

## November (1) 2023

Dear parent,

I hope all are well rested after the mid-term break. I would like to start by sending our best wishes to our pupils in P7 who are sitting the upcoming SEAG tests. They have worked very hard in their preparations and we know they will all give their best to each test.

I would also like to extend my thanks to Miss Lavery for her work in the foundation stage while Mrs Magowan has been on maternity leave. Mrs Magowan will return to school on Monday 20 November, therefore Wednesday 15 November will be Miss Lavery's last day with us. I wish her well in her future career.

### STAY 'N' PLAY

It has come to my attention that Stay 'n' Play's sudden and surprising departure was reported as, 'due to a few ongoing issues at the school'. The popularity of the school as a venue for this business led to growing numbers of children attending which, in turn, was having an increasing impact on the school's provision and delivery of the curriculum for our own pupils.

The school had not yet given the proprietor notice to quit and received no communication from the proprietor that Friday 27 October would be the last day Stay 'n' Play would require the use of the hall.

It was not at the school's instruction that this temporary arrangement with Stay 'n' Play should end in such an abrupt manner.

We wish each of the children and their families well for the future and hope to welcome them back when they are ready for P1.

### PTA POP UP MARKET REMINDER

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.

### PTA FUNDRAISING

The first non- uniform fundraiser of the year totalled £37.20.

### SCHOOL LUNCHES

I am very pleased to inform you that hot meals will resume from **TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER**. A menu has been printed and distributed to each family. Week beginning 13.11.23 meals commence with **WEEK 4**. Payment for lunches should be sent to the school office on **Monday 13 November**. Payment should be sent in a named, sealed envelope with the days you wish your child to have a lunch clearly written on the front. The price of a school meal remains £2.60.

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

## **BUSINESS MASTERCLASS AT MOSSLEY MILL**

The Economic Development Section of the Council in partnership with Young Enterprise Northern Ireland has invited our P6/7 pupils to an exciting in-person Business Masterclass taking place during Global Entrepreneurship Week 2023.

The pupils will spend a fun-packed session learning about business and their local economy. Working on their own product, the children will gain an insight into the business world and will be given the opportunity to develop enterprise and entrepreneurial skills.

Date: Tuesday 14 November

Time: 10.00 – 11.30

Transport: Provided by A&NBC

Pupils will be provided with a piece of fruit and a drink at the event. Pupils should wear full school uniform as normal.

A permission slip has been sent home with P6/7 pupils and should be returned to school no later than Monday 13 November.

## **CHRISTMAS NEWS**

### **CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION**

Our friends at Antrim Lions Club have asked that the pupils of the school help to design their charity Christmas card this year. This will be run as a competition amongst the pupils with the artist of the winning design receiving a prize from Antrim Lions.

The cards will be produced by Antrim Lions and parents will have the opportunity to purchase them but are under no obligation to do so.

Each pupil will bring a design sheet home on Monday evening as homework and should return their completed design on Tuesday.

### **CHRISTMAS PARTY LUNCH**

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>

### **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**. Further details to follow. Please complete the permission form below by **Friday 17 November** if your child can attend.

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<https://forms.gle/J5H8jzRzinaM5aV87>

## **CHRISTMAS GIFTING**

Considering current financial stresses, the staff would like to emphasize that families are under no obligation to gift presents to staff at this time. Should you wish to, a gift to a charity supporting underprivileged children is preferred.

## **SAFEGUARDING – ANTI BULLYING WEEK**

Every November schools throughout the United Kingdom take part in Anti-Bullying Week. This is an opportunity to spotlight bullying and consider the steps we can take together to stop it. Anti-Bullying Week 2023 will be taking place from Monday 13th to Friday 17th November, with the theme 'Make a Noise about Bullying'.

Next week pupils in P4-P7 will participate in an online assembly hosted by HIP Psychology and all classes will complete activities and discussions around this important topic.

## **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.

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

Pupils should bring a hat, scarf and gloves to school to wear during breaktimes in the colder months ahead. These items will **remain in school** and be **kept in each child's PE bag**. If your child/children have not yet returned a PE bag (or similar) to school please do so to help keep our classrooms clutter free.

## **COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**ANTRIM FOODBANK** - On behalf of Antrim Foodbank I would like to thank the staff and pupils for the generous harvest donations. The amount of food donated will provide 154 meals to those in need of emergency food assistance.

### **ALLERGY ACT RETREAT – QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST Ready to Overcome Allergy Challenges & Reclaim Control?**

Tired of feeling overwhelmed by the constant challenges posed by allergies? You're not alone. There's no survival guide on how to live with allergies, much of our own learning about our condition is through trial and error and adapting our lives to protect ourselves. We understand the burden that living with allergies can be for individuals and their families. The daily challenges individuals and families face can impact their health and well-being. It's a weight that can feel overwhelming, financially and emotionally and limit social life, education opportunities, career prospects and life experiences if you let it.

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Allergy Act are on a mission to change that by offering the first ever **Allergy Retreat** on the island of Ireland.in collaboration with Queen's University Belfast. See attached flyer.

**LOCAL DANCE CLASSES** – See attached flyer.

**Please read on for dates for your diary.**

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

11.11.23	PTA Pop Up Market – First Donegore Presbyterian Church
13.11.23	Anti-Bullying Week
13.11.23	Payment due for school meals
14.11.23	School Meals recommence.
14.11.23	P6/P7 Business masterclass at Mossley Mill
24.11.23	Parkgate Christmas Lights
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

Mrs V Ferguson  
(PRINCIPAL)

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