

Kirkistown Primary School Newsletter

November 2021



Spooky Trail

After the fantastic success of the recent Spooky Trail, I would like to thank everyone involved for making such a great evening possible in such a short space of time. The time and energy put into the planning and delivery of the event was very greatly appreciated by all who attended and it was wonderful to be able to have families back in school, albeit in a more restricted manner than we would have liked. A full range of photographs are available to view via our website: <http://www.kirkistownprimaryschool.com/ptfa.html>



Updated Safer Schools N.I App

The Education Minister will be launching a brand new **Safer Schools NI App** across Northern Ireland on **Tuesday 9 November 2021**. Schools NI is a partnership between the [Department of Education](#) and [INEQE Safeguarding Group](#).

The digital world is 24/7; it's outside and inside of the school gates, so you need a service that does the same. Safer Schools NI is a digital library of age-appropriate safeguarding resources that you can check out anytime and from your phone to your computer to your classroom.

The Safer Schools NI App contains contextual safeguarding information, advice and guidance, researched and written by online safeguarding experts. It's interactive, with engaging content which is easy-to-access, simple to understand and intuitive to use. We provide contemporary, credible and relevant content and resources for your entire school community. The Safer Schools NI App is updated with the latest news and alerts as-and-when they happen so you'll also be in the know, in the here and now.

This App is designed to be a one-stop-shop for accessing essential safeguarding information, advice, and guidance. It's a reference point you can turn to any time, right there on your phone!

Parents can access the new app using the QR code and Entry Code: 0881



Parent / Carer

Primary



ENTRY CODE: 0881

DOWNLOAD QR CODE



Parent/Carer Primary
Department of Education

School Photographs

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



P6 & P7 Residential Update

Thank you kindly to all families who responded to our survey regarding a potential residential this year. With the ongoing uncertainty with Covid, a significant number of families expressed reservations about a residential this year. We will therefore instead pursue two adventurous days out for children in P6 & P7 for this academic year before hopefully returning to residential visits in 2022-2023.

Healthy Happy Minds Pilot

I am delighted to confirm that school has received a small amount of funding to take part in the Healthy Happy Minds Therapeutic Counselling Service Pilot Programme. The funding can be used to access counselling sessions and play therapy, subject to availability. Principals are already reporting difficulty in accessing these service, however, due to demand.



Christmas Arrangements

I am delighted to inform you of the following Christmas arrangements this year. While it may not be a full return to our normal Christmas festivities, we are so very happy to bring families back into school in small groups.

For each of the events below, socially distanced seating in the Montgomery Hall (our assembly hall) will be in place. All attending visitors will be required to wear a mask while indoors, follow the 1 way system to and from the hall and hand sanitise upon entry.



Date	Time	Class Involved	Who can attend?
Tues 07 December 2021	1:15pm – 2pm	P4 & P5- Songs and Poems	Strictly 2 members from each family
Wed 08 December 2021	1:15pm – 2pm	P6 & P7 – Songs & Poems	Strictly 2 members from each family
Thu 09 December 2021	10:30am – 11am	Rec & P1 - Nativity	Strictly 2 members from each family
Thu 09 December 2021	1:15pm – 2:00pm	P2 & P3- Nativity	Strictly 2 members from each family

Special Educational Needs

We have continued to update our website with additional parent leaflets ahead of the implementation of the 2016 SEND Act.

Information can found on the dedicated webpage:

<http://www.kirkistownprimaryschool.com/special-educational-needs.html>

Parent Teacher & Friends Association

The next PTFA meeting will therefore be held at school on **Monday 06 December 2021 at 5pm**. All parents/carers with children at the school are deemed to be members of the PTFA and are invited to attend this meeting. As part of this meeting, it has come to my attention that we need to have formal proposals and seconders for the official roles of Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer (and Vice-Chair, Vice-Secretary and Vice-Treasurer if deemed applicable). This will then allow a PTFA Constitution and Code of Conduct to be formally adopted.

If you are able to attend, it is essential that you **inform school by Thursday 02 December 2021** as we must have an overview of attending numbers as part of our Covid risk assessment. Please note that all attendees will be expected to wear a mask while indoors and follow other school Covid-related procedures.

Whole School Pantomime Visit

I am delighted to inform you that we have arranged for all our children to visit the Grand Opera House on **Thursday 16 December 2021** to watch **Goldilocks and the Three Bears**. This year, the Cloughey & District Community Association (CDCA) have accessed funding through Ards & North Down Borough Council which will very kindly pay for the coach travel therefore reducing the cost to you greatly. We thank the CDCA for their continued support of school. School would be grateful if you could please keep an eye out for the letter and make payment promptly and **by the deadline of Friday 26 November 2021**.



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>

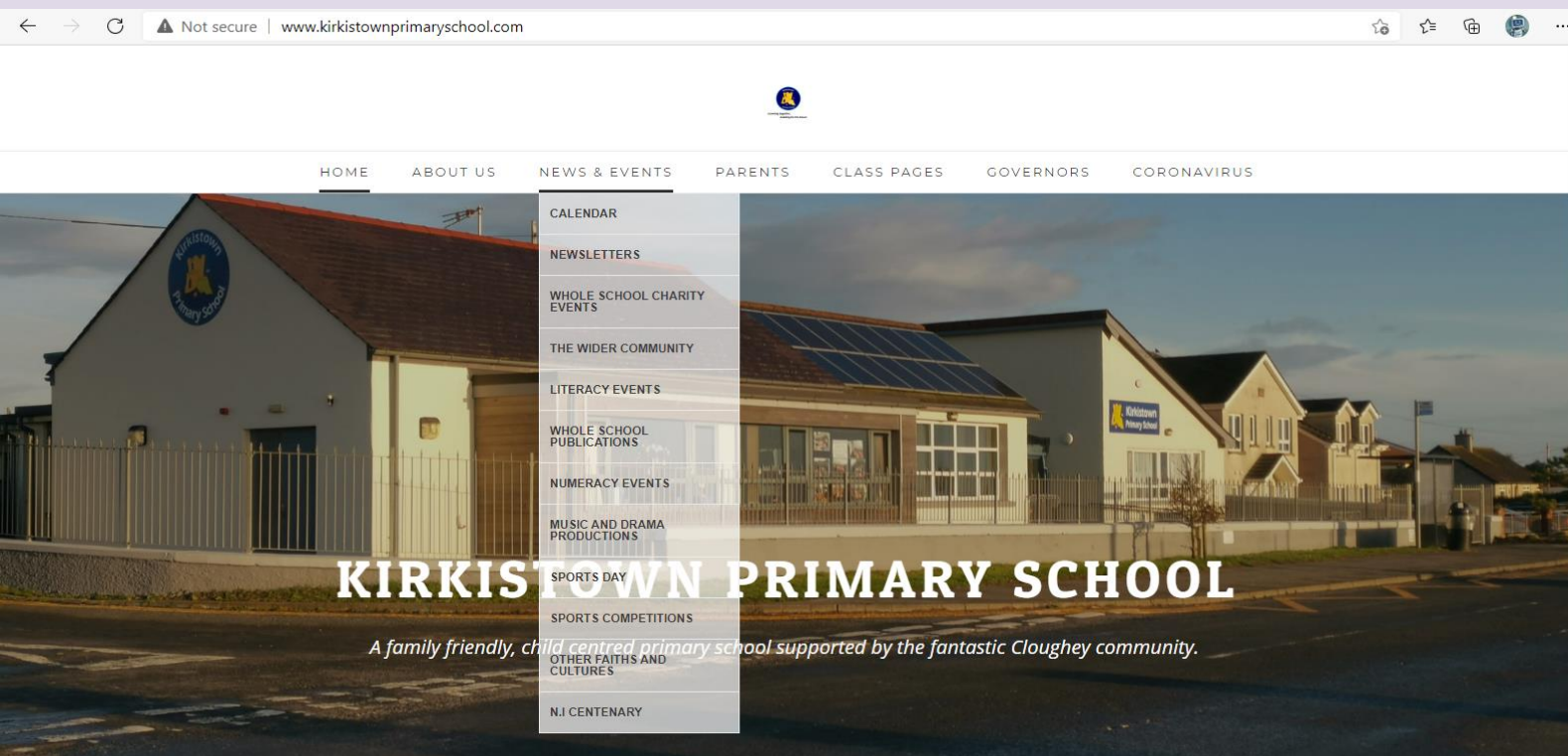
These maths videos are mirrored on our YouTube channel where now have nearly 70 subscribers with some of our videos having been viewed more than 2000 times!

<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.youtube.com/channel/UCk2P4BsM0Ti7umhkr8Cw1pA>



**Learning together,
building for the future**