

# Lissan PS Newsletter

## September 2020



Dear Parents,

Please find below useful information and reminders for the remainder of the month of September 2020.

### WEBSITE

Detailed information and our latest prospectus and policies can be found on our website [www.lissanps.com](http://www.lissanps.com)

### ATTENDANCE

Class begins at 9.05am each day. Please arrive to school punctually.

We encourage all pupils to attend school every day. If your child is off school for any reason a note must be sent to school outlining the absence.

This is in line with DENI Policy. Thank you for your cooperation.

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

We are delighted to welcome all of our pupils back in school for this new academic year. We would especially like to welcome our new Primary One pupils. I hope they are all very happy and successful in Lissan PS.



All of the children have settled back exceptionally well, and I would like to thank you for preparing the children so well for their return to school and for all the new rules we have in place. Our pupils have been excellent at remembering to wash their hands, and stay within their own class bubbles and we hope this will continue to keep our whole school community safe.

It is important to check the school website to keep up to date with upcoming events within the school- [www.lissanps.com](http://www.lissanps.com)

If you have any concerns or queries about your child's progress or welfare, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

6 Claggan Road, Cookstown, BT80 9XE

Tel: 02886764581

[Cmcintyre695@c2kni.net](mailto:Cmcintyre695@c2kni.net)

*Mrs Ciara McIntyre (Principal)*

### Reminder: School Closure

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September will be a school closure** for the children.

Normal school resumes on Tuesday 29th September

### Car Parking at Home Time

We would request that everyone shows respect for each other and follows our safety procedures in getting the children picked up safely.

We understand that the car parking outside our school is inadequate and we are working hard to try and improve this. At the moment, we would encourage all parents to park in the chapel carpark and walk over or in the available parking bays. It is essential that cars do not park in the **first bay beside the school gate**. This area must be left free for the **bus to safely park**.

We have taken measures to ensure the safety and efficiency of home-times. Staff are encouraged to release children promptly at home time so parents are not having to wait around unnecessarily.



### Important Information Regarding Allergies

Throughout the school, several children have very **serious allergies**. It is important that parents refrain from giving their children products containing nuts. Some examples of these foods include, peanut butter, hazelnut or chocolate spread or confectionary containing nuts, (Snickers/Topic), etc. If a child with an allergy comes into contact with these, a life threatening situation could occur. Many thanks for your co-operation.

**NB. Whilst some chocolate spreads are nut free, from a school perspective it is difficult to ascertain if the spread is nut-free or not. We would therefore ask if you could try to avoid chocolate spread.**

If your child has an allergy, please ensure that all details are given to the school secretary.

If there are any changes to previous conditions, please update the office.



### School Uniform

As we begin the new school year it is great to see all the children back to school wearing their full uniform. I would ask you to support us by ensuring that your child/children continue to wear their uniform (PE uniform on PE days). **Also, please ensure that all items of uniform, coats, footwear and bags are clearly marked with the child's name and class. This helps when items of clothing or bags are lost or found.**



We are delighted that we have been able to secure the expertise of Liam from IFA. Liam will be coaching every Tuesday. The children should wear their PE uniform into school every Tuesday.

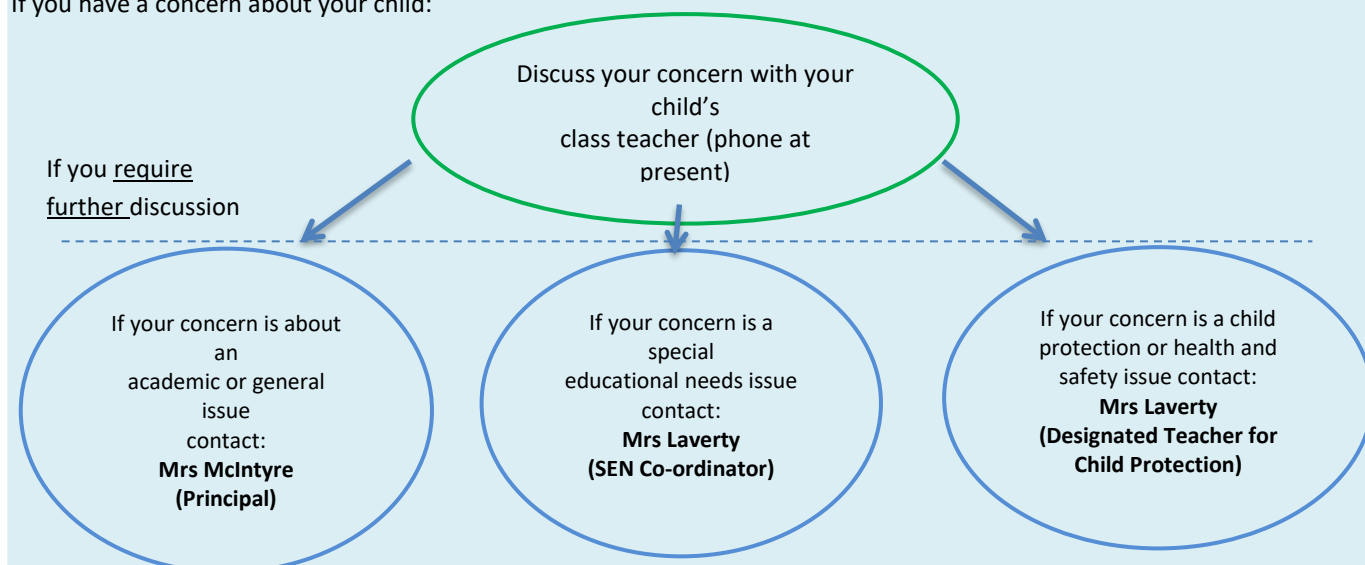
**Blue plain t shirt/ polo shirt – navy tracksuit bottoms – school jumper or half zip**

## **PARENTAL CONCERNS**

If you have concern about your child in school, please follow the diagram below.

Most issues/concerns can be sorted out quickly by the class teacher.

If you have a concern about your child:



If you have a worry or concern, don't keep it to yourself, the Principal and Staff are always happy to listen. Please feel free to ring the office and leave a message or telephone number and the teacher will get back to you as soon as possible.

## **Healthy Snack / Lunch box – birthday treats & medication needs.**

The school has a healthy eating policy, which involves children bringing a healthy break to school every day. Therefore, we will be actively encouraging the children to consume the following foods and drinks at break time:

\* milk and water / any fruit or vegetable / any bread product, for example, scone, sandwich, wheaten, soda, pancake, potato bread, tortilla wrap, pitta bread, bread muffin and crumpets. We would ask you to avoid sugary spreads.

We would also encourage children to bring water - in a reusable bottle - to school every day, as hydration is very important to the learning process.

It is also our intention to hold at least one event per term in school to promote healthy eating and highlight the importance of a healthy break. To extend this further and support our **children who have allergies** (some severe and life threatening) **parents are reminded not to supply birthday cake / muffins / party bags for children's birthdays to the class.**

## **P1 Finishing Times**

From Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September Primary 1 children will finish school each day at 2pm.

*Together we learn, grow and play in God's love and care.*

### **VERY IMPORTANT MEDICATION NEEDS**

If your child needs any medicine administered while in school, for example, Inhalers, written consent is needed.

**These forms are available from the office.**



### **Updating School Records**

It is vitally important that we have your correct home address, home and mobile telephone numbers, email address plus details of your chosen contact person(s) for our records. If any of your details have changed from last year, please contact the school office. If your details change during the course of this year, please let us know.

### **Class DoJo**

This week you will have received your class Dojo login details. Dojo will replace Seesaw as one of our forms of communication with parents. It is important to download the app ASAP



---

### **HOMEWORK**

At present DENI guidance stipulates that we must mitigate the chance of cross contamination by limiting the movement of books and other objects in and outside school. This means that we need to alter our homework procedures.

Your child will receive a Literacy and Numeracy Paper Pack on Tuesday 29th September. You will then be sent instructions every Monday via DoJo outlining which activities your child should complete during the week (P1 pupils will receive the instructions on Paper pack). You will also receive Answers so you can mark the homework. If your child is having ANY difficulties, PLEASE do not hesitate to email your class teacher.

Pupils will also be directed to continue to READ at home (and complete AR quiz in school) and complete Mathematics online.

We know that this is not a perfect solution however, we hope it is only short term.

---

*Together we learn, grow and play in God's love and care.*

### **Attendance Matters – Some helpful hints**

All school attendance records are computerised and we would appreciate it when your child is absent from school that a dated letter/note of explanation is sent into the class teacher, explaining all absenteeism. If your child is going to be late for class any morning or needs to leave school for an appointment, a note of explanation is required.

Please note, the teacher cannot mark children present until they arrive in class. Following procedures stipulated by the Education Welfare Office, all unexplained absences from school will be recorded on our computer system as 'N' (no reason provided).

Also please note that in order to receive **100% attendance** for the school year pupils must be present for both the morning and afternoon sessions during the school day. Your co-operation in this matter would be appreciated.

**Last year our average school attendance rate was 95.14%.** We were happy with this but would like to improve on it even further this year. **Parents can help in the following ways:**

- Establish a good routine in the mornings and evenings so your child is prepared for the school day ahead.
- Make sure your child goes to school regularly and follows the school rules.
- Ensure your child arrives at school on time – not late.
- Arrange dental and medical appointments outside school hours where possible.
- Always inform the school if your child is absent due to illness – this should be followed up with a written note when your child returns to school.
- What are they doing? – Who are they with?
- Take family holidays outside term time.
- Attend parent evenings and school events.
- Praise and reward your child's achievements at school.
- Always support school staff in their efforts to control difficult or challenging behaviour.
- Take truancy seriously – if your child is not attending school as you expect, they may be putting themselves at risk
- Talk to your child about school and take an interest in their school work (including homework).
- Discuss any problems or difficulties with the school – staff are there to help and will be supportive.



For more information, please reference the Department of Education information leaflet '**School Attendance Matters: A Parent's Guide**'.

### **Sacramental Information**

Dates for sacraments are decided with Fr Hughes and Fr McGinley. Sacramental dates will be agreed in early October and communicated as soon as possible thereafter.



# Fund Raising

This year we have planned a number of exciting fund raising events – which we hope the children will enjoy being part of and will raise much needed school funds.

## Why is Fund raising SO important?

Like so many other schools, our budget has been greatly cut over the last few years. Unfortunately, this has meant that we have been forced to cover the costs of additional resources and staffing ourselves. This year we made the decision to employ an additional teacher (at a cost to the school) to ensure smaller class sizes throughout the school. We believe that this is **highly beneficial** in ensuring high quality provision for all our pupils. It is VITAL that we have successful fund raising next year if we want to be able to continue with our teaching numbers next year.

## What will our Fund Raising Money be Spent on?

- Additional Teacher to ensure smaller classes throughout the school
- Numeracy Resources in ALL classes
- ICT Resources which will be used to create a designated space to enhance the delivery of ICT for every pupil

## Sponsored Autumn Walk to Lissan House

Over the next week your child will bring home a sponsor sheet for the Autumn Walk to Lissan House. Please give generously! All money will go towards SCHOOL FUNDS – Thank you in advance.

Walk will take place on Wednesday 21st October – Weather Permitting!





### After Schools Clubs

Due to Covid-19 we are unable to resume After Schools Clubs at present. We will update you as soon as this changes.

### School Policies

Complete copies of all our school policies can be obtained by contacting the school office. This includes arrangements for **Child Protection, Internet Safety, Pastoral Care and our Safeguarding Policies.**

## New Mobile Classroom

There has been a flurry of building activity in school over the last few months. I am delighted to tell you that the new modular build is **almost complete** and will be ready for the pupils to move into before the end of September. The mobile consists of a large classroom, a sensory room, an ICT/ Small group learning room and additional toilets.

I look forward to posting some photographs and a virtual tour on our website soon.

**A massive thank you to Mrs Caroline Donaghy for campaigning so hard to secure the build. It will be a tremendous addition to the school!!**

