

October (1) 2023

Dear parent,

Another busy month is ahead of us. Please take note of the dates of upcoming events and the times of school closures which are listed in this newsletter. The pupils have been practising for harvest and look forward to sharing their assembly with you. As we are still without our building supervisor, Peter, it would be helpful to know how many parents will be able to attend to assist staff with setting up the hall. Please complete the google form linked below.

HARVEST ASSEMBLY

Parents and relatives are invited to attend our annual Harvest Assembly in the school hall on **Wednesday 18 October at 1.15pm.**

ALL PUPILS will finish school at the conclusion of the assembly, approximately **2pm.**

To support our wider local community we are asking each family and member of staff to provide **two items** of food to donate to local charity 'Antrim Foodbank'.

The top five items required are listed below:

Tinned Tuna	Long Life Milk	Rice
Tinned vegetables	Pasta	

Donations can be sent to school from next week, **Monday 9 October.**

P1-P3 should come to school dressed as farmers for harvest assembly.

Attendance Form <https://forms.gle/FuMiZUmARXeQCXY17>

Please complete by Friday 13 October

SEAG PREPARATIONS – P7 PUPILS – Those P7 pupils who are sitting their test in Antrim Grammar School have been invited to a familiarisation afternoon on Wednesday 18 October. A release time has been planned within the assembly and parents and pupils will be seated for ease of exit during the assembly. If you wish to attend harvest assembly and your child is attending Antrim Grammar School on 18 October, please inform the school office so that seating can be reserved.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Pupils in P4-P7 have been voting for their preferred school council members. Successful candidates will be announced next week.

NATIONAL POETRY DAY

Friend of the school, David Morrison, visited pupils in P1-P7 to lead literacy and music-based lessons in celebration of National Poetry Day on Thursday 5 October.

JOLLY PHONICS P1 PARENTS

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

A copy of this newsletter is available on the school website

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

MACMILLAN COFFEE AFTERNOON

Despite Storm Agnes' best attempts this was, once again, a very successful event. My thanks go to the PTA for their organisation and running of the event and also to all the staff and parents who provided such a wonderful and tasty selection of treats.

Cash donations on the day totalled **£433.80**, a fantastic amount. I will update you on the final total when Macmillan combine both cash and online donations.

One decorative glass cake stand remains to be collected. Please contact the school office if this item belongs to you.

PTA CLOTHES AND TOYS SWAP SHOP

A Clothes and Toys Swap Shop will be hosted by the PTA in First Donegore Presbyterian Church on **Saturday 11 November**. Further details will be sent via the PTA WhatsApp group and in a future parent newsletter.

PARENT CONSULTATIONS

P2-P7 **Wednesday 25 October** **(P2-P5 pupils home at 1pm. P6/P7 pupils should be collected at 13.30 pm following their return from Ballyclare High School)**

P2-P7 **Thursday 26 October** **(ALL pupils home at 1pm)**

Appointments will be sent home next week.

SCHOOL CLOSURE REMINDERS

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

DATE	REASON	COLLECTION TIME
11.10.23	Assessment Closure	14.00 – All pupils
18.10.23	Harvest Assembly	14.00 – All pupils
25.10.23	P2-P7 Parent Consultations	13.00 – P2-P5 13.30 – P6/P7
26.10.23	P2-P7 Parent Consultations P1 Jolly Phonics Parent Meeting	13.00 – All pupils
28.10.23	Mid Term Break	14.00 – All pupils

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Mid-term Kids Camp @ Ballyclare High School Parent letter and registration form attached.

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SEAG Preparations @ Ballyclare High School Information attached.

Public Health Nutrition Videos Leaflet attached.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

09.10.23	Harvest donations sent to school.
11.10.23	Assessment Closure – all pupils collected @ 2pm
12.10.23	Flu Immunisation
18.10.23	Harvest Assembly
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
27.10.23	PTA Non – Uniform Day 1 - School closes at 2pm for all pupils
11.11.23	PTA Toy and Clothes Swap Shop – 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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