

October (3) 2023

Dear parent,

I would like to thank you all for your support of our harvest collection for Antrim Foodbank. Parents, family and friends who were able to join us in our Harvest assembly enjoyed songs, poems and prayers in a service ably led by our Key Stage 2 pupils. Well done to all the staff and pupils in their preparation for this event.

In the upcoming week P6&P7 will be attending Chitty Chitty Bang Bang in Ballyclare High School and school will close early on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday for parent consultations and mid-term break respectively.

AFTER SCHOOLS NOV-DEC

Tuesdays	Playball – Mixed Sports	November 7 th , 14 th , 21 st , 28 th , Dec 5 th
Thursdays	Basketball	November 9 th , 16 th , 23 rd , Dec 7 th , 14 th

Thus far there have been only **7 responses** to this form. Please complete the google form below by **Monday 23 October**. Viability of the clubs will be decided by the providers. Parents will be informed before the mid-term break if clubs are to proceed.

<https://forms.gle/Z8wmTWwTNwy6Znuk7>

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS – NON UNIFORM DAY

At a meeting of the school council this week it was agreed to link next Friday's **non-uniform** day to our Sustrans activities and to the changing of the clock. To highlight the importance of being seen on the incoming dark nights **Friday 27 October** will be 'Ditch the Dark' day. Pupils are encouraged to wear bright colours to school; socks, t-shirts, jumpers, headwear etc. Weather permitting the pupils will take part in a *well-being wander*, wearing their Hi-Viz jackets, of course.

As this event is a PTA fundraiser, each pupil should bring **£1** to school on or before **Friday 27 October**.

This date will also bring another opportunity to support fundraising within school as we focus on **Cash for Clobber** donations. If you have any outgrown/unwanted clothes, sheets, shoes, curtains you can bring them along to school and put them into the purple bin located in the laneway beside the school. If the bin is full, please drop your bags into school.

PE TIMETABLE CHANGE

Key Stage 2 pupils will be participating in the Medics in Primary School programme from October to February. This has required some timetable alterations. From Monday 23 October PE lessons for classes **P3-P4** will now take place on **TUESDAYS** and for classes **P5-P7** PE will now take place on **WEDNESDAYS**.

PTA POP UP MARKET

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

A copy of this newsletter is available on the school website

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

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. All donations for the market should be in good condition and can be sent to school from **Monday 23 October**. If anyone has a large box to store collected items, please do send it into school.

Volunteers will be required to assist with sorting donations, displaying and distributing posters and fliers and running the event. Please contact the PTA via the WhatsApp group or the PTA email, parkgateps.pta@gmail.com if you are able to help.

PARENT CONSULTATIONS

P1 parents, please note that **P1 pupils should be collected at 1pm** on Wednesday 25 October and Thursday 26 October.

SCHOOL CLOSURE REMINDERS

Over the coming week there are several occasions on which school will be closing early for all of our pupils. Please see the table below.

DATE	REASON	COLLECTION TIME
25.10.23	P2-P7 Parent Consultations	13.00 – P1-P5 13.30 – P6/P7
26.10.23	P2-P7 Parent Consultations P1 Jolly Phonics Parent Meeting	13.00 – All pupils
27.10.23	Mid Term Break	14.00 – All pupils

JOLLY PHONICS P1 PARENTS

Mrs Dunn will lead this meeting for P1 parents on Thursday 26 October at 3pm.

COMMUNITY NEWS

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION – POPPY APPEAL

Every year the school support the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Poppies and the other items listed below will be available in school from **Monday 23 October**. Donations should be sent in a sealed, named envelope stipulating which items you require.

Item	Suggested Donation
Puppy Pin	£3
Snap Band	£1.50
Wristband	£1.00
Zip pull	£0.50
Reflector	£0.50

Please read on for dates for your diary.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

24.10.23	Change to PE day P3-P7
25.10.23	P6&P7 Ballyclare High School – Chitty Chitty Bang Bang
25.10.23	P2-P7 Parent Consultations
26.10.23	P2-P7 Parent Consultations
26.10.23	P1 Jolly Phonics Meeting
27.10.23	PTA Non – Uniform Day 1 – Ditch the Dark theme.
27.10.23	Cash for Clobber collection day.
27.10.23	School closes at 2pm for all pupils.
11.11.23	PTA Pop Up Market – First Donegore Presbyterian Church
14.11.23	P6/P7 Business masterclass at Mossley Mill
30.11.23	New P1 Open Afternoon
07.12.23	P1-P7 Christmas Party
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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