

November (3) 2024

Dear parent(s)/carer(s),

As Christmas draws near life in school is very busy and the excitement is building. The children are working very hard in class and enthusiastically preparing for the annual Nativity and Carol Service. We will be walking to the church regularly to practice so I recommend that the children are wrapped up warmly. Ice and snow have been forecast. In the event of snow, please send in boots in a labelled plastic bag so the children can play outdoors.

CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING

We continue to reinforce the importance of safeguarding at school and at home. This week we are focusing on Road Safety. P1-P4 will engage in activities promoting the key messages of “Be Bright, Be Seen” and crossing the road safely. Key Stage 2 will join the live interactive lesson with the Nerve Centre on Wednesday 20 November. They will investigate the importance of road safety through the new C2K app – Adobe Express.

Pupils across the school will continue to access the new CCEA planned lessons focusing on eSafety. A recent letter from the Department of Education highlighted the dangers of children being exposed to “Catfishing” (the creation of a fictitious online persona). Mrs Magowan (ICT Co-ordinator) has signed the school up to use the “Safer Schools” App. The app will provide parents/carers with information about how to safeguard their children when they are using the internet. More information about the app will follow in the second term.

Snow – Following a Risk Assessment of conditions and staff numbers, a message will be posted on Facebook and Just2Easy if a closure is necessary.

OPEN AFTERNOON

The open afternoon is planned for **Friday 29 November**. Thank you to the parents who have volunteered to help and chat to prospective parents about our brilliant school.

Pupils in **P1-P3** should be collected at **2.15pm** on this date.

Pupils in **P4-P7** should wear full uniform; shirt and tie, smart trousers, skirt or pinafore as they will be performing in the choir at the conclusion of the principal's address.

ALL PUPILS SHOULD BRING A PACKED LUNCH ON FRIDAY 29 NOVEMBER TO ALLOW FOR PREPARATIONS OF THE HALL FOR OPEN AFTERNOON.

CHRISTMAS PARTY P1-P7 WEDNESDAY 18 DECEMBER

To end the term the staff are facilitating a Christmas Party for the children. This is our way of acknowledging and celebrating how hard the children have worked this term. It is also a reward for their performances at the annual Nativity and Carol Service.

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

Pupils: P1-P7

A copy of this newsletter is available on the school website

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

Venue: School Hall
Charge: Free
Supervision: Staff

Parents are asked to provide two lucky dip items. These can be sent into school from Monday 2 December onwards. The value of each of the gifts should be no more than **£1. This is a non-uniform event. Pupils may choose to wear a Christmas jumper/t-shirt or party clothes appropriate for party games.**

CAROL SERVICE AND NATIVITY

Our annual Christmas Carol Service takes place on 10 December at 6:30 in the First Donegore Presbyterian Church. P1-3 will open the event with the nativity “A Bundle of Joy” followed by traditional readings and carols led by P4-P7. All members of the community are welcome to attend and join with us in song and prayer. The doors of the church will open at 6:15pm. Refreshments will be provided in the church hall at the conclusion of the event.

REMINDER- parents/family members are not permitted to take photographs or video footage of pupils at school events.

Costumes for P1-P3 pupils should be brought into school in a labelled plastic bag from Monday 2 December. Costumes will be returned after the dress rehearsal. Pupils should arrive at the church hall at 6pm in full costume on 10 December. P4-P7 pupils must wear the formal school uniform – formal white shirt, school tie, black trousers/skirt and black shoes. Girls must wear black tights.

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS TREE

P1 pupils and any pupils who are new to us this year are invited to participate in the school’s annual tradition of providing **a named** decoration for the tree. P1-P7 pupils enjoy locating their own decorations on the tree and we are fortunate to have such a varied and attractive array of festive items.

SANTA STROLL – Friday 6 December

Pupils will be taking part in the annual Santa Stroll to the end of the village on Friday 6 December. To add some festive flair pupils are encouraged to wear festive headwear. The nationwide Santa Stroll is a positive way to celebrate the benefits that daily activity can have on our mental health. With the increased use of digital devices and academic pressure children’s mental health, and its relation to physical activity, is more important than ever. Foundation Stage pupils will post their letters to Santa during the walk.

PTA NEWS

The staff wish to extend their thanks to Ms Minford, Mrs McMullan and Mrs Gawn for the time they spent decorating the school for Christmas. The school has been transformed into a magical Christmas wonderland filled with Christmas trees, colourful decorations and twinkling lights. This has brought much joy to our excited pupils. Sparkle Toes the mischievous elf will arrive in the Key Stage 1 classroom on Monday 2nd December. I wonder what naughty tricks he will get up to this year.

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Many thanks to the PTA for organising the Christmas Wreath Making Workshop. It was a wonderful evening where the Parkgate Community came together. Special thanks to local florist Chloe Clarke from “Floristry and Bow” for facilitating the workshop and providing the materials. Thanks also to “Ooh and Aah Cookies” for the festive treats.

Macmillan Cancer Support have informed us that our final total raised on the coffee afternoon was **£700.50**. An amazing amount for a small school! Thank you to everyone who was involved, donated or provided baked goods.

SCHOOL FUND

Thank you to those families who donate 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.

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 CLOSURE REMINDER

School will be closed to pupils on Friday 22 November for a School Development Day.

LAST DAY OF TERM/CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

Date: Wednesday 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 5 January 2025**.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

22.11.24	Parkgate Christmas Lights
22.11.24	SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAY 2 – NO PUPILS SHOULD ATTEND
29.11.24	Open Day - PACKED LUNCHES ONLY P1-P3 collected at 2.15pm
03.12.24	Christmas Party Lunch
02.12.24	Sparkle Toes the Elf arrives.
06.12.24	Santa Stroll
10.12.24	Christmas Concert (6.30pm)
18.12.24	P1-P7 Christmas Party
20.12.24	End of term – School closes at 12.00pm for all pupils and staff.
05.01.25	Term 2 begins
10.01.25	Annual Pantomime Trip

Caitrina McLean
(ACTING PRINCIPAL)

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