

October (2) 2023

Dear parent,

Some photograph orders have been delivered to school today and have been sent home with pupils. If your order has not been sent home today, further orders are due to be delivered to school next week. The link for next half term's after school clubs is provided below and should be completed by Wednesday 18 October to allow time to check the viability of the clubs with providers.

HARVEST ASSEMBLY

Parents and relatives are invited to attend our annual Harvest Assembly in the school hall on **Wednesday 18 October at 1.15pm.**

ALL PUPILS will finish school at the conclusion of the assembly, approximately **2pm.**

To support our wider local community we are asking each family and member of staff to provide **two items** of food to donate to local charity 'Antrim Foodbank'.

The top five items required are listed below:

Tinned Tuna	Long Life Milk	Rice
Tinned vegetables	Pasta	

Many thanks to all families who have already sent donations. Any further donations can be sent to school on Monday and Tuesday next week.

P1-P3 should come to school dressed as farmers for harvest assembly.

P4-P7 should wear full formal uniform, no joggers or polo shirts are permitted for harvest assembly.

Harvest attendance form <https://forms.gle/FuMiZUmARXeQCXY17>

Please complete by Friday 13 October

AFTER SCHOOLS NOV-DEC

Tuesdays	Playball – Mixed Sports	November 7 th , 14 th , 21 st , 28 th , Dec 5 th
Thursdays	Basketball	November 9 th , 16 th , 23 rd , Dec 7 th , 14 th

Please complete the google form below by **Wednesday 18 October**. Viability of the clubs will be decided by the providers. Parents will be informed before the mid term break if clubs are to proceed.

<https://forms.gle/Z8wmTWwTNwy6Znuk7>

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS.

An information letter and parent leaflet outlining the school's phased transition from Individual Education Plans to Personal Learning plans will be sent home on Monday 16 October. Please take some time to read this information prior to parent consultations.

A copy of this newsletter is available on the school website

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

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Congratulations to James, Noah, Joshua, Evan, Hattie, Sam, Tate, Robert and Olivia who were voted onto this year's School Council.

PTA POP UP MARKET

A pop-up market will be hosted by the PTA in First Donegore Presbyterian Church on **Saturday 11 November**. The event is open to the whole community.

Time: 10.00 – 16:00

Entrance Fee: £1

You are invited to bring friends and neighbours along to a PTA pop up market. The PTA hopes to sell a range of items, including clothes, toys, books etc, priced between 50p and £5. All donations for the market should be in good condition and can be sent to school from **Monday 23 October**. If anyone has a large box to store collected items, please do send it into school.

Volunteers will be required to assist with sorting donations, displaying and distributing posters and fliers and running the event. Please contact the PTA via the WhatsApp group or the PTA email, parkgateps.pta@gmail.com if you are able to help.

PARENT CONSULTATIONS

All families should have received their appointments this week. Please respond by **Wednesday 20 October** to confirm your attendance.

P1 parents, please note that **P1 pupils should be collected at 1pm** on Wednesday 25 October and Thursday 26 October.

SCHOOL CLOSURE REMINDERS

Over the coming weeks there are several occasions on which school will be closing early for some or all of our pupils. Please see the table below.

DATE	REASON	COLLECTION TIME
18.10.23	Harvest Assembly	14.00 – All pupils
25.10.23	P2-P7 Parent Consultations	13.00 – P1-P5 13.30 – P6/P7
26.10.23	P2-P7 Parent Consultations P1 Jolly Phonics Parent Meeting	13.00 – All pupils
27.10.23	Mid Term Break	14.00 – All pupils

JOLLY PHONICS P1 PARENTS

Mrs Dunn will lead this meeting for P1 parents on Thursday 26 October at 3pm.

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COMMUNITY INFORMATION

BOOK WEEK NI - In partnership with The Open University and part of Book Week NI 2023 a FREE online event for Teachers, Parents and Staff will take place on Monday 16 October at 7pm. This event will be hosted by Professor Teresa Cremin from The Open University will highlight the marked academic, social and emotional benefits of reading literature in all its forms and offer top tips for engaging children in the world of stories, as well as brilliant book recommendations. Information Sheet attached.

EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING – See attached flyer.

PARENLINE NI – parenting week. See Facebook posts.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

18.10.23	Harvest Assembly
25.10.23	P6&P7 Ballyclare High School – Chitty Chitty Bang Bang
25.10.23	P2-P7 Parent Consultations
26.10.23	P2-P7 Parent Consultations
26.10.23	P1 Jolly Phonics Meeting
27.10.23	PTA Non – Uniform Day 1 - School closes at 2pm for all pupils
11.11.23	PTA Pop Up Market – First Donegore Presbyterian Church
14.11.23	P6/P7 Business masterclass at Mossley Mill
30.11.23	New P1 Open Afternoon
07.12.23	P1-P7 Christmas Party
12.12.23	Christmas Concert (6.30pm)
20.12.23	End of term – School closes at 12.00pm for all pupils and staff.
05.01.24	Annual Pantomime Grand Opera House

Mrs V Ferguson
(PRINCIPAL)

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