



April 2023 Newsletter



We look forward to welcoming back HURT into the school who will deliver a 6-week drugs and alcohol awareness programme to the Year 7 classes in preparation for their Confirmation Pledge.

Mrs Chambers will begin her maternity leave at Easter. On behalf of the entire school community we would like to wish her all the very best for the next few weeks and for the future. Mrs Duffy will be taking over in the Primary 2 class until Mrs Donnelly returns at the end of May.

Both Primary 7 classes will begin their block of swimming on Wednesday 19th April.

Primary 5 Mrs Wilson's class will begin their block of swimming on Friday 21st April.



- **Swimming costs £20, please pay via ParentPay.**
- **Children will need to wear a coat with a hood as they walk to and from the Foyle Arena each week.**

We will be holding our Easter Split the Pot raffle on Wednesday 5th April. Make sure you have your ticket in! We will also be holding an Easter Hamper draw on Wednesday which has been kindly donated by the Friends of Good Shepherd. Tickets will be £1. Our school councillors will be collecting this around the classes daily. Thank you for your continued support of the school and best of luck!



Date	What's on?
1/4/23	Sacrament of Confirmation. St. Columb's Church, Chapel Road. Mr Herron's class @ 11am Ms Forbes class @ 1pm
3/4/23	Lego Engineers Club Primary 1 & Primary 2: 2-3pm WEEK 3 Coding & Minecraft Club P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7: 3-4pm WEEK 3
4/4/23	Multi-sport after school club- WEEK 2 2-3pm P1 & P2, 3-4pm P3-P7
<p>Wednesday 5th April Non-Uniform No After school clubs School finishes at 12noon for all children. Dinners only being served. Those who take packed lunch should have lunch at home.</p>	
<p>School Closed for the Easter Holidays Thursday 6th April- Friday 14th April 2023 (inclusive)</p>	
<p>Monday 17th-Friday 21st April P3-P7 Standardised Assessment Week- please make sure your child is punctual for school to ensure the smooth administration of assessments</p>	
17/4/23	Lego Engineers Club Primary 1 & Primary 2: 2-3pm WEEK 4 Coding & Minecraft Club P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7: 3-4pm WEEK 4
18/4/23	<p>P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7. Cost £2 per child- Please pay via ParentPay M & M Productions 'The Hobbit' Key themes promoted by this story...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Friendship ·Diversity ·Decision Making ·Courage ·Teamwork ·Facing Challenges
18/4/23	Multi-sport after school club- WEEK 3 2-3pm P1 & P2, 3-4pm P3-P7
19/4/23	Dance Club- WEEK 2. 2-3pm P1 & P2, 3-4pm P3-P7
19/4/23	Primary 7 (both classes) Swimming Week 1 please pay via parent pay
19/4/23	Chess Club P5, P6 & P7. WEEK 3
20/4/23	Girls GAA Football Championship
20/4/23	Maiden City Soccer P1 & P2 2-3pm, LAST WEEK OF CURRENT BLOCK P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-4pm
21/4/23	Primary 5 Mrs Wilson's class Swimming Week 1 please pay via parent pay
24/4/23	Lego Engineers Club Primary 1 & Primary 2: 2-3pm WEEK 5 Coding & Minecraft Club P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7: 3-4pm WEEK 5
25/4/23	Multi-sport after school club- WEEK 4 2-3pm P1 & P2, 3-4pm P3-P7

Date	What's on?
26/4/23	Dance Club- WEEK 3 2-3pm P1 & P2, 3-4pm P3-P7
26/4/23	Primary 7 (both classes) Swimming Week 2
26/4/23	Chess Club P5, P6 & P7. WEEK 4
27/4/23	Maiden City Soccer, NEW BLOCK WEEK 1 P1 & P2 2-3pm P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-4pm (4 WEEKS ONLY) £10 Please pay via ParentPay. Payment secures place. Places allocated on a first come first served basis.
28/4/23	Primary 5 Mrs Wilson's class Swimming Week 2
28/4/23	Boys Gaelic Club Championship



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. Nursery-Primary 7 are welcome to attend. Please enter the school grounds via the Nursery pedestrian gate.**



WHY ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL IS SO IMPORTANT -

If a child of compulsory school age is registered at a school it is essential that they attend their school regularly and maintain a pattern of good attendance throughout their school career.

Excellent attendance at school is important to allow a child or young person to fulfil their potential.

Below are just some of the key reasons why it is so important children attend school:

- To learn.
- To have fun.
- To make new friends.
- To experience new things in life.
- To develop awareness of other cultures, religion, ethnicity and gender differences.
- To achieve.
- To gain qualifications.
- To develop new skills.
- To build confidence and self-esteem.
- To have the best possible start in life.



HOW PARENTS CAN HELP -

- Establish a good routine in the mornings and evenings so your child is prepared for the school day ahead.
- Make sure your child goes to school regularly and follows the school rules.
- Ensure your child arrives at school on time – not late.
- Arrange dental and medical appointments outside school hours when possible.
- Always inform the school if your child is absent due to illness – this should be followed up with a written note when your child returns to school.
- Take truancy seriously – if your child is not attending school as you expect they may be putting themselves at risk – Who are they with? What are they doing?
- Take family holidays outside term time.
- Talk to your child about school and take an interest in their school work (including homeworks).
- Attend parent evenings and school events.
- Praise and reward your child's achievements at school.
- Always support school staff in their efforts to control difficult or challenging behaviour.
- Discuss any problems or difficulties with the school – staff are there to help and will be supportive.



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. This is our central means of communication.

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 (Mr P. Duffy)

The Vice Chair of the Board of Governors (Mr N. Sproule)

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.



We would like to wish our entire school community a very happy Easter!