

November (2) 2023

Dear parent,

The weather has certainly turned much colder this week. Please do send in a hat, scarf and gloves along with a suitable PE style bag to keep these items in school. Please note the closing date of 17 November for two upcoming events and complete the relevant google form.

PTA NEWS

I would like to extend my thanks to all those families who made donations to the Pop-Up Market and to the PTA team who organised and ran the event. The fantastic sum of **£760** was raised.

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

CHRISTMAS NEWS

CHRISTMAS PARTY LUNCH – CLOSING DATE 17 NOVEMBER

This year a Christmas Buffet Lunch will be served on **Thursday 7 December**. If you wish to order a meal for your child, please complete the google form below and submit by **Friday 17 November**. Payment of **£2.60 per child** is **not** required until **Monday 3 December**.

<https://forms.gle/ARnMUftaPTt6vHp8A>

CHRISTMAS PARTY P1-P7

Continuing the party atmosphere the pupils will have their Christmas party games on the **afternoon of Thursday 7 December**.

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 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**. At present there have been responses from only **10 pupils**. Please complete the

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google form below so that staff know there will be an adequate number of choir members on the evening.

<https://forms.gle/J5H8jzRzinaM5aV87>

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.

OPEN AFTERNOON

This year the school is hosting an open afternoon for prospective P1 pupils 2024. Parents and pupils will be able to see our classes in action, experience the foundation stage play resources, tour the school and hear a principal's address.

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

Refreshments will be offered to visiting parents and pupils. If you are available to help with serving tea and coffee and chatting with parents about your experience of the school, please contact the school office for further details.

If you are able to distribute flyers to local businesses/groups please contact the office and promotional materials will be sent home with your child.

SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

Please add the following information to your printed menu.

Roast Dinner

Week 1	Gammon
Week 2	Beef
Week 3	Pork
Week 4	Chicken

SCHOOL CLOSURE REMINDER

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

COMMUNITY NOTICES

PARENTING NI - Parenting NI are hosting a free online seminar 'Coping with Christmas' on **Thursday 30th November from 7-8pm** to support parents in the lead up to the festive season. Parents will be introduced to strategies to manage the stress associated with Christmas and to recognise the importance of setting realistic expectations.

PARENTLINE – Fussy Eating - Parentline is delighted to have Dr Kirsty Porter a Children's Dietitian from Nutrition4kidsNI deliver this session for parents. Dr Kirsty will share expert advice, practical tips, and answer any fussy eating-related questions. This is a great opportunity to master mealtimes and get kids to try new foods. See attached flyer.

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Please read on for dates for your diary.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

24.11.23	Parkgate Christmas Lights
27.11.23	SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAY 2 – NO PUPILS SHOULD ATTEND
30.11.23	New P1 Open Afternoon
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.
05.01.24	Annual Pantomime Grand Opera House
15.01.23	PTA meeting 7pm

Mrs V Ferguson
(PRINCIPAL)

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