



## ACORN INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL, NURSERY & PLAYGROUP

December 2019/January 2020 Newsletter

Website: [www.acornips.com](http://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.**



**APPLICATIONS TO NURSERY AND PRIMARY 1 FOR ADMISSION IN SEPTEMBER 2020 OPEN ON 7 JANUARY 2020 AND CLOSE ON THURSDAY 30 JANUARY 2020 AT 12 NOON.**

<https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions>

### Christmas Jumper Day



As has become our tradition, the last day of term is non uniform and the children are encouraged to wear a seasonal or Christmas Jumper. The suggested donation is £1 with the funds raised going to the school's charity (Air Ambulance) and the ASDUM foundation who support the Primary 4 children's learning about Madagascar. See <https://adsumfoundation.org/> for more information about the work that they do in Madagascar.

### School Football Team



Congratulations to the U11 school football team who have now finished playing their league matches. They drew one of their matches, lost one and won all of the rest well done all! Medals will be presented to the boys before the end of term.

## Winter weather



Whilst I will make every effort to ensure that the school remains open, in the event that the school has to be closed due to severe weather, you will be informed by text and or email. It is imperative that the school office has up to date mobile phone and email details for you, please inform Miss Nicholl in the school office of any changes. Please note that messages can only be sent to one family member.

As has been our custom in the past, as the colder weather is setting in, I think that it would be sensible for girls to be allowed to wear boots should the need arise. However, these should be plain black only and should not have any other decoration on them. Please send in school shoes to be worn indoors. Remember, girls can also wear grey trousers as part of the winter uniform.

## Confirmation



The Primary 7 children who are to be confirmed will be attending the Service of Light (date to be confirmed). The date of the confirmation is Thursday 30 January and we wish them well as they undertake their preparation.

## Parents' Council News



### 1. Sponsored Dance

A huge thank you to Jo Britland and to you Mums and Dads and all the sponsors. The astounding sum of £1574.12 was raised which will be split between the Air Ambulance NI, our charity of the year and school funds.

### 2. Christmas Fair



Once again, the Christmas Fair was buzzing! Thank you to the volunteers and staff who set up and cleared up the fair, to our families for their donations and to the local businesses who also gave donations:

About Feet, Carrickfergus, Anna's Cakes, Antrim, Arksy's Bouncy Castles, Carrickfergus, Bridewells House of Beauty, Carrickfergus, Carrickfergus Cricket Club, Creed Coffee, Carrickfergus, Domino's Pizza, Carrickfergus, Doogan Dance

Academy, Antrim, Doterra Essential Oils, Carrickfergus, Funky Monkeys, Greenthumb, Carrickfergus, Home Of Mascots, Ballyclare, Inner Beauty Carrickfergus, Jackson's Butchers & Coffee Shop, Ballynure, Kilroot Cafe, Carrickfergus, Little Flower Shack, Carrickfergus, One Stop Mortgage Shop, Ownies, Carrickfergus, Sainsbury's Carrickfergus, Simply Spa, Carrickfergus The North Roll, Carrickfergus, Trio Crafts, Newtownabbey, Tropic by Jennifer Coulter, Victoria Meats, Carrickfergus, Victoria Pet Centre, Carrickfergus and World of Wonder, Carrickfergus. Please do support these local businesses.

Approximately £2700 was raised, thank you! This is used to buy essential equipment for your children's use in the classrooms.

## Attendance/Lateness



If your child is absent from school please ring the school office on that day to give a reason for their absence, otherwise their attendance will be marked as unauthorised.

*It is noticeable that many children are arriving late for school.* We give high priority to attendance and punctuality. It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to ensure that their child is punctual. Registration begins at 8.55 am and the register is closed at 9.10 am. A child who arrives at school after registration closes will be registered as late and this will be noted on their attendance record. Late arrivals disrupt the smooth running of classes.

## Shared Education - Mental Health Workshop



The workshop is being offered to parents has been rescheduled. It is now on Thursday 23 January from 7-9pm. This year it will be held in Oakfield Primary School. As the information given about supporting your child is well thought out and practical, I would encourage you to attend this workshop.

## Recycling



Making space for Christmas presents?

In school we raise funds through recycling clothes (clothes bank by the pedestrian entrance) and recycling used ink cartridges and toners (send these into the school office). All funds raised go towards the purchase of equipment to support your children's learning.

## Parent Teacher Meetings:



These will be held on 10, 11 and 12 February for all children apart from P7, who have their own separate appointments. School will close for all children at noon or at 12.30pm for those taking lunch on 10–12 February to accommodate the appointments.

## Active Travel News

Our first event this year is 'Ditch the Dark' on Friday 14 February. This is a non-



uniform day and the children are encouraged to wear their brightest clothes to school. Please do not go out and buy new items for this. Children, parents and staff are also encouraged to travel actively to school and Mrs Davidson will set up a scooter and bicycle park in the old car park to facilitate this. If you cannot walk/scooter or cycle all the way to school, then remember to park and stride. You can park at

Downshire Presbyterian Church car park and actively travel from there. I hope this is a day that I will have to wear my sunglasses indoors!

### 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:**

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

### School Policies

These are found on the school website or they can be provided in hard copy by request to the school office.

### 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



### DECEMBER

- **Fri 13 Dec** **Movie and Munch Day (suggested donation £1)**
- **Mon 16 Dec** **Shared Education choir singing at Carrick Manor**
- **Tues 17 Dec** **Shared Education choir singing at Sainsburys, please come and support (starting approx. 1.30pm)**
- **Wed 18 Dec** **P6 and P7 to Ulidia IC to watch Peter Pan**
- **Wed 18 Dec** **Christmas Dinner**
- **Thurs 19 Dec** **School choir to Tamlaght Nursing Home**
- **Fri 20 Dec** **Christmas jumper day (suggested donation £1 for Air Ambulance and ASDUM foundation)**
- **Fri 20 Dec** **School closes at 12 noon for the Christmas Holidays**

### JANUARY 2020

- **Mon 6 Jan** **School closed for children to allow staff training**
- **Tues 7 Jan** **School opens for children at 8.55am**
- **Tues 7 Jan** **Nursery and P1 admissions open online**
- **Thurs 23 Jan** **Mental health workshop in Oakfield PS at 7.00pm**
- **Sat 25 Jan** **Primary 7 children receive AQE results**
- **Thurs 30 Jan** **Confirmation for Primary 7 children**
- **Thurs 30 Jan** **Nursery and P1 admissions close at 12 noon**

### FEBRUARY 2020

- **Mon 3 Feb** **Family Photo Evening (appointments sent out in Dec)**
- **Tues 4 Feb** **Transfer Meeting at 2.15pm for Primary 6 parents/guardians**
- **M – W 10-12 Feb** **Parent/teacher meetings, school closes at 12 noon for all children unless taking school dinners in which case they finish at 12.30pm**
- **Fri 14 Feb** **Ditch the Dark Day; walk, scoot or cycle to school**
- **Fri 14 Feb** **School closes at 12 noon for all children (unless taking school dinners in which case it will close at 12.30pm)**
- **M-F 17-21 Feb** **Half term holiday**
- **Mon 24 Feb** **School re-opens at 8.55am**