

# Principal's Newsletter

November 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back to the start of a new half term. From September to now, time has flown and together we have achieved so much. Clubs are back, whole school assemblies are up and running and community events such as the Big Breakfast, The Harvest Assembly and The Halloween Disco took place. Programmes such as Roots of Empathy and Reading Partnership have also begun, we are eating together in the hall at lunch and last but not least, we even met the Prince and Princess of Wales!

This half term is set to be equally busy as, dare I say it, we are in the run up to Christmas. (Only 7 weeks away) Rumour has it we are singing Christmas songs in Praise Time this week. We have lots of lovely events planned for Christmas. We have nativity plays to look forward to and even supper with Santa.

Things to look out for this month include: An autism workshop for parents, a coffee morning to launch the Safer School App, school photographs being taken and the arrival of the Travelling Book Fair.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable month. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch either by ringing the school office or emailing on [info@acornintegratedps.carrickfergus.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@acornintegratedps.carrickfergus.ni.sch.uk)

Many thanks,

Mrs Jennifer Fuller (Principal)

## Dates for your Diary

### Key Events in November

07.11.22	Parent Council Meeting 7pm (new members welcome)
14.11.22	AGM-election of Parent Governor 6:30pm
15.11.22	Autism workshop for parents (1) 9:30am -11:30am
18.11.22	Safer Schools App Coffee morning – 9am-10am
19.11.22	AQE paper 1
23.11.22	School Photograph Day
26.11.22	AQE paper 2
28.11.22	Travelling Book Fair arrives in Acorn

#### School office opening hours:

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

## SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

### Principal

Mrs. J. Fuller

### Vice Principal and Assessment Co- ordinator

Mrs C. Hamilton

### Head of Foundation & Key Stage 1and Deputy Designated Teacher

Mrs S. McIlmail

### Head of Key Stage 2

Mrs C. Hamilton

## I'M WORRIED ABOUT A CHILD IN SCHOOL.



If you are concerned about the welfare of a pupil in school, please speak with Mrs Rolloos (Designated Teacher for Child Protection and Pastoral Lead).

## Clubs

Clubs will begin again this week and finish on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December with the exception of Spanish. There will be one extra Spanish lesson on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December for P1-P3. Please ensure that children who attend the Hockey, Cross Country and Rugby clubs wear a waterproof coat with a hood and suitable footwear as these clubs take place outside.



## Shared Education

Our Shared Education project with Oakfield Primary School is up and running again this year. Children in Nursery, P1, P3, P4 and P6 will be taking part in shared lessons this half term. There will also be two community events, one on 9<sup>th</sup> November when our School Council pupils will meet with the children of Oakfield to take part in a Litter Pick and one on 21<sup>st</sup> November when our P6 children and the School Council pupils will visit the Waterfront Hall alongside the children of Oakfield PS.



## Autism Workshop for Parents

We have the great pleasure of welcome Emma Donnelly from Middletown Centre of Autism to Acorn. She will run five training sessions for parents. Two sessions will take place this month on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November and on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. These sessions will begin with a cup of tea or coffee at 9:30am. This will give parents an opportunity to chat together and share their experiences before the session begins at 10am. Each session will last for one hour and 30 mins. All parents who have a child with of diagnosis of autism or have a child who has been referred for diagnosis are welcome to attend.



## Safer School's App Coffee Morning

In an ever-evolving online world, keeping up to date with the latest developments, news and risks can be difficult. On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November at 9am, Mrs Higgins will launch an app called the Safer School's App. This app will provide you with useful information to help you keep your child safe online.

All parents are invited to attend the coffee morning. It will be particularly useful to parents of KS2 children who are likely to use many online platforms independently daily. It is very important that we keep our children safe when they are online. Please come along to the event and Mrs Higgins will provide you with all the necessary information. She will even assist with the installation of the app. (Don't forget to bring your mobile phone!)



## AGM – parent nomination

On Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November our Annual General Meeting will take place at 6:30pm in the school assembly hall. At this meeting Mrs. Fuller will read a summary of our school's Annual Report 2021-22. This report will be emailed to all parents and published on our school's website. At this meeting we will be holding an election to appoint a Parent Governor to our school's Board of Governors. If you would like to nominate a candidate, please get in touch with Ms. Nicholl and she can provide you with a nomination form.



## Thank you, Parents' Council

On behalf of the whole school community, I would like to say a huge thank you to our Parents' Council for organising such an amazing Hallowe'en disco. The event was attended by nearly two hundred children. The evening was filled with dancing and the purchasing of glow sticks and sweets from the Tuck Shop! An impressive £600 was raised. This money will be used to purchase equipment that will help our children as they learn and grow.

## Good Luck P7

This month, some of our P7 pupils will be sitting their AQE and GL Transfer Tests. We wish them the best of luck and we want them to know that we are very proud of them. No test can define a young person, every individual has talents that cannot be measured by a grade or number. Our message to you all is... ***"Rock the test, don't stress, just do your best!"***

