

June (2) 2022

## School News

The pupils have had a busy two weeks; P1/2 visited Greenmount and P3-P6 visited the Armagh Planetarium. P7 are eagerly anticipating their trip to The Lake Kilrea on Thursday next week.

Other activities the pupils have been involved in recently include an online orchestra performance by the Ulster Orchestra and a visit to Ballyclare High School by P5/6 for a curriculum morning. Here they got their first taste of what it will be like to be a pupil at 'big school'.

P7 pupils have been taking part in a series of Transition sessions led by Youth for Christ as they prepare for their move into Year 8 in September.

We have had another new addition to the playground with the arrival of our Buddy Bench this week. This has been kindly sponsored by Antrim Lions Club and is already popular with the pupils.

Our partnership with The Nerve Centre got off to an exciting start with a full day of ICT activities across all year groups. Pupils worked alongside staff from The Nerve Centre, W5 and Microsoft on both their computational thinking skills as well as practical skills.

We will be continuing this partnership throughout the 2022/23 year as we have been very fortunate to secure a place on the Nerve Centre's Empower and Create programme. We are very excited to begin work on our focus for the year, developing Music and Sound through ICT across all year groups.

Finally, I would like to extend a warm Parkgate welcome to our new P6 pupil Mariya and to her sibling Filipp who will be joining us in P1 next year. They have recently arrived from Ukraine and we all look forward to getting to know them and supporting them as they adjust to school life in Northern Ireland.

## Parent Governor Elections

Voting ballots have been sent home for all families. Please return in the envelope provided no later than **Friday 24 June**.

## School Development Plan 2022-25 Parent Questionnaire.

Each year the staff and governors review the progress made in the children's learning and the school's development, identifying areas of focus for continued progress in the future. This questionnaire is part of our ongoing school self-review and development cycle and will help us to devise the new three-year School Development Plan 2022 – 2025.

Your suggestions and any further areas of development will be taken into account when prioritising the three-year School Development Plan. All parents, staff and governors are asked to contribute as, of course, are the children.

We would be grateful if you could take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire, available at the link below so that your suggestions can form part of the school's discussion for the three-year School Development Plan 2022-2025.

The questionnaire will be open for responses until **Friday 24 June**.

<https://forms.gle/jyMRbrjgPbkrW5VYA>

## Early Bird Provision

We hope to be able to offer our Early Bird Drop Off service for the academic year 2022/23 if minimum numbers are met. Pupils can be dropped off from 08.00 and will be supervised until 08.45. The cost per session is **£2 per pupil** with a reduced price for each **further sibling of £1.50 per sibling**.

When reinstated Early Bird Club will run from **Tuesday 30 August to Friday 30 June**.

Please complete the form below to register your interest in this service.

<https://forms.gle/pUQ7Xt2uBRsdePLp9>

## P7 Leavers Assembly

Date: Friday 24 June  
Class: P7  
Time: 13.15-14.00

P7 parents are invited to join us in the assembly hall for a leavers assembly. Two family members may attend this event. At the conclusion of the assembly P7 pupils will be waved off by the school community in the playground.

School will finish at **2pm for ALL** pupils at the conclusion of this event.

**P7 pupils are not required to attend from 27 – 30 June.**

To facilitate polo shirt/sweatshirt signing pupils should bring their chosen item into school on **Wednesday 23 June**.

**ALL pupils should bring a PACKED LUNCH on Friday 24 June.**

## School Lunches

**Please send payment for school lunches up to and including Wednesday 29 June on **Monday 20 June****

	P1-P4	P5-P7
Monday 20 June	Normal	Normal
Tuesday 21 June	Normal	Normal
Wednesday 22 June	Normal	Normal
Thursday 23 June	Normal	P5/6 Normal <b>P7 Packed Lunch - Trip</b>
Friday 24 June	<b>Packed Lunch</b>	<b>Packed Lunch</b>
Monday 27 June	Normal	Normal (P7 do not attend)
Tuesday 28 June	Normal	Normal (P7 do not attend)
Wednesday 29 June	Normal	Normal (P7 do not attend)

## School Online Payments

In relation to the school's use of a cashless payment system, I have received the following communication from the EA.

*As part of the EA's EdIS Programme and to ensure the ongoing provision of high quality, sustainable, core education technology services to schools, we are currently preparing for procurement of an online payment solution for statutory nursery schools, primary schools and special schools.*

*The goal is to source and procure a single solution that will facilitate the online collection of payments for school meals, milk, and other school related payments e.g. school trips, clubs etc.*

*It is hoped that the first phase of implementation will be within the 2022 / 2023 academic year. Please note however this is dependent on a supplier being appointed and implementation plan.*

The school will therefore transfer to a cashless system as soon as the EA has procured a provider.

## PTA

### BBQ Request

As the school does not have a suitable outdoor covered storage area, the PTA would greatly appreciate a volunteer family who would be able to store the BBQs until next required.

### Sensory Garden

Mrs Gawn has kindly volunteered to organise a watering committee to maintain the sensory garden over the summer months. If you are available to participate please contact Mrs Gawn using the PTA email address below.

[parkgateps.pta@gmail.com](mailto:parkgateps.pta@gmail.com)

## Community Notice

### Holiday Bible Club

Please find attached a flyer for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Donegore Presbyterian Church Holiday Bible Club running from 5 July – 8 July, 10am – 12.30pm.

### Mobile Library

The mobile library will be parked at the school during the summer on the following dates and times:

Where: In the parking area outside school gates at front of school.

When: 11:00 – 12:00pm Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July

11:00 – 12:00pm Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August.

### Dates for your Diary

17.06.22	Annual Reports
23.06.22	P7 Trip – The Lake Kilrea
21.06.22	Payment for School lunches 20 June 2022 – 29 June 2022
24.06.22	Parent Governor Voting Forms returned
24.06.22	School Development Plan Parent Questionnaire closes
24.06.22	P7 Leavers Assembly – <b>School finishes at 2pm for all pupils</b>
30.06.22	End of term – School closes at 12pm for all staff and pupils

Mrs V Ferguson  
Principal