

# Kirkistown Primary School Newsletter

October 2021



## Parent Interviews

I am delighted I am able to confirm that parent interviews will take place as planned from **Monday 18 October to Thursday 21 October 2021**. Please note that school will close at 12:45pm for all children during this week, including on Friday 22 October, with school meals still being available throughout this week. As the arrangements for some of our classes will differ slightly this year, it is imperative that families take note of the following information carefully.

Class	Parent / Interview Format	First Appointment Time
Reception / Primary 1	Face to face	1:15pm
Primary 2 / Primary 3	Telephone	1:15pm
Primary 4 / Primary 5	Face to face	1:15pm
Primary 6 / Primary 7	Face to face	1:15pm

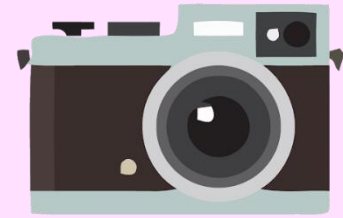
All families should now have received their appointment times; please contact the school office on (028) 42771455 if you haven't yet received yours.

## School Fund

Thank you to everyone who has contributed towards our School Fund. This money goes towards extras and luxuries that our school budget cannot cover, including the golden raffle, subsidising school visits and practical resources for classrooms. Your continued support of school is greatly appreciated.

# School Photographs

The photographer will join us on **Thursday 18 November 2021** for our annual photographs.



## PTFA

I am delighted to be able to announce the members of our new PTFA committee:

**Co-Chairs:** Brian Quinn & Andrew Munn

**Co-Secretaries:** Pamela Munn, Christine Quinn & Zelda Munn

**Co-Treasurers:** Lesley Ridgers & Jolene Agar

**Facebook Page:** Jolene Agar & Johneen McFerran

As parents and families of Kirkistown Primary School, you are members of our Parent Teacher & Friends Association. If you would like to be more involved in helping to bring our school community closer together following covid and in helping to organise enjoyable experiences that also raise funds for your school, please contact the school office to give permission for you to be contacted by the PTFA.

The PTFA are currently organising a Spooky Trail for children before half term. Watch their Facebook Page (and ours too!) for more details.

## Harvest Foodbank Appeal

Thank you to everyone for your very generous donations to our annual Harvest Foodbank Appeal. As ever, we have been overwhelmed by your donations and these will shortly be handed over the foodbank. We will continue to gratefully receive donations up to and including **Friday 15 October 2021**.



# School Trips and Visits

Pupils in Primary 3 – Primary 7 recently had a fun-filled experience at Todd's Leap (<https://toddsleap.com/>), in Ballygawley. We are deeply grateful to the team at Wheelworks for their continued generosity to us; the children had a fantastic time undertaking a wide range of exciting activities. Photographs galore are available to view via our Facebook Page.





# Home Learning

## Phonics & Early Reading skills (P1-P4):

<http://www.kirkistownprimaryschool.com/early-reading--phonics-at-home.html>

We've received some very positive feedback about our phonics guides that can assist children in the development of early reading skills. By watching and repeating what they see in our videos, children can practice the individual sounds that each letter of the alphabet makes before they start to put them together to read short words **e.g.** c-a-t, n-a-p, t-a-p. Children will learn the 'pure sounds' of each letter rather than the letter name. This helps make it easier to blend the sounds together to read. The videos will introduce families to the pure sounds of each letter before introducing children to the sounds made by digraphs (2 letters) and a trigraph (3 letters). Our thanks are extended to the wonderful children who helped create these really useful guides.

Children will continue to have access to the following apps:



**Nessy-** <https://learn.nessy.com/account/login#/accountLogin>

Nessy is an excellent website which helps children develop their phonic knowledge which is typically directly linked to both spelling and reading fluency. Children reported finding this app very helpful and we were delighted to secure funding for this app until March 2022.

**Bug Club-** <https://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk/login?c=0>

Bug Club provides online reading with the option for younger readers to have texts read to them. There are quizzes to complete also.

**Times Tables Rockstars-** <https://play.ttrockstars.com/auth/school/student>

Times Tables Rockstars allows children the option to practice times tables in a timed or untimed scenario. There are even competitions held periodically and also a world record exists!

In addition, a great number of **maths** teacher videos for children are available to view on our website:

<http://www.kirkistownprimaryschool.com/maths-at-home.html>

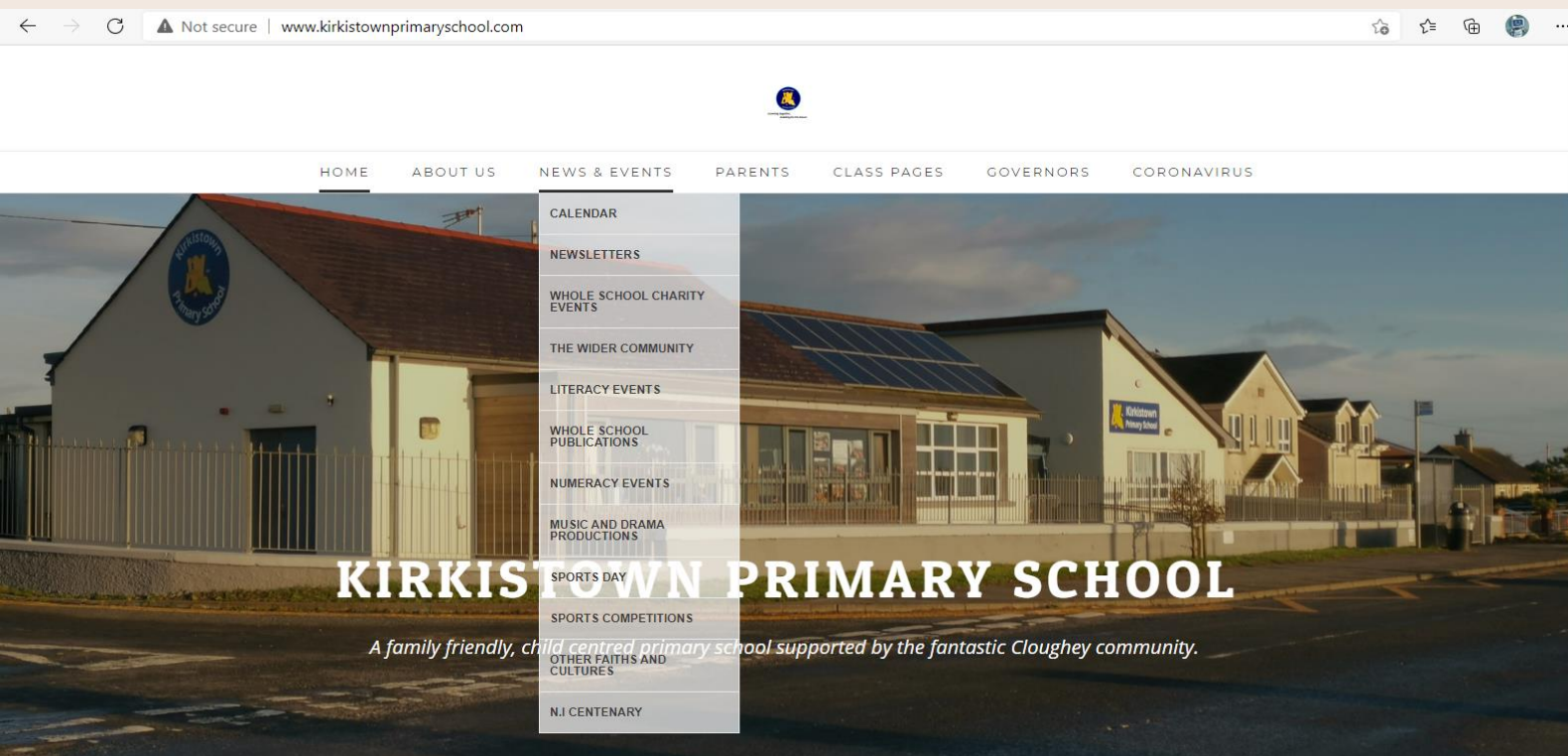
These maths videos are mirrored on our YouTube channel where now have nearly 70 subscribers with some of our videos having been viewed more than 2000 times!

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCk2P4BsM0Ti7umhkr8Cw1pA>

# School Website

Further pages and updated policies continue to be added to our school website. Our website is now a very useful source of information for our school community and we hope this may be helpful to families who require any assistance.

<http://www.kirkistownprimaryschool.com/>



## Class Pages

A reminder that all class pages can be viewed on our website to provide insight into what your children have been up to.

### Reception & Primary 1:

<http://www.kirkistownprimaryschool.com/reception-class--primary-1.html>

### Primary 2 & Primary 3:

<http://www.kirkistownprimaryschool.com/p2--p3.html>

### Primary 4 and Primary 5:

<http://www.kirkistownprimaryschool.com/p4--p5.html>

### Primary 6 and Primary 7:

<http://www.kirkistownprimaryschool.com/p6--p7.html>

Alongside our use of Seesaw (Foundation Stage and Lower Key Stage 1), Google Classroom (Upper Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2) and our Facebook page, we believe we're doing everything we can to keep you well informed.

# Diary dates

Our calendar, denoting any significant weekly events can accessed via our website. This has been updated to include Autumn Term 2021-2022:

<http://www.kirkistownprimaryschool.com/calendar.html>

# Term dates

Term dates for the 2021-2022 academic year can be accessed via a document on the following page:

<http://www.kirkistownprimaryschool.com/term-dates--holidays.html>

# Contact Us



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[www.facebook.com/KirkistownPrimarySchool](https://www.facebook.com/KirkistownPrimarySchool)



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCk2P4BsM0Ti7umhkr8Cw1pA>



**Learning together,  
building for the future**