute towards the fun. As always, any profits will come directly back into school to benefit the school community.

Christmas Fair

Our annual Christmas Fair will take place on Tuesday 04 December between 5:30pm and 7:30pm. Please make every effort to join us and get into the Christmas spirit. Further details will be made available nearer the time.

If you would like to help contribute your time or skills to the PTFA, please contact Mrs Perry or Mr and Mrs Finegan who would be delighted to have your support.

Lost Property

A quick reminder that a number of items left in school over the summer holidays are available for collection from the school office until Friday. Please pop in to have a look for any missing items you may have. **Items unclaimed by the end of this week** 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.

Reception children

We have been joined, this week, by our first Reception children of the year. We would like to extend a very warm Kirkistown welcome to our children and their families.

Celebration Assemblies

Each Friday, we extend an open invitation to families to join us at our weekly 'Celebration Assembly' where we celebrate the hard work, commitment and resilience of our children. One child from each class receives a 'Star Worker' award while a second child is 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

I have also been delighted to present children with a number of awards, achieved outside of school. Congratulations to those who have brought in recent awards detailing achievements in music, gymnastics, showjumping and skydiving (really!). We firmly believe in celebrating the '*whole child*' and value the support families give to allow their children to flourish in these areas. Please do continue to send in any such achievements alongside a brief explanatory note.

Families looking to attend our weekly assembly should feel free to make their way to the school hall after dropping their children off. Assemblies will start at 09:10am and last approximately fifteen minutes.

Class Assemblies

Each term, our classes will host a 'Class Assembly' where they will present aspects of their learning to their peers in the school community and any friends or family present. Following class assemblies, the weekly 'Star Worker' and 'Gold Awards' will be given out alongside any extra-curricular awards. An open invite to the school community is extended to these assemblies which will begin at 9:10am and last between 20 and 30 minutes.

Date	Class
Friday 09 November 2018	Primary 5 and 6
Friday 16 November 2018	Primary 7
Friday 23 November 2018	Primary 3 and 4
Friday 30 November 2018	Reception / Primary 1 and 2

MacMillan Coffee Morning

A very big thank you to every one that was able to support our MacMillan Coffee Morning on Friday 28 September. It was lovely to personally get to speak with so many of you and for the children to see many friends of school at our Celebration Assembly that preceded the event. Through your generosity, a very healthy £299.87 was raised. Thank you to everyone who contributed.



School Dinners / Healthy Break Payments

Where possible, please try to ensure that payments are sent to the office on Monday of any week that your child has a school meal or healthy break. Prompt payments greatly helps school in the administration of such matters.

Text Messaging Service

We have recently sent out two text messages to parents, testing that our text messaging system is functioning well. We wish to be able to use the service to keep the community informed of developments at school. If you didn't receive these messages, please inform us as soon as possible so that we can update your contact details.

Harvest Food Bank Donations

Ahead of our October Half Term Break, we warmly welcome any non-perishable in-date food items to be donated by the school community and received in school by Tuesday 16 October 2018. School will use the items as the focus for our assembly on this date before your donations will be sorted into emergency food parcels by volunteers at a local food bank, to be given to people in need. As ever, we are very grateful for your support.

P.E lessons

Please remember to check that your child has appropriate P.E kit, including footwear, in school on P.E days. **Children with pierced ears must be able to either remove their studs or bring their own plasters to apply to allow them to participate in the lesson.**

Class	P.E Days
Reception	Tuesday & Thursday
P1 / P2	Monday & Friday
P3 / P4	Tuesday & Thursday
P5 / P6	Thursday & Friday
P7	Monday & Wednesday

Drumming Tuition

We were delighted to be joined by Chris Mahood from 'Bang On' Drum Tuition on Thursday 27 September for a drumming taster session. Chris offers drumming tuition to children who are keen to express themselves musically. We warmly welcome interest from our children. Further information is available from the school office with places available on a first come, first served basis.

Diary Dates

Red font denotes new dates added since last newsletter

Date	Details
Tue 16 Oct 2018	Donations received for Harvest Assembly (to be given to local foodbank)
Fri 19 Oct 2018	PTFA Halloween Disco (1-3pm) - £1 per child
Mon 22 Oct – Thu 25 Oct 2018	School finishes at 12:45pm to allow Parent Interviews to commence at 1:15pm
Fri 26 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
Tue 13 Nov 2018	School Photographs (from 8:30am for younger siblings)
Tue 04 Dec 2018	Christmas Fair (5:30pm– 7:30pm)
Fri 14 Dec 2018	School Choir to perform at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Cloughey (7:30pm)
Tue 18 Dec 2018	Nativity Performance (1pm) and Carol Service (2pm)
Wed 19 Dec 2018	Evening Nativity Performance & Carol Service (6:30 – 7:30pm) → children to be in school from 6pm
Thu 20 Dec 2018	Whole School Visit to 'The Mac' to see The Elves and the Shoemaker- TBC (Letter to follow)
Mon 24 Dec 2018 – Fri 04 Jan 2019	School closed for Christmas
Mon 07 Jan 2019	School closed- INSET day