



ACORN INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL, NURSERY & PLAYGROUP

February 2020 Newsletter

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.

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.

Chinese New Year - celebration



We are looking forward to welcoming staff from the Confucius Institute at the University of Ulster to school on Monday 10 February. Children from Primary 3 – 7 will take part in a workshop and also see some traditional Chinese theatre and costumes. Thank you to our Chinese teacher, Ping, who has organised this.

Shared Education News



SAVE the DATE
Safer Internet Day
2020 | Tuesday
11 February
Together for a better internet
www.saferinternetday.org



Reminder, the children from Acorn and Oakfield have been working together to put on a special morning of assemblies for Safer Internet Day in Oakfield PS on Tuesday 11 February. Come along and find out about the message of your children making good choices in their digital lives.

The times of the assemblies are below:

P1 and P2 9.30 am – 10.00 am

P3 and P4 10.30 am – 11.00 am

P5, P6 and P7 11.30 am – 12 pm

A guest speaker will be at each assembly to talk about the

importance of online safety.

Please let the school office know if you plan to attend or send in the reply slip by Monday.

Your children would love to see you there!

School Council News

The school council are running a tuck shop each morning from 8.45am until the first bell at 8.55am. They have a range of goods for sale including pancakes, oranges, apples and raisins. On Friday mornings, they will sell a small range of goods for Treat Friday. All monies raised will be used to buy play equipment for the playground.



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!



Book Fair

Mrs Davis is planning to have the Book Fair will be back in school for the week beginning Monday 24 February. If you can assist with the fair, please look out for the information that will follow shortly.

Parents' Council Family Quiz Night



Come along to the school assembly hall and test your quizzing talent on Friday 28 February 6.30pm. Tickets are £3 for adults and £2 for children and there are trophies to be won! Ballot, tea and coffee and tuck shop on the night.



Carrickfergus Foodbank write:

We provide 3 days of emergency food for people who are struggling and in crisis. We have been overwhelmed by the response from schools, churches, businesses and the community of Carrickfergus with food donations and want to ensure than no one who is facing a crisis should struggle with Food Poverty.

Please access the service if you haven't already.

Here in Acorn we hold the vouchers that are needed to access the Foodbank, please contact me via the school office. This can be done by sending in a letter for my attention.

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 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

FEBRUARY 2020

- **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
- **Tues 11 Feb** Safer Internet Assemblies at Oakfield PS
- **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
- **Mon 24 Feb -Fri 28 Feb** Book fair week
- **Fri 28 Feb** 6.30pm Family Quiz Night at Acorn

MARCH 2020

- **Tues 3 March** Sacrament of First Penance (First Confession). Time to be set
- **Thurs 19 March** 7.00pm Parents' Council meeting