

Kirkistown Primary School Newsletter

May 2019



Learning together,
building for the future

Royal Performance

We were delighted to be invited along with our friends at St Patrick's, Ballygalget- to perform for H.R.H The Duke of Kent at Kirkistown Golf Club on Thursday 28 March 2019. Twenty five children from P3 – P7 attended, performing 'Love, Peace and Happiness'. The children received the royal seal of approval for their excellent singing and conduct throughout the visit.

Two of our children were also selected to show their golf skills on the putting green for the royal visitor.

Our thanks go to the team at Kirkistown Golf Club, led by Mrs McDowell for their hard work and kind invite to our children.



Swimming lessons

The swimming programme for P4 – P7 children has been arranged at Ards Lesiure Centre on their fantastic new site. All classes will be attending on a Monday morning. Classes will leave school at 9:10am and return to school at midday in time for school dinners and lunches. Transport will be via two school buses.

We will be attending on the following dates:

Mon 29 April 2019

Mon 13 May 2019

Mon 20 May 2019

Mon 03 June 2019

Mon 10 June 2019

Mon 17 June 2019

Please note that the first session is on the first day back after the Easter holiday.

Sessions are now available for payment via SchoolMoney and it is essential that they are paid for in advance.

Cloughey Cross Country Races

The inaugural Cloughey Cross Country Races were held at Calhame Pitch on Wednesday 13 March 2019. Children from Kirkistown Primary School and St Patrick's, Ballygalget competed in races over 800m (Key Stage 1) and 1200m (Key Stage 2). Every finisher received a certificate for completing the course.

The event also doubled as our school championships with children competing both individually and for points for their house teams. The spirit among the runners was highly commendable with great determination and resilience on display.

Our thanks are extended to the staff from St Patrick's for joining us for the event and specifically to the team of parent helpers from Kirkistown who helped mark out the course, marshal the event and take finishing positions. Without this support, the event would not have been possible.



Key Stage 2 Boys medallists



Key Stage 2 Girls medallists



Key Stage 1 medallists



The winning House Captain



The finish in sight



Runners on the final lap

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.

World Book Day

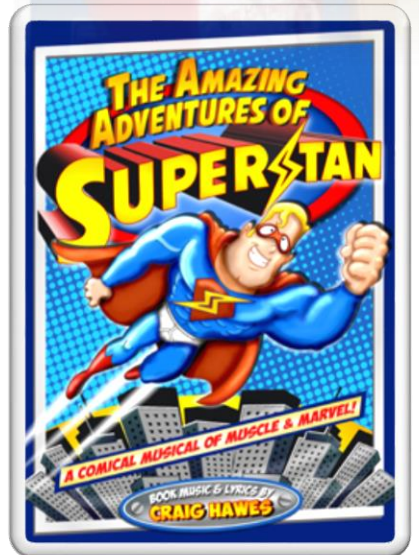
We recently celebrated World Book Day with some children choosing to dress up as some of their favourite or most feared book characters. A wonderful 'book' assembly, featuring a parade of characters was led by Mr Irwin. Can you guess who the wonderful characters are below?



'Super Stan' Performances

Congratulations to the wonderful cast of our recent production- 'The Amazing Adventures of Super Stan'. Children performed the dress rehearsal to their friends from St Patrick's, Ballygalget before doors opened to the wider school community with public performances held on Wednesday 10 April (1:15pm) and on Thursday 11 April (6:30pm).

The children grew in confidence with each performance, producing a stunning finale on the Thursday evening. As ever, our thanks are extended to the children for all their hard work, to families for their support and to the staff and volunteers who helped prepare the children and the wonderful set. Your support is greatly appreciated.



There has been a lot of activity on social media recently 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.



Spring Term Class Assemblies

Our class assemblies for Spring Term were completed just before our Easter break. I'd like to thank all the children for their wonderful presentations, the staff for their hard work to prepare the children and to our school community for attending and assisting with their children's learning at home. We are all very proud of you.

Dates for our Summer Term Class Assemblies are available at the bottom of the newsletter.

Sponsored Beach Clean

We finished our Spring Term with a sponsored beach clean on a very blustery Friday 12 April 2019.

While at first the beach seemed very clean, it wasn't long before our eagle-eyed children spotted litter along the length of the beach. Assisted by a team of parent helpers, the children were impeccably behaved and very thorough with their duties. The children were very kindly awarded voucher for a free ice-cream from local business, Chip Buddy.

On behalf of school, I would like to thank the local Cloughey and District Community Association for organising the clean and inviting us to participate. Our thanks go also to our parent helpers and our PTFA who assisted. Funds raised from this event and the upcoming Summer Fair will be used to take children on visits. Thank you, as always, for your support.



Cross Country Call-Up

We recently attended the North Down and Ards Cross Country event at Londonderry Park on Wednesday 03 April 2019. Our team of 16 (8 boys and 8 girls) had to cope with cold, blustery conditions and a demanding 1.9km race distance but did so incredibly admirably. Our team were very well supported by friends and family who cheered them on as they battled with the conditions as the weather closed in.

As a result of the races, I was delighted to be informed that Samuel has called up to represent North Down and Ards in the Area final at Ormeau Park on Thursday 23 May 2019. Congratulations to Samuel and to all the runners for representing us so well at the event- you made everyone very proud indeed.



First Responders

We were fortunate to have a visit from one of our local first responders on Wednesday 03 April 2019. Mrs Millar dropped in to work with our P7 pupils demonstrating some life-saving techniques and showing some of the equipment used. The First responders are currently bidding for funding from the National Lottery as part of the People's Projects. To support this worthwhile cause, please vote for them, by visiting: <https://www.thepeoplesprojects.org.uk/projects/view/hand-on-heart>



School Finishing Times

Following consultation with the Board of Governors, it has been agreed that school will now finish at the new time of **2pm every Friday for all classes** beginning the **week commencing Monday 03 June 2019**. School staff will remain on site completing other duties while Kids Club will remain available from 2-3pm for those families who might need to avail of this service.

How children will benefit from this change:

By making adjustments to our existing timetable, children will now have more time in class. Firstly, the school day will begin at 9:00am **with registers closing at this time**. Morning break will be reduced to 20 minutes (10 minutes play and 10 minutes snack time) with lunch being reduced to 40 minutes (20 minutes eating time and 20 minutes play time). These changes will result in an additional 1 hour and 40 minutes of learning time each week.

We will now also be able to offer 30 minutes per week for class teachers to work specifically with children on the Special Educational Needs register. A further 30 minutes will be set aside for class teachers to work with children who are finding aspects of the curriculum tricky. These mop-up sessions will be in response to lessons and will benefit pupils who need a little extra time or practice at a particular aspect of core curriculum areas. As the children involved in these sessions will likely change week by week, school will not be writing to parents to inform them that their child has attended. These discussions will, instead, become part of parent interviews.

Regrettably, the yellow bus service cannot be changed to a 2pm pick-up. It will, however, continue to stop at 3pm for those families who wish to access Kids Club from 2pm – 3pm.

These changes are designed to give every child the opportunity to fulfil their potential- every child will have more time in class and those with a Special Educational Need will have greater access to their teacher in a small group setting. Should you have any concerns, I would be happy to discuss these with you.

Diary Dates

Red font denotes new dates added since last newsletter

Date	Details
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.
Thu 02 May 2019	School Closed – Polling Station
Mon 06 May 2019	School Closed- Bank Holiday
Wed 08 May 2019	Visit from NSPCC- Assemblies (P1 upwards) and Workshop (P6 and P7)
Fri 10 May 2019	Football and Rounders Tournament at Glastry College
Mon 13 May 2019	Assessment Week in School
Wed 22 May 2019	Library Visit to Reception / P1 / P2 Area XC Final at Ormeau Park
Thu 23 May 2019	School closed to be used a polling station in the European Elections
Mon 27 May 2019 & Tue 28 May 2019	School Closed- Bank Holiday School Closed- Inset say
Wed 29 May 2019	Drowning Prevention Visit from RNLI
Mon 03 June 2019	Sports Day
Wed 05 June 2019	Football and Rounders Tournament at Portavogie
Fri 07 June 2019	P5 & P6 Class Assembly
Fri 14 June 2019	P3 & P4 Class Assembly
Fri 21 June 2019	Reception / P1 & P2 Class Assembly, Prize Day, School Reports to go home
Mon 23 – Wed 26 June 2019	P6 / P7 Residential at Greenhill
Thu 27 June 2019	P7 Leavers Assembly at 2pm
Fri 28 June 2019	School Finishes for Summer (12 noon)