

December (2) 2024

Dear parent(s)/carer(s),

During the busy month of December there are many festive activities and events planned. Please take note of the early school closures. I would like to extend the staff's gratitude for the support from all the pupils and parents during our Open Afternoon last Friday. It was a very successful afternoon with a high turnout. The children looked smart and behaved impeccably as usual.

School Phonline

Due to an Internet scam our school phonline has been down since Monday. This has affected several schools in the area. Please contact staff via Just2Message. Check Just2Message regularly in case staff have been trying to get in touch. Our mobile number is 07860 703814 in case of an emergency. We are working with our supplier to get this situation fixed as soon as possible. Apologies for any inconvenience.

PTA FUNDRAISING

Thanks also to our active PTA who have raised the huge total of £1,633.19 this term. This money will be invested in extending and improving our outdoor learning provision.

The Christmas Wreath Making Workshop raised £683.

Brown Money Fundraiser raised £40.19. Matthew Warwick guessed the amount closest to the total and received his prize.

The Community Tractor Run raised £730.

Enchanted Winter Gardens Raffle raised £180

The Wizard of Oz

Ballyclare Secondary School has invited P5-P7 pupils to attend their performance of The Wizard of Oz on Tuesday 10 December. The children will be taken from school by bus in the morning and will be back in time for their school lunch. Please complete the Google Form below by **Friday 6 December** if you consent to your child/children attending. As a special treat, the cost of £170 for the bus will be paid from the School Fund.

Reminder: school closes for all pupils at 2pm on this date.

<https://forms.gle/myq6Uvwp4HpsoiXG7>

SCHOOL FUND

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

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.

A copy of this newsletter is available on the school website

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

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 AND COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE

Date: Tuesday 10 December
Venue: 1st Donegore Presbyterian Church
Time: 6.30pm
Event: A nativity and carol service led by our pupils and followed by refreshments in the church hall hosted by the congregation of 1st Donegore. This event is open to the whole community; all are welcome.

SCHOOL WILL CLOSE AT 2PM FOR ALL PUPILS ON THIS DATE

Parents are asked to bring pupils (in costume) to the church hall at **6pm** where they will be met by and supervised by staff. At the conclusion of the service parents should collect their child/ren from the church hall and supervise them whilst refreshments are served.

CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING –Taking photographs or video footage of the children is **NOT PERMITTED**. Staff should not be placed in the position where they must ask parents to delete images/videos and put personal devices away. We took photos and videos at the Dress Rehearsal which will be shared after the event. Parents take pictures of their own children in costume in the hall after the concert.

CHRISTMAS PARTY P1-P7 WEDNESDAY 18 DECEMBER

Time: 1.00pm-**2.30pm** **ALL PUPILS SHOULD BE COLLECTED AT 2.30PM**

We ask that every family donates two items costing approximately £1:00 for the Lucky Dip. These should be brought into school by Monday 16 December.

Pupils may bring up to £2 spending money to try their luck in the Christmas Lucky Dip.

This is a non-uniform event. Pupils may choose to wear a Christmas jumper/t-shirt or party clothes appropriate for party games

LAST DAY OF TERM/CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

A copy of this newsletter is available on the school website

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

Date: Friday 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 Friday 20 December** and re-open to pupils on **Monday 6 January 2025**.

ANNUAL PANTOMIME

The annual pantomime is a highlight of the school year and we are delighted to make a return on Friday 10 January. Our pupils look forward to their trip to the Grand Opera House each year but, as collection time for pupils is 4.30pm, it is a long day for our younger pupils.

To make the day more manageable therefore, P1- P4 pupils should arrive at school on **Friday 10 January 2025** at **11am**.

There will be no school dinners on **Friday 10 January** as the pupils require an early lunch to arrive at the Grand Opera House on time. All pupils should **bring a packed lunch** on this date.

Date: Friday 10 January 2025

Time: 12.30pm – 4.30pm

School start time :P1-P4 – 11.00am
P5-P7 – 9.00am

Collection: Pupils are to be picked up from school on their return.

Refreshments: Please provide each pupil with a strong plastic bag containing **one treat** e.g., a chocolate bar or packet of crisps or sweets etc. and one drink. No cans or glass bottles are permitted on the trip. We have been informed by the Opera House that no confectionary containing nuts can be taken into the auditorium.

Belfast Royal Academy Open Nights

All p6 and P7 pupils are invited to attend Belfast Royal Academy's Open Night. 8th and 9th January – 6:15pm-8:45pm

Term 2 Swimming for KS2

A copy of this newsletter is available on the school website

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

Information will follow once dates and prices have been confirmed.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 10.12.24 School and Community Carol Service – **School closes at 2pm**
- 11.12.24 **Last Lego Club**
- 18.12.24 Christmas Party - **School closes at 2:30pm**
- 20.12.24 End of term – **School closes at 12pm for all pupils and staff.**
- 06.01.24 Term begins for all pupils
- 10.01.25 Annual Pantomime trip

Mrs C McLean
(ACTING PRINCIPAL)

A copy of this newsletter is available on the school website

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