

ACORN INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL, NURSERY & PLAYGROUP



Newsletter – October 2019

Website: www.acornips.com



Contact Numbers/email addresses: Please ensure the school is informed of any changes to contact details, especially mobile phone numbers as these change quite frequently. We will be using both text and email to communicate with you. Please note we can only send information to one address/phone number. Information can also be found on the school website.

PLEASE NOTE THAT MOST COMMUNICATION WILL BE SENT OUT BY EMAIL. PLEASE CHECK YOUR NOMINATED ACCOUNT REGULARLY.

Please note that we will no longer be able to accept the paper £10 & £5 notes from BOI, Ulster Bank and Danske Bank as they go out of circulation from 30 September and we will not be able to lodge them.

Dear Parent/Guardian

REMINDER: SCHOOL IS CLOSED ON MONDAY 30 SEPTEMBER TO ALLOW FOR STAFF TRAINING

Curriculum Meetings:

We were very disappointed with the turn out for the Primary 1 – 4 curriculum meetings and hope that there will be a better turn out for the Primary 5 – 7 meetings on 24 September at 2.15pm.

Apply Now!

Free School Meals/ Uniform Allowance/Transport

Do check if you are eligible for Free School Meals and please can I encourage you to apply, even if you think that your child may not take them every day. If you have any questions applying for free school meals or the uniform allowance please use this link

<https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-school-uniform-allowance>

Applications for transport assistance are now completed online, please use this link:

<https://www.eani.org.uk/help-available/home-to-school-transport>

If you cannot access either of these please call at the school office for assistance.

Foodbank

The school is an authorised distributor of vouchers for the Foodbank at Woodburn. If you or a family you know need to access the foodbank, please leave a note for me at the school office. This will be dealt with in confidence.

Wet Breaks

Unfortunately, we do not have sunny skies here every day. We are keen that the children play outside at break times as much as possible, even when it is drizzling. Please make sure that your child has a suitable raincoat with them each day.



Shared Education - Harvest and Shoebox Collection



Thank you for your generous donations to the Foodbank appeal for our Harvest celebration. These will be handed over at the Harvest Service on Wednesday 16 October.

As last year, we are working with our shared education partner Oakfield Primary to take part in a shoebox collection. We would ask that shoeboxes or items for a class shoebox are in school for Wednesday 9 October. Please see the leaflet which was previously sent out for further details.

Dinner Money Envelopes

Unfortunately, due to rising costs, we will no longer be able to provide free school money envelopes. If you require a new book of envelopes, the cost is £2.50.

Charity of the Year



The Parents' Council chose the Air Ambulance NI as our Charity last year and we will continue to support this worthy cause until June 2020. Their website is www.airambulancenl.org. Our first event this year will be a non-uniform day on Friday 25 October 2019, with a suggested donation of £1.

Class Finishing times:

Reminder Primary 1 will stay until 2.00pm each day from Tuesday 1 October.

Parent Teacher Meetings:

These will be held on 21, 22 and 23 October for all children apart from P1, are having their own separate appointments. School will close for children at noon on 22 – 24 October to accommodate the appointments apart from those who are taking school dinners, they will finish at 12.30pm each day.

Measles MMR



The Public Health Agency (PHA) have been in contact and asked us to share information about the MMR vaccine with you. They state that the number of young people catching measles has risen. The MMR vaccine which is offered, protects against measles, mumps and rubella. It is usually given just after a child's first birthday and against when they are 3 years 4 months old. The PHA state that it is never too late to get vaccinated. For more information, you can contact your GP surgery or look at the website: www.pha.site/mmr

School Football Team



Congratulations to the U11 school football team who have made a great start to their league campaign. Keep up the good work!

School Choir



The school choir recently visited Carrick Manor Nursing Home to help celebrate the 100th birthday of one of the residents. They made a great impression and we are proud of the way that they represented our school.

Time to Read



confidence.

We would like to thank Business in the Community for organising volunteers, from the local community and the volunteers themselves who support some of our Key Stage 2 children weekly with their reading. This is a very successful programme with great benefits for the children, who improve their reading skills and build up their

Easy Fundraising - Update



REMINDER: We have registered with Easyfundraising and we need your help! Easyfundraising is a great website where you can help Acorn Integrated Primary School raise funds simply by doing your everyday online shopping with over 3,300 big name retailers like Amazon, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Booking.com, eBay, Boden, and M&S.

Every time you shop, we receive a small donation to say 'thank you' and it is completely free too! We want raise as much as possible so please sign up. Click the link below and click 'support us' please!

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/acornips/>

Parents contacting school



Parents are welcome to contact school via email or telephone. Please note, that all teaching staff have teaching commitments and will be unavailable to take a phone call from a parent when teaching. If a parent leaves a message with office staff, this will be forwarded to the relevant staff who will return the call as soon as possible or offer an appointment. If the call refers to an urgent pastoral matter, then please ask for the message to be forwarded to a member of the Child Protection Team.

Child Protection/Safeguarding Children

Our Child Protection and Safeguarding Team are:

Board of Gov Chairperson:	Dr A Gregory
Designated Teacher:	Mrs A Rolloos
Deputy Designated Teacher:	Mrs S McIlmail
Principal and Health and Safety Co-ordinator:	Mrs C Webb
Govs with Child Protection responsibility:	Dr A Gregory and Mrs T Phillips

School office opening hours:

8.45am – 12.15pm, closed for lunch 12.15pm to 12.45pm, reopens 12.45pm to 3.15pm.



Mrs C M Webb
Principal

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Cut out and keep



SEPTEMBER

- Tuesday 24 September at 2.15pm Curriculum Meeting for parents/carers of children in P5 - P7, please go to the room outlined in last week's email
- Friday 27 September last day for Primary 1 children to finish at 12 noon
- **Monday 30 September EXCEPTIONAL CLOSURE – school closed for all pupils**

OCTOBER

- Tuesday 1 October, full winter uniform to be worn
- Tuesday 1 October Primary 1 children stay until 2.00pm (remember to organise packed lunch or dinner for them!)
- Wednesday 9 October – flu immunisation in school (documentation has been sent out from the school nurses for you to complete and return)
- Wednesday 9 October – Filled shoeboxes or items for shoeboxes to be in school (see leaflet)
- Monday 14 October – School Photographs – only children with completed consent form will be photographed
- Wednesday 16 October – Harvest Service in school.
- Thursday 17 October (Shared Education) table quiz in Carrick Golf Club with Oakfield Primary School details to follow
- Mon to Wed 21 -23 October –parent/teacher meetings school closes at 12 noon for all children unless taking school dinners in which case they finish at 12.30pm
- Friday 25 October – **NON UNIFORM DAY** - school closes at 12 noon for all children (unless taking school dinners in which case it will close at 12.30pm – to be confirmed)

NOVEMBER

Hold the dates!

- Thursday 28 November (7.00 – 9.00pm) Shared Parents' Mental Health Workshop to be held in Oakfield Primary School
- Friday 29 November CHRISTMAS FAIR (time to be confirmed)