

Kirkistown Primary School Newsletter

April 2022



Kirkistown does it again!

We are proud to announce that our Primary 4 & 5 children, together with their classroom assistants and teacher, have written and published a short novel.

'The Battle for the Kingdom of Yorel' follows the fortune of a small but beautiful Kingdom set in the remote countryside surrounded by forest and mountains. When the Kingdom's precious dragon egg and dragon staff go missing, the King is incredibly concerned. His team of trusted Knights set out with him to recover the missing items as the Kingdom comes under attack.

The short fantasy novel was planned and written collaboratively by the children who debated the plot at some length! The book is available to purchase globally through Amazon with a price of £2.83 set on the UK website. Find out more about how to purchase the novel via our website:

<http://www.kirkistownprimaryschool.com/whole-school-publications.html>

THE NEWTOWNARDS Chronicle & CO. DOWN OBSERVER
Est 1873 | LIVE LOCAL. LOVE LOCAL | Thursday 7th April, 2022 | £3.30

Portaferry facelift back on track after funding row collapse
£2m VILLAGES BOOST

Kirkistown pupils turn authors

PJW electrics
10 FRANCIS STREET, NEWTOWNARDS, CO. DOWN
TEL: 0181 52765
TEL: 0187 4256

Bosch
10 FRANCIS STREET, NEWTOWNARDS, CO. DOWN
TEL: 0181 52765
TEL: 0187 4256

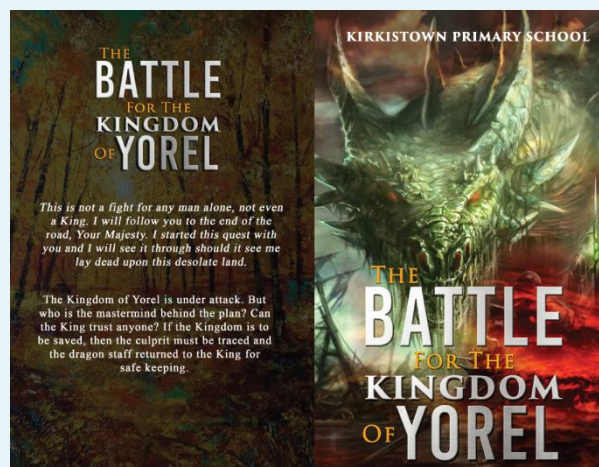
LG
10 FRANCIS STREET, NEWTOWNARDS, CO. DOWN
TEL: 0181 52765
TEL: 0187 4256

Beko
10 FRANCIS STREET, NEWTOWNARDS, CO. DOWN
TEL: 0181 52765
TEL: 0187 4256

Samsung
10 FRANCIS STREET, NEWTOWNARDS, CO. DOWN
TEL: 0181 52765
TEL: 0187 4256

Candy
10 FRANCIS STREET, NEWTOWNARDS, CO. DOWN
TEL: 0181 52765
TEL: 0187 4256

Siemens
10 FRANCIS STREET, NEWTOWNARDS, CO. DOWN
TEL: 0181 52765
TEL: 0187 4256



PSNI Visit

We were delighted to be visited by Chris from the PSNI Peninsula Neighbourhood Team on Thursday 7th April 2022. Our Road Safety Team wrote to the PSNI team before Christmas to arrange a visit and we are very grateful that Chris was able to spend some time with the children.

A number of issues around **Road Safety** and **Online Safety** were discussed. **Chris has asked if families can park their cars in the fantastic Cloughey Beach car park** and make the short 2 minute walk to school- particularly during the warmer weather. Concerns have been highlighted regarding children entering and exiting vehicles against oncoming traffic on Main Road. School wishes to join the PSNI in appealing to families to use the fantastic parking facilities at Cloughey Beach to ensure safety and lines of sight for all road users and pedestrians.

Chris also spoke to children about some of the relevant dangers of making content available to other online users through social media and popular apps. We strongly encourage children and families to ensure they are **checking privacy settings** on relevant apps and considering carefully if particular apps are age appropriate for children. A number of excellent guides are available to parents through our website:

<http://www.kirkistownprimarieschool.com/staying-safe-online.html>

See more photographs online via the fabulous P6 & P7 class page:

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



School Closure- Election

School premises are to be used as a polling station for the upcoming Northern Ireland Assembly Election on **Thursday 05 May 2022**. The Department of Education (N.I) has approved this date as an exceptional closure.

Reception & P1 Intergenerational Easter Party

Many thanks to **Linking Generations Northern Ireland** for providing us with a grant to hold an Intergenerational Easter Party. Children in Reception and Primary 1 had a wonderful time with members of the community who were able to join us. Children participated in an Easter egg hunt, enjoyed eating Easter treats and designed beautiful Easter bags to carry their Easter Eggs in. A huge thank you to our friends for coming along to join in the fun with us.



Castle Espie Visit

Reception & Primary 1 children had the most wonderful time on their class trip to Castle Espie. Their trip was very kindly funded by Cloughey Community and District Association and we were so pleased to have our friend Susan join with us again. The sun shone the entire day and children were kept busy by building bird nests, making 'smelly pots', listening to stories and searching for baby ducklings in the woodlands. They finished their day off by eating our lunch outdoors in the beautiful sunshine.

Find out more via the their fantastic class page:

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



P6 & P7 Outdoor Adventure Day

Thank you to Noel Maguire, Vicky Mowbray and the team at the Education Youth Service who led our children on day of activities at the Conlig Daytime Outdoor Education Centre. Children had a wonderful time engaging in team building and survival skills, mountain biking, archery and even toasted marshmallows around a camp fire. Find out more via the their fantastic class page: <http://www.kirkistownprimaryschool.com/p6--p7.html>



Beach Clean

Our sincerest thanks to all our school community for their support with our recent sponsored beach clean. Your children were fabulous and have made a tangible difference to the beach. As part of the event, we distributed a number of prizes and received some lovely comments from members of the local community who saw how good the job undertaken by our children was. Once again, we are really grateful for your support.



Fun Day

Following our Beach Clean, and basking in the beautiful sunshine, children enjoyed bouncy castles and treats. I'm fairly sure that I saw some teachers and classroom assistants enjoying themselves too! Thank you to the Cloughey & District Community Association for their kindness in applying for funding from Ards & North Down Borough Council.



Healthy Eating

Campbell Keatings from Tesco very kindly visited us in school on Friday 08 April 2022. Campbell spoke to the children about sustainability, recycling and fair trade while bravely taking on questions on a host of different types of fruit. Campbell very kindly left us with samples of fruit which we shared out between our classes and we will look forward to seeing him again during summer term.



Golden Raffle

Congratulations to our Golden Raffle winners, drawn this morning. While he was with us, Campbell (Tesco Community Champion) presented our golden raffle winners with their prizes and also got to see items purchased with a recent Tesco Community Grant.



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.

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>

Attendance

As we hopefully begin to emerge from the impact of another Covid strain, school is anticipating a visit from the Educational Welfare Officer before the end of the year. While the impact of Covid will have impacted attendance, it is important that children attend school when they are well enough to do so and that **school is notified of any reason for absence on the first day of absence.**

Registers close at 9 a.m. with lessons beginning promptly thereafter. Late arrivals cause disruption for both the latecomer and the rest of the class. Please do everything in your power to safely deliver your children to school on time. The school office will start issuing late notifications to parents to help them keep a track of arrival times.

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

Looking Ahead...

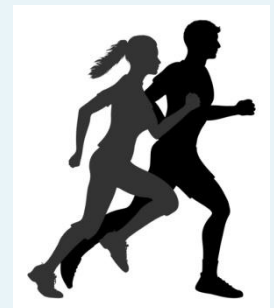
Swimming

Families will have received a letter regarding Swimming lessons, as part of our P.E curriculum, for summer term. Due to the pandemic, we have not been able to take children swimming for some time. We will once more utilise the wonderful modern facilities at the Ards Blair Mayne Wellbeing and Leisure Complex. One of the many advantages of using the facilities at Ards is a pool that ensures less confident and non-swimmers can stand on the ground and have their faces and heads out of the water. While there, children will also benefit from an additional sports session in the excellent dome facilities. In order to access these sessions, we require families to help with the cost as unfortunately the school budget simply cannot stretch to pay for them.



Cross Country

We will look to host our annual School Cross Country Championships & House competition during summer term. This year's event will be **sponsored by Tesco** and are very grateful for their support.



Platinum Jubilee

School is busy planning for the celebration around the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We look forward to sharing our plan with you in the near future.

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/>



HOME

ABOUT US

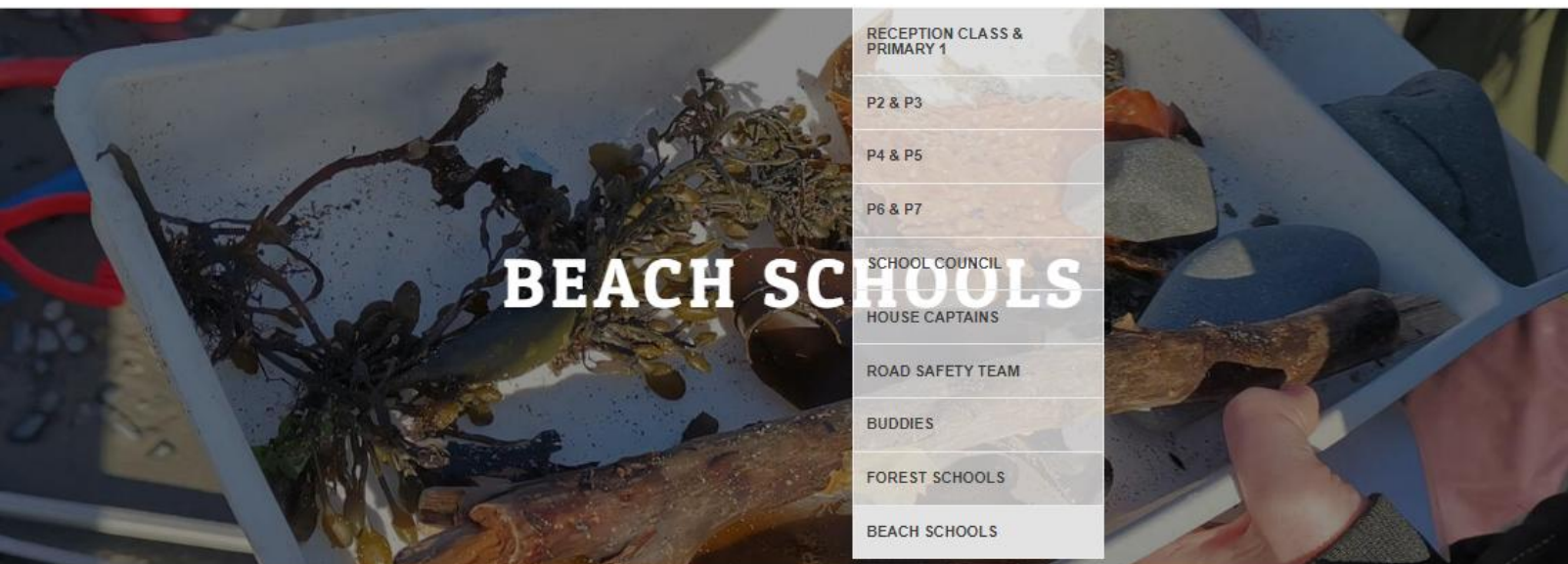
NEWS & EVENTS

PARENTS

CLASS PAGES

GOVERNORS

CORONAVIRUS



RECEPTION CLASS & PRIMARY 1

P2 & P3

P4 & P5

P6 & P7

SCHOOL COUNCIL

HOUSE CAPTAINS

ROAD SAFETY TEAM

BUDDIES

FOREST SCHOOLS

BEACH SCHOOLS

WHAT IS A BEACH SCHOOL?

Beach School is a new development of the internationally acclaimed Forest Schools Programme which places an emphasis on outdoor learning and engagement for children of all ages. The aim of Beach Schools is to get children

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 the latter part of Spring 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



Kirkistown Primary
School,
Main Road,
Cloughey,
County Down,
BT22 1JA



(028) 4277 1455



www.kirkistownprimaryschool.com



info@kirkistownps.newtownards.ni.sch.uk



www.facebook.com/KirkistownPrimarySchool



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



**Learning together,
building for the future**