



## **October 2022 Newsletter**

Congratulations to all our newly elected representatives who were recently presented with their badges at assembly. At Good Shepherd, the children's voice is important to us in our decision making. We value the children's opinions and we encourage them to express their thoughts and feelings on what matters to them. We look forward to working with our student council, eco council and digital leaders in ensuring our school is the best it can be for them.



**Digital Leaders 2022-23**



**Eco Council 2022-23**



## Student Council 2022-23



**School Dinners:** Please ensure that all school dinners are paid for in advance via parent pay. If you require any assistance, please contact the school office. The dinner menu for the Primary School and the Nursery can be found on the school website in the parents section here:

<https://www.goodshepherdps.net/parents-area/dinner-menu/>

## PE uniform:

- P1/2: plimsolls to be left in school.
- P3-7: **Plain** navy bottoms, plain white polo shirt/t-shirt and school jumper or plain navy zip up/jumper/hoodie and trainers. Individual class teachers will inform your child on what day they will have PE.



## Attendance Matters!

As you are already aware it is essential that your child attends school regularly and maintain a pattern of good attendance throughout their school career.

Excellent attendance at school is important to allow children to fulfil their potential. Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning.

In school we have an obligation to monitor children's attendance very closely and to report attendance percentages to the Education Welfare Officer on a regular basis.

Punctuality is essential as each time a child is late to school they are marked late and when they arrive after registration has closed (09:15)- this impacts on their attendance.

If your child's attendance is causing concern, we will follow the agreed procedures in school:

- The class teacher will inform you of your child's attendance percentage (below 90%)
- If attendance continues to cause concern, then you will receive a letter from DTCP in school
- If attendance continues to cause concern, then you will be invited to a pre-referral meeting in school. Our EWO Mrs Aine Hudson may be in attendance
- If your child's attendance is 85% or below/causing concern, we are obliged to make a referral to EWS.

It should be noted that holidays must **not** be arranged during the school terms. Sufficient notice of school holiday dates is given to parents/guardians in order for holidays to be arranged during these times.

We as a school, want to help support you in improving your child's attendance in order for them to reach their full potential.

If you need to discuss any issues surrounding absences or support strategies that can be put in place to improve attendance, during the school year, please contact Mrs McCafferty or Mrs Harley at the school.



## EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS –

Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning.

Attendance percentages can be misleading.

100% Attendance	0 Days Missed	Excellent
95% Attendance	9 Days of Absence 1 Week and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Satisfactory
90% Attendance	19 Days of Absence 3 Weeks and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Poor
85% Attendance	28 Days of Absence 5 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	Very Poor
80% Attendance	38 Days of Absence 7 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	Unacceptable
75% Attendance	46 Days of Absence 9 Weeks and 1 Day of Learning Missed	Unacceptable

For some parents, 90% may seem like an acceptable level of attendance, but the reality is that 90% attendance means that your child will miss half a school day each week or 19 days of school during the school year – that's nearly 4 school weeks.



Give your child the best start in life – every school day counts.

**Please ensure that you contact the school office in the morning if your child is not able to attend school. Attendance updates will be issued to parents/guardians for the month of September in due course as we continue to monitor attendance and offer support where needed.**

## Important Dates in October:

Date	What's on?
3-7/10/22	Cycle to School Week
3/10/22	Maiden City Soccer after school club 3-4pm P5, P6 & P7
4/10/22	Derry Journal photographs for P1 'first day at school' supplement.
4/10/22	Multi-sport after school club 2-3pm P1 & P2 3-4pm P3-P7
5/10/22	Primary 6 schools swimming programme WK5
5/10/22	Dance Club 2-3pm P2 3-4pm P3 & P4
6/10/22	Maiden City Soccer after school club 2-3pm P1 & P2 3-4pm P3 & P4
7/10/22	P4 Mr Doherty/Miss Gillespie's Class Assembly 9.30am- Parents/Guardians of this class are welcome to attend in the assembly hall
11/10/22	Multi-sport after school club 2-3pm P1 & P2 3-4pm P3-P7
12/10/22	Primary 6 schools swimming programme WK6
12/10/22	Dance Club 2-3pm P1 & P2 3-4pm P3-P4
13/10/22	Maiden City Soccer after school club 2-3pm P1 & P2 3-4pm P3-P7
14/10/22	Primary School Cross Country League Race 1 @Thornhill College
14/10/22	P4 Mrs Connor's Class Assembly 9.30am- Parents/Guardians of this class are welcome to attend in the assembly hall
17-21/10/22	Maths Week Ireland
18/10/22	Multi-sport after school club 2-3pm P1 & P2 3-4pm P3-P7
19/10/20	Primary 6 schools swimming programme WK7
19/10/22	Dance Club 2-3pm P1 & P2 3-4pm P3-P4

Date	What's on?
19/10/22	School Photographer
20/10/22	School Photographer
20/10/22	Maiden City Soccer after school club 2-3pm P1 & P2 3-4pm P3-P7
21/10/22	Primary 5 Mrs Wilson's Class Assembly 9.30am- Parents/Guardians of this class are welcome to attend in the assembly hall
25/10/22	Multi-sport after school club 2-3pm P1 & P2 3-4pm P3-P7
26/10/22	Primary 6 schools swimming programme WK8
27/10/22	P7 Parent/Teacher Meetings- individual meeting times will be given
27/10/22	Maiden City Soccer after school club 2-3pm P1 & P2 3-4pm P3-P7
28/10/22	P7 Parent/Teacher Meetings- individual meeting times will be given
28/10/22	<b>Fancy Dress/non- uniform £1 per child in aid of NSPCC</b> Parky the Magician visit
31/10/22	<b>School Closed for the Halloween Holidays</b>

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October- Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November (inclusive)**

**School closed for Halloween Holidays**

**School reopens on Monday 7th November 2022**



## Safeguarding Information



I would like to take the opportunity to remind parents/guardians that **no cars are permitted inside the school grounds at any time** unless this has been pre-arranged with Mrs McCafferty or you are a blue badge holder. Please share this information with grandparents and childminders as refusal often causes offence. **Please ensure that the school gates are kept clear. Cars should not be parked on the yellow zigzag lines outside the school gates at any time.** Please talk to your child about general road safety. Please cross the road using the school crossing patrol. Enter and exit the school using the pedestrian gates only. Once your child is collected from school, please keep them beside you at all times. These measures are in the interest of everyone's health and safety. Thank you!

### Members of the Schools Safeguarding team are:

The Chair of the Board of Governors (Mrs M. Hegarty)

The Designated Governor for Child Protection (Dr M. Gormley)

The Designated Teacher for Child Protection (Mrs Maria Harley)

Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection (Mrs S. McCafferty).

Other members of Safeguarding Team:

Mrs P. Houston/Mrs R Warne /Mrs F Desmond/Mrs M Mc Cormack/Mr D Herron.

School policies can be found on the school website under the 'My School' section. There is also a wide range of support information for parents in the 'Parents Section' of the school website. This is updated regularly. The holiday list for this academic year and updated menus for school dinners can also be accessed here.

### Covid-19 Information

- Check your child's temperature every morning before they come to school
- If your child is displaying any symptoms of Covid-19, do not send them to school
- If your child tests positive for Covid-19 they can return to school after 3 days
- Please keep us informed to keep our school community safe 😊



Please ensure that you download the Schools NI App which is linked to our website. Click on the ? on the app and ensure that notifications are turned on.



**Learning starts at 9am every day.** It is important that your child is punctual for school. School gates open from 8.45am. Breakfast club is open from 8.10am. No need to book in for the breakfast club- £1 a day per child.