

Tel: 028 427 28523

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March 2024

Dear Parents

**Leukaemia and Lymphoma – Easter Raffle**

Our annual Easter Egg raffle this year will be in aid of Leukaemia and Lymphoma NI. Children may buy tickets at 20p each at the school between then and the end of term. ***Any donations of Easter Eggs would be greatly appreciated.***

**After Schools Art/Gardening**

After Schools Art/Gardening for P3 ***only*** for the following 3 weeks (28/2, 6/3 & 13/3). Please send in an old shirt/t-shirt to protect their uniform.

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**Integrated Education Month 2024**

**Theme: ‘Bias Busters’**

This March will be a fun and exciting month for us as we look forward to the many events organised to celebrate Integrated Education Month.

**World Book Day**

**Storytelling – Maddie Stewart Wednesday 6th March**

Maddie will talk to the children about how she got the reading and writing bug as a child, discuss some of her favourite books and will also read an excerpt from one of the books. There will also be a Creative Writing Workshop event.

****Dress up day on Thursday 7th March for World Book Day/non uniform. Donations to Leukaemia and Lymphoma NI.

**Sustrans – Big Walk and Wheel**

We will be commencing our Big Walk and Wheel on Monday 11th March through to Friday 22nd March. Please encourage your child to walk, scoot or cycle to school (where possible) during these two weeks. We will be logging our journeys each day.

**First Confession**

****The First Confession ceremony for our P3 Catholic children for this year takes place in St. Cooey’s Oratory Portaferry, on Thursday 14th March at 11.00 am. Everyone is welcome to the ceremony.

**MoneySense with Ulster Bank**

On Wednesday 20th March, volunteers from the Ulster Bank will visit the school with fun activities, games and resources that help teach children about money at home, as well as in schools.

**Odd Sock/Dressing Up Day**

The above will take place on Friday 22nd March. All donations will go to Integrated Education Fund who have subsidised our sports this year. This is a simple and fun initiative where students dress outlandishly and wear odd coloured socks to school and donate £1 to the Integrated Education Fund. No school uniforms that day!

**Grandparents Day **

All grandparents are invited to come along to school on the 15th March at 11.30 –

12.30 pm, have a cuppa and visit their grandchildren in class. We look forward to seeing as many grandparents as possible.

**Parents Get Together **

We have organised a Parents Get Together on Thursday 18th April at 9 am in the ICT suite to finalise details for our forthcoming events. We would appreciate if as many as possible could attend, especially our new parents. Everyone welcome.

**Handle with Care**

If your family is experiencing difficulties at home. I would like to provide additional support at school. I understand that you are not always able to share details and that’s okay. If your child is coming to school after a difficult night, morning or weekend, please email me “Handle with Care”. Nothing else will be said or asked. This will let me know that your child may need extra time, patience, or help during the day. Also in these bleak economic times, we know how difficult it is to be able to put food on the table, pay bills etc., so if you feel your child needs any extra food for breakfast and/or break

or avail of the community foodbank, we will be able to provide some food if needed. Just let Mrs Allen know by email or telephone the school and ask for her specifically.

***Important -* Absence from School**

If a child is absent from school due to illness or for some other reason, we would ask you to please ring the school or email (econlan823@c2kni.net) to let us know the situation ***It is a requirement for us to inform the Education Welfare Officer of any child’s absence for which we have no explanation.*** ***If there is no explanation of a child’s absence from school, the unauthorised absence code will be used.***

***Absence will be monitored monthly and if your child’s absence is under 85%, you will be contacted by telephone initially. If there is no improvement, the Education Welfare Officer will be contacted to advise them of this.***

***If your child has an appointment during the day, please email***

***econlan823@c2kni.net*** ***or telephone 028 427 28523 first thing at 9 am.***

**Child Protection**

**Designated Teacher/Deputy Designated Teacher**

The Designated Teacher for Child Protection is Mr Martin McKeown and the Deputy Designated Child Protection Officer is Mrs Allen. If you or your child have any concerns in this respect, please contact one of the above.

**School Counsellor**

If anyone wishes their child to avail of the school counselling service, please contact Mrs Allen for referral.

Yours faithfully

Nicola Allen

NICOLA ALLEN

PRINCIPAL

 **INTEGRATED EDUCATION MONTH 2024**

 **THEME – ‘BIAS BUSTERS’**

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| **DATE** | **ACTIVITY** |
| **6/3/24** | **Author Visit** |
| **7/3/24** | **World Book Day****Dressing Up Day** |
| **11/03/24 – 22/03/24** | **Big Walk & Wheel** |
| **12/03/24** | **Uberheroes P6/P7** |
| **14/03/24** | **First Confessions 11.00 am** |
| **15/03/24** | **Grandparents Day 11.30 am – 12.30 pm** |
| **19/3/24** | **‘Trolls’ screening at Portico (P2-P5)** |
| **20/3/24** | **MoneySense – Ulster Bank** |
| **21/3/24** | **Easter Egg rolling (P1– P3)** |
| **22/03/24** | **Odd Socks Day/non uniform** |



Tues 5th March – Enrolment practice for First Holy Communion at St Mary’s P.S. 11 am

Wednesday 6th March – Author Visit

Thursday 7th March – World Book Day

 Dressing Up Day – donations to Leukaemia and Lymphoma NI.

Monday 11th March – 22nd March – Big Walk and Wheel

Tuesday 12th March – Enrolment practice for First Holy Communion at St Mary’s P.S. 11 am

 Uberheroes P6/P7

Wednesday 13th March – Enrolment ceremony for First Holy Communion at St Mary’s P.S. 2.15 pm

Thursday 14th March – First Confession 11 am St Cooey’s Oratory

Friday 15th March – Grandparents Day 11.30 – 12.30 pm

Monday 18th March – School Closed – St Patrick’s Day

Tuesday 19th March – ‘Trolls’ screening at Portico (P2-P5)

Wednesday 20th March – Money Sense 11 – 1 pm

Thursday 21st March – Easter egg rolling P1 – P3

Friday 22nd March – Odd Socks Day/non uniform – donations to IEF – school closes at 12 noon

Monday 25th March – Friday 5th April – Easter Holidays

Wednesday 10th April – What’s Inside P6/P7

Friday 12th April – Debutots 9.30 – 10.30 am P1/P2 (First session)

Monday 15th April – Edenmore Photography

Tuesday 16th April – P4 – P7 Football 6 week programme

Friday 19th April – Confirmation

Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd April – School Nurse

Saturday 27th April – Tractor Rally

Monday 6th May – Bank Holiday – School Closed

Thursday 9th May - First Holy Communion 1 pm in St Cooey’s Oratory

 ***P1-P3 and***

***non choir home at 11.30 am***

Wednesday 15th May – Portavogie Tournament

Monday 27th May – Bank Holiday – School Closed

Tuesday 28th May – **Fundraiser - Pub Quiz in Portaferry Hotel**

Friday 31st May - Debutots 9.30 – 10.30 am – P1 - P2 (Last session)

Saturday 1st June – **Fundraiser - Coffee Morning at Portaferry Market in the Square**

Thursday 6th June – Sports Day

Monday 24th – Thursday 27th June - School closes 2 pm (P1 – P7)

Friday 28th June – School closes for summer holidays – 12 noon

