



**Dear Parents,**

**Please find below useful information and reminders for the remainder of the month of September 2022.**

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.

Over the summer Miss Boyle was appointed to St Colum's Primary School, Portstewart as P4 teacher, and Miss Eastwood secured a full-time teaching post in Holy Trinity PS, Cookstown. I wish them both every success in their roles, and thank them for their wonderful contribution to Lissan PS. The new teaching structure for this year is as follows:

**P1/2**

Miss Anna Young (covering Mrs Donnelly)

**P2/3**

Mrs Roisin Laverty/ Mrs Mary Hogg

**P4/5**

Mrs Coyle

**P6**

Miss Aishlinn McKenna

**P7**

Mrs McIntyre

I would like to welcome Miss Young and Miss McKenna onto our staff team this year. We also welcome Mrs Lisa McCaffrey who is joining our team as a SEN Classroom Assistant.

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)***

### 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 Conor McCrory. Conor 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 – thank you for your cooperation in this.**



## **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:

Discuss your concern with your  
child's  
class teacher (phone at  
present)

If your concern is about  
an  
academic or general  
issue  
contact:  
**Mrs McIntyre  
(Principal)**

If your concern is a  
special  
educational needs issue  
contact:  
**Mrs Lavery  
(SEN Co-ordinator)**

If your concern is a child  
protection or health and  
safety issue contact:  
**Mrs Lavery  
(Designated Teacher for  
Child Protection)**

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.**

### **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.

### **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.

#### **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 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 Curry. Sacramental dates will be agreed in early October and communicated as soon as possible thereafter.



## **Class DoJo**

Class Dojo was extremely effective last year and as such we will continue to use this platform as our primary form of communication. Please contact the school office if you are experiencing any difficulties with the app.



## **Homework**

### **Purpose**

*The purpose of homework at Lissan Primary School is to provide opportunities for parents to be involved in their child's learning. It enables children to practise and consolidate skills and aims to broaden the context of learning and provide enrichment and extension. Finally, it aims to enable children to take responsibility for their own learning, to become independent learners and to develop perseverance.*

*(Lissan PS Homework Policy)*

Our **Homework Policy** is available to read on our school website. We believe that homework is a valuable activity which reinforces your child's learning. We would ask that you support your child by helping them and checking over their homework. If your child is experiencing any difficulty, please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher.

# 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**
- **ICT Resources which will be used to create a designated space to enhance the delivery of ICT for every pupil**
  - **AR reading material**

**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 Thursday 27th October – Weather Permitting!**





### 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.**

## Breakfast Club



Breakfast Club will continue this year, and it is a useful service for our parents who wish to drop their children into school earlier in the morning.

Breakfast Club is available to all children from 8 am each morning. Pupils who would like to attend should be left into school any time from 8am onwards. Pupils have a choice of toast, cereal, fruit, hot chocolate, and juice. There is a cost of £2 per child. If siblings attend - there is a reduction in costs -£1.50 for each additional child.

Pupils not attending breakfast club can only be dropped to school from 8.45 onwards. Class begins at **9.00 am**



Payment can be made daily or by the end of the week. We would encourage all payments (dinner/ swimming etc.) to be made promptly as this greatly helps our office – thank you.

### **Afternoon Club**

To try and further assist with families' expensive childcare and to create greater flexibility for parents, we have developed an extended service of wraparound care for all pupils. In addition to our existing "Stay and Play" club, children are now also able to join our "Afternoon Club" until 4.30 pm each day.


- Children will be able to work on their homework independently. The staff member in charge will not be able to check over homework, and this remains parental responsibility.
- Stay & Play (2-3pm) £2.00
- Afternoon Club (3-4.30pm) £2.50
- All Afternoon (2-4.30pm) £4

There will be a variety of activities available – outside play, computer time, art, and crafts. Children will also be given a snack and a drink at the start of the club.



### **P7 PARENTS**

Transfer Club will operate on Tuesdays and Thursday from 3-4 p.m.



St. Mary's  
Grammar School, Magherafelt

## Registration for GL Assessment Test

**Closes Friday 23 September 2022 at 2pm**

**Download HERE**  
**or request a Registration Pack from**  
**School Office on 028 79632320**

*Inspiring Excellence, Fulfilling Potential*



## P1 Finishing Times

- P1 children will stay to 2pm from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September

School will be closed to pupils on Monday 26<sup>th</sup>  
September for Staff Development

*We would like to welcome Monsignor Curry to our Parish and school community. We look forward to working in close partnership with him.*

## Prayer FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

God of wisdom and might, we praise you for the wonder  
of our being, for mind, body and spirit.

Be with our children as they begin a new school year.

Bless them and their teachers and staff.

Give them strength and grace as their bodies grow;

Give wisdom and knowledge to  
their minds as they search for understanding; and peace and  
zeal to their hearts.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.