

ACORN INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL, NURSERY & PLAYGROUP



Newsletter – September 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.

Dear Parent/Guardian



We welcome all our Primary 2 - 7 pupils back to school and a special welcome to our new Primary 1, Nursery and Playgroup and other newcomers. Everyone looks very smart!

Morning routine

Please note that the school playground is supervised only from 8.45am each morning, **prior to that time your child remains your responsibility.** Children will not be permitted to enter the school prior to that time, unless it is raining.

Jollytots runs a preschool club each morning please contact them 02893 364630 for further details. You are encouraged to leave promptly once staff are on duty at 8.45am, this helps to promote the independence of the children.

Uniform/ Lost Property

Summer uniform may be worn until the end of September as the weather allows. PE kits should be brought into school each Monday and remain in school until Friday, when they are taken home to be washed. All uniform and equipment should be clearly labelled with your child's name using either name labels or permanent marker.

Reminder: lost property will be disposed of after **two months**. For missing items please contact Mrs Davidson, via the school office. She is responsible for lost property. For health and safety reasons earrings (studs only, no hoops etc.) must be covered and long hair must be tied back for PE lessons.

School Policies

Current school policies are on the school website www.acornips.co.uk, if required, paper copies can be requested from the school office.

Dinner Money:

Please ensure that correct monies are sent in at the start of each week for the whole week (presently £2.60 per day) in the yellow envelope provided.

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>

Apply Now!

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.

Food in School

Nuts and foods containing nuts should never be brought into school as we have a number of children who have severe nut allergies. This includes Nutella sandwiches.

As established last year, please pack a healthy break for Monday to Thursday and a small treat for Treat Friday. Please pack break and lunch separately and try to send in a bottle of water with your child each day. Drinking water is also available in each classroom.



AQE/GL

Primary 7 parents please note that AQE registration closes on Friday 7 September: www.aqe.org.uk and for the GL test on Friday 20 September www.pptcni.com.

Curriculum Meetings:

P1- P4 - on Tuesday 10 September at 2.15pm in the Assembly Hall

P5 - P7 - on Tuesday 24 September at 2.15pm in the Assembly Hall

At these meetings, Mrs McIlmail (Foundation and Key Stage 1 co-ordinator) and Mrs Hamilton (Vice Principal /Key Stage 2 co-ordinator) will outline classroom procedures, curriculum initiatives and homework expectations.

After the initial talk, you will be invited to your child's classroom where your child's teacher will outline the programme for the year. To accommodate those parents with children in more than one class, the teachers will be available until 3.15pm in their rooms on the specified days.

Please plan to attend the meetings appropriate for your children.

Shared Education/School Trips

Most of the school trips taken by the classes this year will be as part of the shared education programme, it is hoped that the cost of these will at least be partially subsidised.



Pennies for Piggies – Destiny and Nugget

To keep the school guinea pigs in the style to which they have become accustomed, please can we ask you to send in some pennies for them. This will be used to buy bedding and food. If you wish to donate either bedding or food that would be welcomed too.

Shared Education - Harvest and Shoebox Collection

For Harvest thanksgiving this year, we are again working with Oakfield Primary to support the local Carrickfergus foodbank. Each class has been allocated with a food item to bring in to school by Friday 13 September please. Please see the leaflet for further details. We will not be doing a further appeal for food items for our Harvest service in October this year.

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 for further details.

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.airambulanceni.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:

Primary 1 will finish school at noon until Friday 27 September. From Tuesday 1 October, they will stay until 2.00pm each day.

Primary 2-3 children, please collect your child promptly at 2.00pm and do not allow them to run around the playground as this can be very distracting to those pupils still in class or learning in the outdoor learning environment until 3.00pm. Unfortunately, due to both health and safety and child protection concerns we cannot accommodate parents and carers waiting in the playground/on the benches after 2.00pm to collect older children at 3.00pm.

Parent Teacher Meetings:

These will be held on 21, 22 and 23 October for all children apart from P1, who have their own separate appointments over the next few weeks. Appointment times for P1 will be sent out in due course. 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.



Outdoor Play Equipment

Please note that this is only in use at break and lunch times and at other times when school staff supervise the children. It is not in use first thing in the morning or at 2.00pm or 3.00pm.

School Traffic and Parking



Parking other than by members of staff is not permitted on the school grounds. Downshire Presbyterian Church has kindly agreed to allow the use of their car park in the mornings. The church is not responsible for any loss or damage incurred by anyone when using their car park. Please do not park on the double yellow or zig zag lines or pull into the school entrance to drop off your children. All of these actions stop the flow of traffic.

Training



The staff attended Child Protection Training in August. Some members of staff have also attended training in the administration of Epi-pens for children with allergies and the care of children with epilepsy and diabetes. Teaching staff trained with their partner teachers from Oakfield Primary School as part of the Shared Education programme. The Maths Co-ordinators from both schools disseminated maths problem solving planning.

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:

9.00am – 12.15pm, closed for lunch 12.15pm to 12.45pm, reopens 12.45pm to 3.00pm.

With every best wish for the coming school year,

Mrs C M Webb
Principal





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SEPTEMBER

- Friday 6 September P7 parents closing date for AQE registration
- Tuesday 10 September at 2.15pm Curriculum Meeting for parents/carers of children in P1- P4 - on in the Assembly Hall
- Friday 13 September items for Food Bank (see leaflet)
- Friday 20 September P7 parents closing date for GL registration
- Tuesday 24 September at 2.15pm Curriculum Meeting for parents/carers of children in P5 - P7 - on in the Assembly Hall
- 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 will come from the school nurses for you to complete)
- Wednesday 9 October – Filled shoeboxes or items for shoeboxes to be in school (see leaflet)
- Monday 14 October – School Photographs (details and consents to follow)
- Thursday 17 October (Shared Education) table quiz in Carrick Golf Club with Oakfield Primary School
- 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)