

November (3) 2023

Dear parent,

As November turns to December, we have a few very busy weeks ahead of us. You will be aware from news reports that strike action is taking place next week. A separate letter is attached for your information. Please also note the changes to school lunches next week.

OPEN AFTERNOON

The open afternoon is planned for **Thursday 30 November**. Pupils in **P1-P3** should be collected at **2.15pm** on this date.

Pupils in **P4-P7** should wear full uniform; shirt and tie, smart trousers, skirt or pinafore as they will be performing in the choir at the conclusion of the principal's address.

ALL PUPILS SHOULD BRING A PACKED LUNCH ON THURSDAY 30 NOVEMBER TO ALLOW FOR PREPARATIONS OF THE HALL FOR OPEN AFTERNOON.

CHRISTMAS PARTY LUNCH AND GAMES P1-P7 THURSDAY 7 DECEMBER

We have had a great response to party lunch orders and look forward to a festive time together. Following the Christmas lunch the party atmosphere continues with party games.

Time: 1.00pm-**2.30pm** **ALL PUPILS SHOULD BE COLLECTED AT THIS TIME**
Pupils: P1-P7
Venue: School Hall
Charge: Free
Supervision: Staff

Parents are asked to provide two lucky dip items. These can be sent into school from Monday 20 November onwards. The value of each of the gifts should be no more than £1.

Pupils may bring up to £3 spending money to try their luck in the 'Christmas Lucky Dip' and to purchase a £1 bag of sweets.

This is a non-uniform event. Pupils may choose to wear a Christmas jumper/t-shirt or party clothes appropriate for party games. No fancy dress costumes are permitted.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS

The Parkgate and District Community Association has invited the **P4-P7** school choir to participate in the Christmas Lights Switch On. This is to be held on the evening of **Friday 24 November**.

Choir members should wear some festive headwear and meet Mrs Ferguson, Mrs McAuley and Mrs Dunn at the phone box adjacent to the green at 6.45pm. Pupils are not required to wear uniform.

A copy of this newsletter is available on the school website

<https://www.parkgate-primary.co.uk/>

The PTA has also arranged a Festive Tractor Run to take place after our choir perform. All children attending will have the opportunity to vote for their favourite tractor with the winner being announced later in the church hall. Entrants have the opportunity to win their Christmas dinner thanks to the kind donations of local families and businesses.

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS TREE

P1 pupils and any pupils who are new to us this year are invited to participate in the school's annual tree decorating tradition of providing **a named** decoration for the tree. P1-P7 pupils enjoy placing their own decorations on the tree and we are fortunate to have such a varied and attractive array of festive items. Please send P1/new pupil decorations by Tuesday 28 November.

SANTA STROLL – Friday 1 December

As part of our commitment to sustainable travel pupils in P1-P7 are encouraged to walk, cycle or scoot to school on this date. Pupils in P1- P7 will also be taking part in the annual Santa Stroll to the end of the village. To add some festive flair pupils are encouraged to wear some festive headwear.

PTA NEWS

Macmillan Cancer Support have informed us that our final total raised on the coffee afternoon was £523.80. An amazing amount for a small school!

The next meeting of the PTA will be on **Monday 15 January** at 7pm in the school.

SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

Wednesday 29 November – STRIKE ACTION – Due to school closure, hot lunches **cannot** be ordered on this date. A packed lunch can be ordered.

Menu change - please see information received from Ballyclare kitchens.

There will be a change in menu week beginning 11th December/week 4 on menu.

Due to the volume of Christmas party box meals in Ballyclare Primary and the fact that it will be served over 2 days, the external dining meals will be as follows.

Monday`s advertised meal of Spaghetti bolognaise etc will be served on Tuesday.

Tuesday`s advertised meal of pizza & Chips will be served on Monday.

Switching these 2 days allows us to accommodate Ballyclare Primary`s Party & normal service will resume on Wednesday.

After the Christmas break, we will be commencing menu on week 2 for the 4 January 2024.

SCHOOL FUND

Thank you to those families who have donated to the School Fund, your support is much appreciated.

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Should you wish to donate to the School Fund please do so by setting up a standing order. This arrangement allows families to select an amount donated monthly to the school.

If you choose to do so the sort code and account number for the Parkgate Primary School Fund account are given below.

Please ensure your child's family surname and first initial/initials are quoted in the reference field of your standing order.

Sort Code: 98-09-40

Account Number: 77461131

Reference: Family surname and first initial/initials (e.g. smithp)

Parents are also welcome to make a single donation to the fund.

SCHOOL CLOSURE REMINDER

School will be closed to pupils on Monday 27 November for a School Development Day.

LAST DAY OF TERM/CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

Date: Wednesday 20 December

The last day of term will be a **non-uniform day**. The pupils are encouraged to wear any of the following seasonal attire.

Christmas jumper or T-shirt

Christmas hat

Christmas headgear

Christmas hair accessory

Pupils will also be permitted to bring a treat break on this date.

School will close at **12 noon on Wednesday 20 December** and re-open to pupils on **Thursday 4 January 2023**.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

24.11.23	Parkgate Christmas Lights
27.11.23	SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAY 2 – NO PUPILS SHOULD ATTEND
29.11.23	PACKED LUNCHES ONLY
30.11.23	PACKED LUNCHES ONLY
30.11.23	New P1 Open Afternoon P1-P3 collected at 2.15pm
01.12.23	Santa Stroll
07.12.23	P1-P7 Christmas Party Lunch + Games
12.12.23	Christmas Concert (6.30pm)
20.12.23	End of term – School closes at 12.00pm for all pupils and staff.
04.01.23	Term 2 begins
05.01.23	Annual Pantomime Grand Opera House
15.01.23	PTA meeting 7pm

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Mrs V Ferguson
(PRINCIPAL)

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