



October 2023 Newsletter

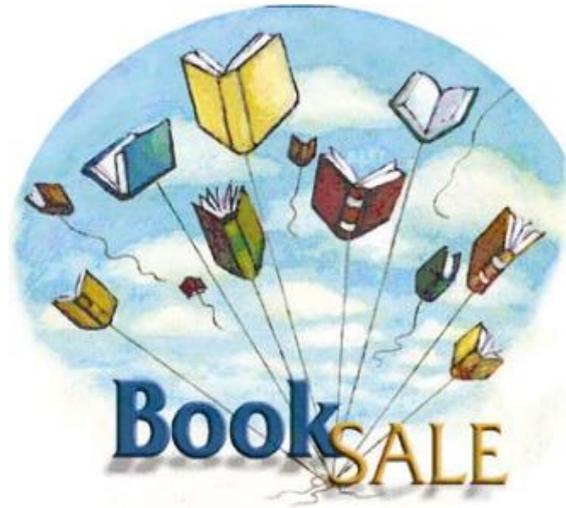
We are delighted to inform our school community that we have secured funding from Kellogg's to be able to offer each child in P1-P7 a piece of fruit for their break each day. Children are still welcome to bring their own healthy break if they wish. This scheme will start on Monday 25th September and will run until funding ends. **We will have apples, oranges and bananas on offer.**



We are celebrating Maths Week Ireland throughout our school from Monday 16th-Friday 20th October. There will be a wide variety of fun and engaging maths activities, problem solving and investigations going on both in and out of school. Click the links below to access various resources to support Maths at home here:

- <https://www.mathsweek.ie/2023/>
- <https://www.goodshepherdps.net/parents-area/useful-websites-and-resources/>

- <https://www.goodshepherdps.net/parents-area/educational-apps-to-support-learning/>



Our student council and eco council are also holding a 'bring and buy' book sale during Maths Week Ireland to support our financial capabilities curriculum and to reduce waste. All money raised will go to school funds.

Wednesday 18th & Thursday 19th October: have a clear out and donate children's books to the school office which are clean and in good condition.

Friday 20th October: Book Sale managed by our school councils. All books will be 20p each. All money raised will go to school funds. Any books not purchased will be used in our class libraries or will be donated to a local charity. Parents/Guardians also welcome to visit, browse and shop at: 9.15am-10am. This will be held in the school assembly hall.



If you think you are eligible for free school meals and uniform allowance, please see image below on how to apply. You have to apply every academic year.

Applying for _____

Free School Meals & Uniform Allowance

If you require help...

-  www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants
-  028 9041 8044
-  mealsanduniform@eani.org.uk

1. Are you eligible?

You must be:

- in receipt of a qualifying benefit OR
- be an Asylum Seeker supported by the Home Office Asylum Support Assessment Team (ASAT).

Qualifying Benefits:

- Income Support;
- Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance;
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance;
- Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit;
- Child Tax Credit or Working Tax Credit with an annual taxable household income of £16,190 or less;
- Universal credit and have net household earnings not exceeding £14,000 per year.

2. What documentation do you need?

You will be asked to upload proof that you are receiving a qualifying benefit:

- Tax Credits Award Notice
- Universal Credit Payments breakdown or
- Proof of Benefit letter (if you are in receipt of Income Support, Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Related Employment and Support Allowance or the Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit).

3. What else do you need?

- National Insurance Number
- Childrens' names
- Dates of Birth
- Schools they will be attending
- Address
- E-mail and telephone number
- Bank or building society account and sort code details.

4. Where do you apply?

Visit the EA's Free School Meals and Uniforms page to start an application. As well as new applicants, parents/guardians who are currently in receipt of Free School Meals & Uniform Allowance will need to apply again for this year. You will need to register with an e-mail address and create an account to apply. You will then be able to log back in to check your application

5. What happens next?

Your application will be processed within 3 weeks. Please do not contact EA for an update on your application within the 3 weeks of submitting your application. If you have provided incorrect or insufficient supporting documentation, you will receive a tailored email advising you to resubmit your application with details of the correct documentation you need to provide.

You will receive an email from EA once your application has been approved and processed.



Smart Watches: Reminder...

If your child's smart watch has a camera, or can accept messages, we ask that they do not wear them to school in the interests of child protection. Thank you

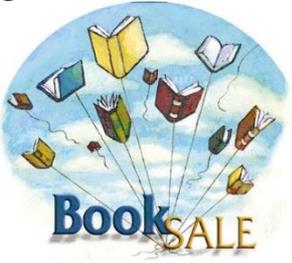


- Nursery children are welcome to attend our breakfast club!
- Breakfast club is open from 8.10am-8.30am.
- **Please only send your child if they are independent when eating to ensure their wellbeing.**
- Children should be accompanied by an adult to the canteen door.
- Please enter the **school grounds via the upper nursery gate** and directly into the canteen via the steps located beside the school reception area.
- The cost of this will be £1 per day, per child. This should be paid in cash each day to breakfast club supervisory staff. This charge covers the cost of food, cleaning supplies and staff.
- Children will have a choice of toast, cereals, fruit juice and milk each day.

At time of publication all dates are correct, any changes will be updated on the school website.

Date	What's On?
Monday 2nd October	After School Mini Professors P1 & P2: 2-2.50pm, P3 & P4: 3-3.50pm Week 2
Monday 2nd October	After School R9 Sports P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 2
Tuesday 3rd October	After School Singing lessons P1 & P2 2-2.45pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-3.45pm Week 2
Tuesday 3rd October	Derry Schools' Football Association Good Shepherd vs Chapel Road Good Shepherd vs St. Brigid's
Wednesday 4th October	Derry Journal visit to take photographs for P1 supplement
Wednesday 4th October	After School Guitar Lessons P5, P6 & P7 Week 3
Wednesday 4th October	After School Dance P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 2
Wednesday 4th October	Derry Central Library, the new Children's Commissioner, Chris Quinn, will be launching an exhibition highlighting children's rights called 'FOR EVERY CHILD...EVERY RIGHT!' Representatives from Good Shepherd Primary School will be attending
Thursday 5th October	After School Maiden City Soccer P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 2
Friday 6th October	Primary 4 Mr Doherty/Miss Gillespie's Class Assembly at 9.30am in the school assembly hall. Parents/Guardians welcome
Monday 9th October	After School Mini Professors P1 & P2: 2-2.50pm, P3 & P4: 3-3.50pm Week 3
Monday 9th October	After School R9 Sports P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 3
Tuesday 10th October	Derry Schools' Football Association Good Shepherd vs St. Brigid's Good Shepherd vs Greenhaw
Tuesday 10th October	After School Singing lessons P1 & P2 2-2.45pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-3.45pm Week 3
Wednesday 11th October	After School Dance P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 3
Wednesday 11th October	After School Guitar Lessons P5, P6 & P7 Week 4



Date	What's On?
Thursday 12th October	After School Maiden City Soccer P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 3
Friday 13th October 	Primary 4 Mrs Connor's Class Assembly at 9.30am in the school assembly hall. Parents/Guardians welcome
Monday 16th October- Friday 20th October	Maths Week Ireland Celebrations 
Monday 16th October	After School Mini Professors P1 & P2: 2-2.50pm, P3 & P4: 3-3.50pm Week 4
Monday 16th October	After School R9 Sports P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 4
Tuesday 17th October	Waterside Library come to visit P1 & P2 for story telling activities
Tuesday 17th October	After School Singing lessons P1 & P2 2-2.45pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-3.45pm Week 4
Tuesday 17th October	Derry Schools' Football Association Good Shepherd vs Nazareth House Good Shepherd vs Chapel Road
Wednesday 18th October	After School Guitar Lessons P5, P6 & P7 Week 5
Wednesday 18th October & Thursday 19th October	Have a clear out and donate any children's books to our 'bring and buy' book sale which our student council are leading in aid of school funds and in the development of financial capabilities during Maths Week Ireland!
Wednesday 18th October	After School Dance P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 4
Thursday 19th October	Primary 6 attend The YES project
Thursday 19th October	After School Maiden City Soccer P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 4
Friday 20th October 	Book Sale managed by our school councils. All books will be 20p each. All money raised will go to school funds. Any books not purchased will be used in our class libraries or will be donated to a local charity. Parents/Guardians also welcome to visit, browse and shop from 9.15am-10am. This will be held in the school assembly hall.

Date	What's On?
Monday 23rd October	After School Mini Professors P1 & P2: 2-2.50pm, P3 & P4: 3-3.50pm Week 5
Monday 23rd October	After School R9 Sports P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 5
Tuesday 24th October	After School Singing lessons P1 & P2 2-2.45pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-3.45pm Week 5
Tuesday 24th October	Derry Schools' Football Association Good Shepherd vs Holy Child Good Shepherd vs St. Eugene's
Wednesday 25th October 	School Photographer in to take individual/family and group photographs
Wednesday 25th October	After School Guitar Lessons P5, P6 & P7 Week 6
Wednesday 25th October	After School Dance P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 5
Thursday 26th October	After School Maiden City Soccer P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 5
Thursday 26th October & Friday 27th October	Primary 7 Parent/Teacher meetings to be held in school. Individual meeting times to be issued soon.
Friday 27th October	Non-uniform or Halloween costumes £1 in aid of school funds

Monday 30th October- Friday 3rd November:
School Closed for the Halloween Holidays



School Reopens on Monday 6th November 2023

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 (09:00am)- 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.



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.



Teaching and 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, all welcome!



In the interests of health and safety we now ask that children do not bring any shellfish products or nut products to school for either break or lunch. This includes Nutella.

Safeguarding Information

We 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 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 Kyle/ Mrs A Kivlehan/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 school holiday list can be accessed here:

<https://www.goodshepherdps.net/parents-area/holiday-list/>

The school dinner menu can be accessed here- please check which week we are on as there is a 4 week menu:

https://storage.googleapis.com/siteassetsswd/475/docletter/20230831124550_96_NEW_SEPTMBER_DINNER_MENU_2023.pdf

Thank you to our entire school community for your continued support.