

Kirkistown Primary School Newsletter

March 2019



Learning together,
building for the future

100 days of school

We recently celebrated our 100th day of the school term with children in all classes enjoying '100' themed lessons. Our exciting activities were published in the Chronicle and we received a letter from our local MP, Mr Jim Shannon, congratulating us on the coverage. Our thanks go to Miss Taggart for her hard work in organising the celebrations.



Visit from our local 'Seniors'

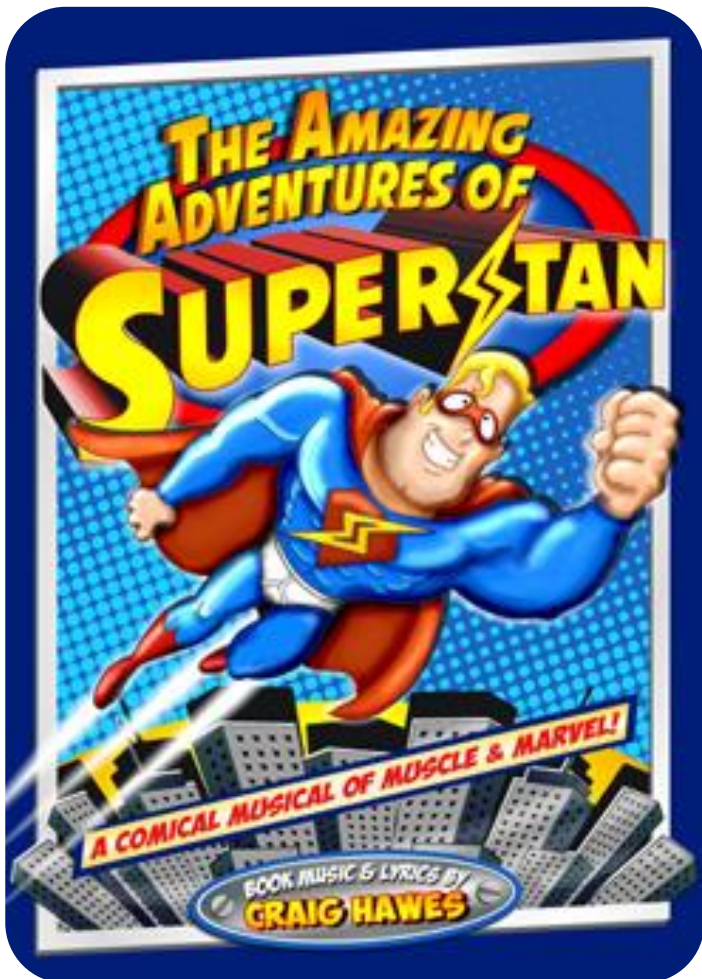
We were delighted to be joined on Monday 25 February 2019 by some local senior citizens from the Cloughey & District Community Association's Knit and Natter group. Four glamorous ladies dropped by to tell children about their experiences of growing up just a few years ago. The children were mesmerised by some of the old toys, photographs and tales that the ladies had to share. We would like to thank our special visitors and we look forward to have them return to visit us in the near future.



Cross Country Races

We are very pleased to announce that we are organising some cross-community cross country races with our friends in St Patrick's, Ballygalget. There will be separate races for boys and girls in Key Stage 1 and those in Key Stage 2 to be held on Wednesday 13th March.

If you are available to come and support the runners or lend a hand to set up the course or marshal, please let school know. The first race is due to start at 10:15am.



'Super Stan' Performances

Children in Key Stage 1 and 2 are busy rehearsing for their public performances of 'Super Stan'.

This marvellous musical packs a powerful punch with its witty script, crazy characters and spectacular songs, giving your cast and audience an unforgettable show that's quite simply... SUPER!

Children will perform the dress rehearsal to their friends from St Patrick's, Ballygalget before doors open to wider school community with public performances on Wednesday 10 April (daytime) and on Thursday 11 April (evening).



School Money Online Payments System

We have been using our online payments facility (SchoolMoney) since Monday 04 February. You now have the facility to make payments for school expenses, such as school meals, trips and Kids Club online with your debit or credit card from the comfort of your home. We hope that, in time, this will provide greater convenience for both yourself and for school. We are aware that there have been a few small teething problems with the transition and we are very grateful for your patience in this regard. Please make school aware of any issues you face with the system.



Mental Health Awareness



On Friday 25 January 2019, all our classes discussed the importance of having a positive self image. As appropriate to their age, children thought about what is great about themselves and how they make a positive impact on the lives of others. We also looked at relaxation techniques. Everyone had a great day.



Collecting children at the end of the day

Children still waiting to be collected ten minutes after the end of the day will be cared for by staff in Kids Club. While we do endeavour to be as helpful and flexible with families as we possibly can be, I am mindful that teaching staff have other school responsibilities to fulfil. Kids Club is available after school on most days at very reasonable rates. Further information can be obtained by contacting the school office.

There has been a lot of activity on social media this week regarding the Momo challenge. Whilst this appears to be a meme that has gone viral and created a lot of hysteria it reminds us of the need to ensure our children know how to keep themselves safe online.

Many young people have access to a number of messaging services (such as WhatsApp, Instagram, YouTube, Facebook Snapchat and through online gaming). We will, this month, be speaking to our pupils about staying safe online. Our **Key Stage 2 pupils** will be shown a video, aimed at 8-10 year olds, created by the Child Exploitation Online Protection Centre (CEOP) that discusses the importance of having appropriate security settings on social media sites, minimising online contact details and thinking about what personal photos appear online. In the meantime, we would warmly advise parents to view <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/> with your child. The website offers training to help children learn how to:

- Distinguish between safe and unsafe behaviours online
- Feel more confident to seek help from a trusted adult when they need it
- Understand how they can use the Thinkuknow 8-10s website to seek advice and support on staying safe online

The informative website provides clear and practical safety advice in the following areas:

Play – playing games online

Like – being kind to others online

Share – sharing videos and photos online

Chat – talking to others online

Lock – keeping information private

If you have any concerns about your child's online safety please feel free to get in touch with Mr Graham.

Class Assembly Dates

Each class will once again host an assembly this term where they showcase their learning in their new topic. As ever, we extend an open door to the school community to be part of the occasion. The assemblies will start at approximately 9:10am and last for about 15-20 minutes.

Date	Class
Friday 01 March 2019	Primary 7
Friday 08 March 2019	Primary 3 and 4
Friday 15 March 2019	Primary 5 and 6
Friday 22 March 2019	Reception, Primary 1 and 2

Diary Dates

Red font denotes new dates added since last newsletter

Date	Details
Fri 01 March 2019	P7 Class Assembly
Fri 08 March 2019	P3 and P4 Class Assembly P7 Titanic Quarter Trip
Wed 13 March 2019	Cross Country race with St Patrick's, Ballygalget
Thu 14 March 2019	Reception class- Big Bedtime Read Parent Workshops (11am)
Fri 15 March 2019	P5 & P6 Class Assembly PTFA Movie Afternoon (2-4pm)
Wed 20 March 2019	Library Visit / Big Bedtime Read Workshop for Reception, P1 & P2 (9:30am) P7 at Bee Safe event in Ards Leisure Centre (all children require a packed lunch)
Fri 22 March 2019	Reception, P1 & P2 Class Assembly
Thu 28 March 2019	Reception class- Big Bedtime Read Parent Workshops (11am) Children from Kirkistown Primary School to perform at Kirkistown Golf Club Cycling Proficiency Club starts
Mon 08 April 2019	'The Amazing Adventures of Super Stan' dress rehearsal
Tue 09 April 2019	Kirkistown team at the Susan Falkingham Quiz (Carrowdore Primary School)
Wed 10 April 2019	'The Amazing Adventures of Super Stan' day time performance (Time TBC)
Thu 11 April 2019	'The Amazing Adventures of Super Stan' evening performance (Time TBC)
Fri 12 April 2019	School finishes for Easter at 12:45pm. Non uniform day with £1 donation to school fund.
Mon 29 April 2019	School reopens P4 – P7 Swimming & Sports Session at Ards Leisure Centre. Payment required via SchoolMoney. Bus leaves at 9:10am sharp.

Mr R Graham
Principal