

# Kirkistown Primary School Newsletter

May / June 2022



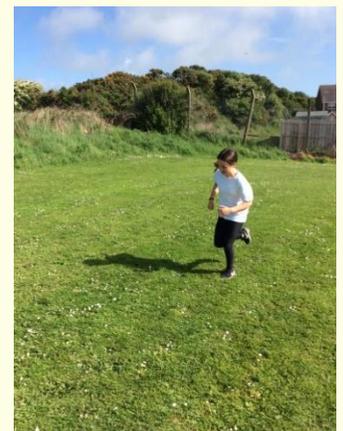
## Cloughey Cross Country Cup

After the non-stop rain the day before, we were delighted to be greeted by the beautiful sunshine for our annual school cross country championships. We were thrilled to have our Shared Education friends from St Patrick's, Ballygalget, join us as children tested themselves over the course at Calhame Pitch.

**Primary 3 & 4 children** set off for a two lap journey, covering a distance of approximately half a mile or 800m. After a typically frantically fast start, children settled in well to their races and all looked very proud of themselves for completing the course.

**Key Stage 2 children** (Primary 5, 6 & 7) faced an extra lap of 400m to bring their race distance of 1200metres. Both the girls and the boys did themselves proud with many managing a smile as they crossed the finish line to the applause of the spectators.

We were delighted to be able to invite parents along this year to watch and offer our thanks to those who were available to lend their support. As ever, the children from both schools were superb sports, clapping and cheering each other on to complete the course. A special thanks goes to Mr Harris who helped to assemble and disassemble the course: <http://www.kirkistownprimaryschool.com/sports-competitions.html>



# Kirkistown Cross Country Championship 2022

The Cloughey Cross Country Cup also incorporates our school Cross Country Championships. Our congratulations are offered to everyone who completed the course to receive their certificate and also to our individual medallists in each of the four races.



Key Stage 1 Medallists (Girls)



Key Stage 1 Medallists (Boys)



Key Stage 2 Medallists (Girls)



Key Stage 2 Medallists (Boys)

After all the points were totalled, the Cloughey Cross Country Cup was presented to the winning House Captain:

## House Competition

1<sup>st</sup> : Ringbuoy

2<sup>nd</sup> : Ardkeen

3<sup>rd</sup> : Ratallagh

4<sup>th</sup> : Cloughey



# Platinum Jubilee Public Holiday

School will be closed on **Thursday 02 June 2022** and **Friday 03 June 2022** as part of the platinum jubilee celebrations.

## Jubilee Celebrations

School will celebrate the Platinum Jubilee on **Monday 06 June 2022** with classes having parties, enjoying access to two bouncy castles and receiving commemorative gifts to mark the special occasion. The events will be funded by grants that school has successfully applied for and **all children should come to school in P.E kit on this date.**



Children in Primary 4 – Primary 7 will still attend swimming as normal on this date before enjoying their parties and time on the bouncy castles in the afternoon.

## Sports Day

School All classes will host their annual Sports Day, weather permitting, on **Tuesday 07 June 2022** at **Calhame Pitch**. Events will start at **10am** with a view to completing all events before 12noon. Reception children should then be collected at 12noon on this date.

We would like to invite families to join us this year in spectating and supporting all our fabulous children. We would, however, encourage you to remain vigilant with suitable social distancing and would really appreciate your encouragement for the children who may well be nervous in front of an audience for the first time in quite a while. Please note that children will not be permitted to go over to their family during the event.

While Sports Day does bring a competitive element, the focus will very much be on having fun with friends. As is tradition, we hope to be able to host a small race for toddlers and a separate one for parents. We hope you might be able to join us.

### **What all children will need:**

P.E Kit to be worn on the day

Sun hat or sun cream (depending on the weather)

A suitable drink

# Rounders Competition

Our P6&P7 Girls' Team placed 2nd at the Rounders Tournament in Portavogie on Wednesday 11 May 2022. Very well done, girls.

<http://www.kirkistownprimaryschool.com/sports-competitions.html>



## Operation Encompass

**Operation Encompass** is an early intervention partnership between the Police and schools, with the aim of best supporting children who have been victims of, or witness to, domestic violence. This is done by a simple short phone call from the Police, to the Designated Teacher, to share relevant information after the police have attended a domestic abuse incident, where a pupil has been present.

Operation Encompass started a decade ago in England and is now being rolled out to **every school in Northern Ireland**. A successful pilot project has taken place, covering around 160 schools in the Down, Newry and Armagh areas. The feedback from Designated Teachers has been very positive.

The regional rollout is being done on a staged basis. For schools in the **South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust area** – the launch date is the end of **September 2022**. Staff and governors will shortly receive training.



# Library Visits

## Primary 1

Children in Primary 1 were so pleased to receive a visit from the librarian at Portaferry Library! Children listened to stories, sang songs and recited Nursery Rhymes together. Thank you to the wonderful Aileen for her time:

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



## Primary 4 & 5

Primary 4 and 5 pupils were also visited by Aileen from Portaferry Library. We had fantastic conversations about our favourite books, authors and discussed if we'd liked to meet some of the characters we know from books we've read. We also shared a story- "I don't like books. Never. Ever. The end." Thank you so much to Aileen for her time:

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



## Cycling Proficiency

Children in P6 and P7 have been given the opportunity to complete their cycling proficiency. The course is designed to help children improve their bike handling skills and their knowledge and awareness of road safety.



## Easter Egg Trail

Our thanks are extended to Michelle, Neil & the team at Trinity Presbyterian Church who organised the Easter Trail for local community. The event was very well attended by both school families and the wider community whose generous donations saw £400 raised towards the cost of a permanent projector and screen in our assembly hall. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported the event.



# 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:

**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

Following a recent visit from the Educational Welfare Officer, we have been asked to remind all families that 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.**

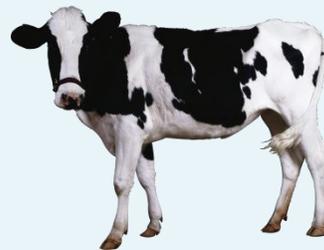
Registers close at 9 a.m. with lessons beginning promptly thereafter. Late arrivals cause disruption for both the latecomer and the rest of the class. Please do everything in your power to safely deliver your children to school on time. The school office will start issuing late notifications to parents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

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

## Looking Ahead...

### Farm Safety Assembly

On **Tuesday 14 June 2022**, we will be joined by Alex Wallace who will host a special 'Farm Safe' Assembly for Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils ahead of the summer holidays.



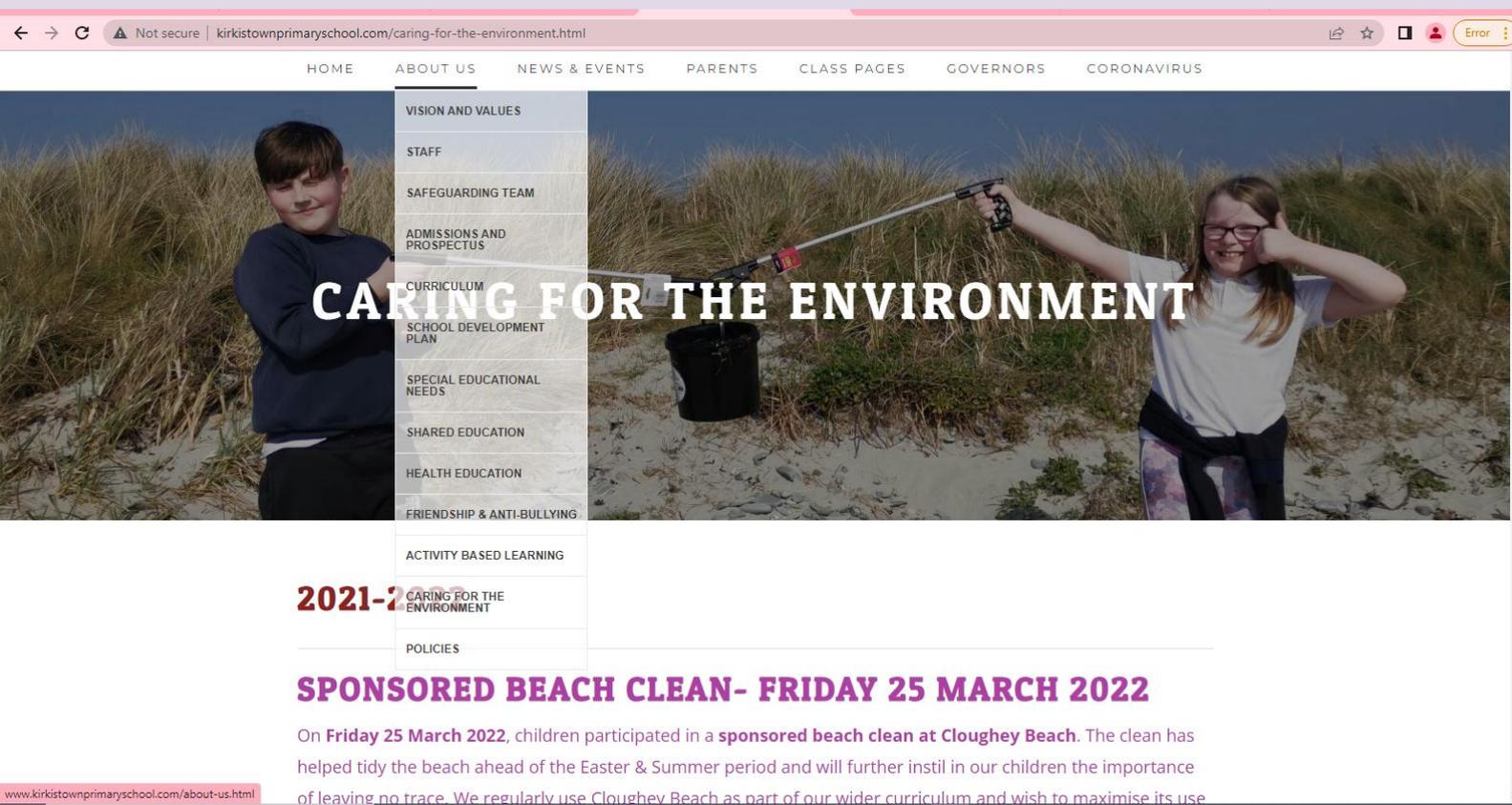
### P7 Leavers' Assembly

On **Monday 27 June 2022**, we will host our annual P7 Leavers Assembly at **1:30pm**. We would be delighted if families of P7 children were able to join us in marking the end of their child's time at Kirkistown Primary School and in celebration of their time with us. The assembly will last approximately an hour and each P7 child will have **two** seats allocated for adults to attend if they are able to do so.

Following the assembly, Primary 7 pupils may leave early with attending families and start their summer holidays. Only Reception – Primary 6 pupils need attend school on Tuesday 28 June and Wednesday 29 June.

# 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/>



The screenshot shows the school's website with a navigation menu at the top: HOME, ABOUT US, NEWS & EVENTS, PARENTS, CLASS PAGES, GOVERNORS, CORONAVIRUS. A central banner features two children on a beach cleaning up, with the text 'CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT' overlaid. To the left of the banner is a vertical menu with the following items: VISION AND VALUES, STAFF, SAFEGUARDING TEAM, ADMISSIONS AND PROSPECTUS, CURRICULUM, SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN, SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS, SHARED EDUCATION, HEALTH EDUCATION, FRIENDSHIP & ANTI-BULLYING, and ACTIVITY BASED LEARNING. Below the menu, there is a section for '2021-2022 CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT' with a sub-link for 'POLICIES'. A purple heading reads 'SPONSORED BEACH CLEAN- FRIDAY 25 MARCH 2022'. Below this, a paragraph states: 'On Friday 25 March 2022, children participated in a sponsored beach clean at Cloughey Beach. The clean has helped tidy the beach ahead of the Easter & Summer period and will further instil in our children the importance of leaving no trace. We regularly use Cloughey Beach as part of our wider curriculum and wish to maximise its use'.

## 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 be accessed via our website: <http://www.kirkistownprimaryschool.com/calendar.html>

## Term dates

Term dates for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 academic years 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](http://www.kirkistownprimaryschool.com)



[info@kirkistownps.newtownards.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@kirkistownps.newtownards.ni.sch.uk)



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



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



**Learning together,  
building for the future**