

Kirkistown Primary School Newsletter

June 2021



Summer Break

On behalf of school, I would like to thank all our parents and carers for your support during a challenging year. During the period of remote learning (January-March 2021) we were all called on to work in different ways and this will have undoubtedly been a challenging time for our children, for our families and for the wider community. School is extremely grateful for the support shown by our families in assisting their children with home learning while looking after their many other responsibilities. I am very pleased to have read so many positive school reports and am really appreciative of how our children, families and our school staff were able to pull together during these times.

I am hoping that all our children and families will now be able to enjoy a fantastic summer and have the opportunity to relax, get plenty of fresh air and make the most of our beautiful countryside before we see you again on Thursday 26 August 2021.

For those families who are keen to revisit and rehearse some key skills learned this year, school has made a number of useful pages available to you on our website:

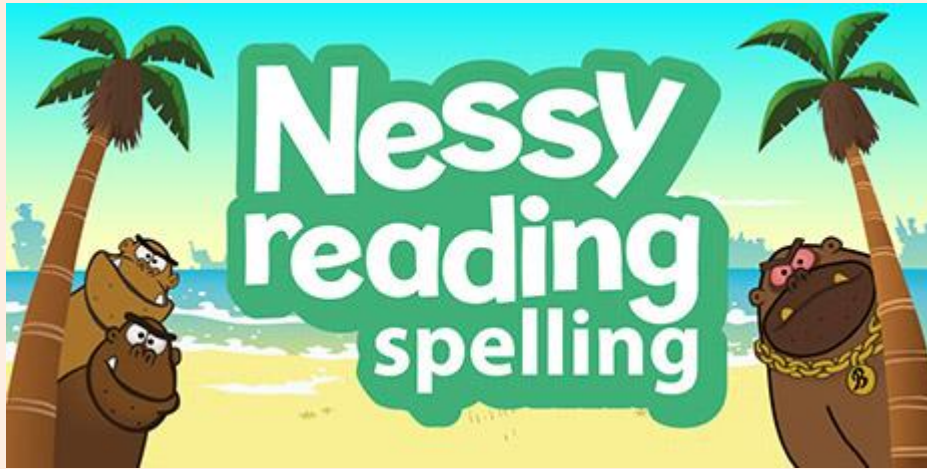
Phonics & Early Reading skills (P1-P4):

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

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).

Access to Apps and Web Services

Children will continue to have access to the apps they use all year round including:



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 have reported enjoying this greatly this year.

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 number of **maths** teacher videos for children are available to view on our website:

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

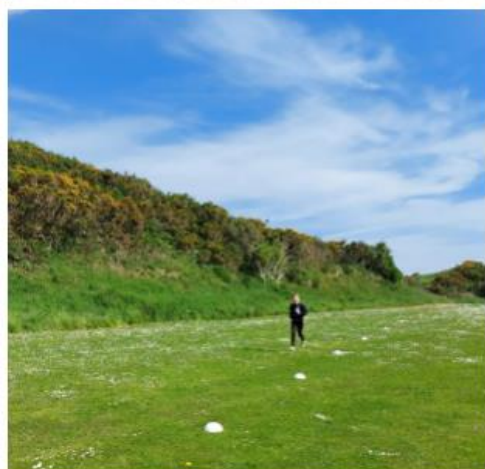
Principal Release Teacher

I am pleased to confirm that the P4 / P5 Principal Release Teacher will be Miss Boyle. Children from across school have been working with Miss Boyle as part of the Engage Programme this year and, having spoken with many of the children, I have received lots of positive feedback on these sessions. As with any Principal Release Teacher, I will be working closely with Miss Boyle to ensure consistency for our children.

Kirkistown Cross Country Championships

We were blessed with beautiful summer weather for our re-arranged Inter-House Cross Country Championships at Calhame Pitch on Wednesday 02 June 2021. With each runner finishing, the points were quickly accumulating for their respective house teams. 2019 winners, Ardkeen, were determined to retain the Cloughey Cross Country Cup but ultimately it was Ringbuoy who were this year's victors. Despite the competitive nature of the event, the single most pleasing aspect of the day was the support that children offered to one another. From the far end of the field, the roar of support followed the runners as they progressed around the field passing each class who offered words of encouragement and clapping. We couldn't be prouder of all our children for their efforts today and their fantastic sportsmanship. The event would not have been possible without the generous support of the parent volunteers who helped to assemble and disassemble the course, with marshalling and with recording the finishing positions. Our thanks are extended to Mr & Mrs Harris and also Mr & Mrs Williams for their generosity with their time.

A full race report is available on our website via the following link:
<http://www.kirkistownprimaryschool.com/sports-competitions.html>



Forest School Fun with Primary 2 & 3

Thank you to all the helpers who have made the continued success of Forest School possible.

Forest School Fun with Primary 2 and 3



Children from Primary 2 and 3 have been celebrating the Forest School activities they have carried out this year. We have enjoyed exploring the beach, grass area, football field and have even managed to bring the 'forest' to school. We wouldn't have been able to do any of this without the continued time and support of the additional staff who have been involved. On behalf of all the children and myself I would like to thank each one for their time and dedication throughout the year- it has been greatly appreciated by all and we wouldn't have been able to have as much fun without all your help!

P2 & 3 and Miss T



Sports Day 2021

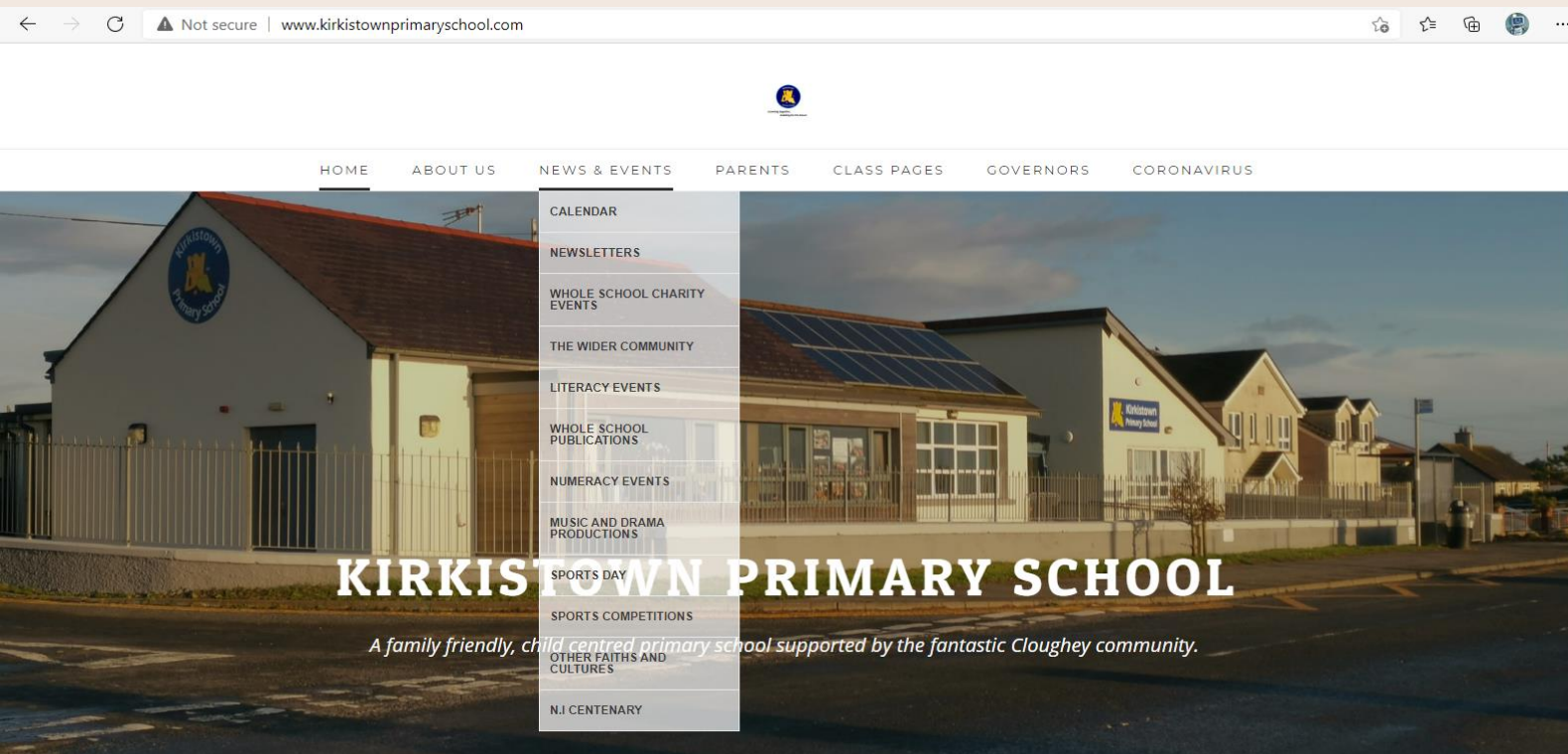
While we were saddened not to be able to have parents join us for our Sports Day today, we made the very best of it and the children had a great time competing in a range of traditional sports events. We hope you enjoy our photographs and videos available on our school website:

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



School Website

Further pages and updated policies have been added to our school website during the period of remote learning. 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:
<http://www.kirkistownprimaryschool.com/calendar.html>

Term dates

Term dates for the 2020-2021 academic year can be accessed via a document at the bottom of 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**