**EDENDERRY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **August 2023 Newsletter** |  |

Dear Parent

We hope everyone had an enjoyable and restful summer. We are pleased to welcome the children back to school for their **first day of term, on** **THURSDAY 31ST AUGUST**.

A special welcome to all new children and their parents. We look forward to building good relationships with our new parents and assure all of our parents that we continue to be committed to achieving excellence for all children. We are very fortunate to have a dedicated and caring staff who are happy to talk to you should you have any concerns.

This term I know the children will be looking forward to making use of the new agility trail in the front playground. Plants in the polytunnel have flourished, unfortunately so have the weeds! I know the children enjoy getting out and spending time in the garden.

This is an appropriate time of year to convey some important points and I ask that you take time to read the information as some changes have been made.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS/CONTACT NUMBERS/ PUPIL UPDATE**

In the event of an emergency or the need to contact you it is important we have your contact details and up to date information regarding your child’s health and well-being.

On Thursday, the data information held by the school on each child will be sent home to be updated. Please pay particular attention to mobile numbers, addresses and medical information. All forms must be returned to school and as soon as possible.

We will be continuing to use our Text Message service in the event of emergencies or closures. ***Please ensure your mobile number is kept up to date throughout the school year.***

**ASTHMA**

If your child has a diagnosis of Asthma, please forward your child’s quick relief inhaler to the class teacher for use if required.

**UNIFORM & CARE OF PROPERTY**

It is school policy that **all of our children are expected to wear the correct uniform**. The shirt and tie always look very smart, and we hope the children take pride in their appearance and in our school. Every year our lost property box is quickly filled with items of uniform and coats. We are unable to return many items as they have not been named. **Please ensure all your child's clothing is named.** Items of uniform can still be obtained fromthe Church of Ireland church hall. This is open on Saturday mornings.

We would ask you to encourage children not to bring valuable items (monetary or sentimental) to school, as we cannot be responsible if they are lost or damaged.

The weather in the coming month can be very warm. Until the end of September, your child may wear shirt and tie or yellow polo shirt with their uniform or summer dress. Your child’s class teacher will inform you of the class PE days.

**PUPILS’ SAFETY & SECURITY**

We endeavour to make Edenderry as safe an environment as possible for our children and we appreciate your support in this. In the interests of safety, **CHILDREN SHOULD NOT ARRIVE AT SCHOOL BEFORE 8.30am AS THERE IS NO FORMAL SUPERVISION. THE SCHOOL DOORS WILL NOT BE OPEN BEFORE THIS TIME.**

**P1-P4 will make their way directly to class.**

**P5-P7 pupils will line up in the back playground, the teacher will collect their class at 8.40am.**

**On Thursday 31st August and Friday 1st September, all pupils will be met in the playground by their class teacher. P2-P4 in the front playground and P5-P7 in the back playground. P1 parents will follow their induction plan.**

**If any child arrives after 8.45am they will enter through the main entrance and should report their arrival to the office staff.**

If a child is to be taken out of class during the day we ask, if possible, that the school is informed of this in advance. The adult collecting the child should come to the school office where they will meet the child and be asked to 'sign the child out’. Children returning to school before the end of the day must report to the school office before returning to class.

Please ensure your child is always informed each morning of arrangements for being picked up at the end of the school day.

When school is over, those children who have not been collected on time are instructed to come to the office. We would be grateful if you could reinforce this with your child.

**FINISH TIMES - MONDAY - THURSDAY**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **CLASS** | **FINISH TIMES** | **EXIT POINTS** |
| P1 | Follow Induction Information for September. From October 1.45pm. |  |
| P2 | 1.45pm | Gate in Front Playground  |
| P3 | 1.45pm | Gate at Back Playground |
| P4 | 2.45pm | Gate in Front Playground |
| P5 | 2.45pm | Gate at Back Playground |
| P6 | 2.45pm | Exit to back playground |
| P7 | 2.45pm | Exit to back playground |

**FRIDAY- Siblings of pupils in P1 – P3 will exit school at 1.45pm with the younger child’s class**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **CLASS** | **FINISH TIMES** | **EXIT POINTS** |
| P1 | Follow Induction Information for September. From October 1.45pm. | Gate in Front Playground |
| P2 | 1.45pm | Gate in Front Playground  |
| P3 | 1.45pm | Gate at Back Playground |
| P4 | 1.55pm | Gate in Front Playground |
| P5 | 1.55pm | Gate at Back Playground |
| P6 | 1.55pm | Exit to back playground |
| P7 | 1.55pm | Exit to back playground |

**LSC** – please follow guidance provided by class teacher.

**To alleviate congestion, I encourage parents to walk to and from school or park and walk. Parents collecting pupils at 1.55pm should not enter the carpark until this time, this will allow other parents to exit.**

The **staff entrance is busy** at the start and end of each day and **must not be used by parents or taxis** to drop off or collect pupils. Pedestrians should also be aware of cars entering and exiting the gate.

Please **DO NOT** use the car park at the business park beside the garage, this is solely for customers.

**MOUNTVIEW**

This is an area which has over the years been used by parents for drop off and collection. There are a significant number of homes in the area which are occupied by young families, and elderly residents who are supported during the day by carers.

 **It is essential that there is clear access for those who live and work in the area.**

 **If you must park in Mountview, please be considerate of the residents who live there. Ensure they and carers have free access to homes. Ideally, please park elsewhere, and walk to leave or meet your child at the Mountview gate.**

**\*\*DOGS MUST NOT BE BROUGHT INTO THE SCHOOL GROUNDS AT ANYTIME\*\***

**THE SCHOOL BUILDING AND GROUNDS ARE A SMOKE FREE ZONE – THIS INCLUDES E-CIGARETTES.**

**FREE SCHOOL MEALS**

As you may be aware schools get extra funding for the number of pupils who receive FREE SCHOOL MEALS. This additional money greatly impacts on what we can provide for our pupils in school. If you think you may be eligible for FSM, or if you are eligible and haven't claimed, can I please encourage you to do so. A child does not have to take the meal if they do not wish to. You can send them with a packed lunch, if preferred, but the school will still benefit.

* Families who are in receipt of income support or income-based job seekers allowance are entitled to free school meals and some assistance with school uniform.

**Application can be made online :** **mealsanduniformschools@eani.org.uk**

**PLEASE NOTE:** if the school has not received confirmation of Free School Meal entitlement by the start of the school year you will need to pay for a school dinner or send a packed lunch.

* The supervisory staff make every effort to encourage your child to eat a healthy balanced meal, but we would ask you to take time to discuss the menu with your child and assist in his/her choice.
* Please encourage the development of your child's table manners including the correct use of knife and fork.

**SCHOOL DINNERS WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THURSDAY 31st AUGUST 2023.**

**THE MENU IS AVAILABLE ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE – PARENTS – drop down menu**

**PAYMENT FOR DINNERS IS MADE THROUGH THE ONLINE PAYMENT APP ONLY.**

**For Thursday 31ST August & Friday 1st September all dinners must be paid by**

 **11.59pm on Wed 30TH August.**

**In future weeks payment must be made by 11.59pm on the Sunday evening**

**WATER**

Friends of Edenderry continue to provide water dispensers in school. Proper hydration, as you know, has a positive influence on children's learning. Children drinking water in class should have a spill proof bottle. Juice should not be sent for drinking during class time as it does not have the same benefit as water. **NO FIZZY DRINKS**

**HAIR, EARRINGS & OTHER JEWELLERY**

* Long hair must be tied back at all times.
* The wearing of earrings by children may cause injury in certain situations.

If earrings are worn, they should be studs and must be removed for PE or taped up. It is much safer if they are not worn to school, and we would ask parents to support this.

* Other than a watch (No Smart watches) items of jewellery should not be worn to school.
* Please keep nails short and clean.

**HEALTHY BREAKS**

Children should bring a healthy break to school Monday through to Thursday. No sweets, chocolate, or crisps.

On Friday a choice can, be made - a healthy option or a treat (or maybe something in between). Please also consider that many options which appear healthy can contain a lot of sugar.

**NUT ALLERGY** It is important that food containing nuts should **NOT** be brought into school at any time due to a number of children having nut allergies.

**SCHOOL ATTENDANCE - EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS**

We acknowledge that if a child is sick, he/she should be kept off school. **All absences must be explained in writing on the child’s return to school.** A pro forma is available on the school website. As a whole school we would like your cooperation in ensuring your child receives the best education that we can provide and this is done by ensuring your child, if healthy, is in school, in turn reducing the days of lost learning. If your child is sick, it is important, we are informed so we can support, you and your child and explain absences to the Education Welfare Officer.

Late arrivals, while sometimes unavoidable, result in missed learning and teaching and can be unsettling for the late pupil and those who are already started their work.

**It is important to have your child in school ready to start their day at 8.45am**

If your child is consistently absent or arriving late to school the Principal/Vice-Principal will contact, you to discuss how this can be improved.

**Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning.**

**HOLIDAYS DURING TERM-TIME**

Much has been said in the media about holidays during term time and we appreciate many ‘good deals' on holidays are available. **Missing school does impact on a child's learning. It is not possible to catch up on this work.**

**BREAKFAST CLUB - AVAILABLE BEFORE SCHOOL**

The Edenderry Breakfast Club runs each morning from **8.00 - 8.30am**. The cost is **£2.00 per child/morning**. All children are most welcome to come along to the S1 Classroom.

**AFTERSCHOOL 1.45pm-4.00pm CLUB**

**AVAILABLE EVERY DAY AFTER SCHOOL**

 **£3.50 1.45pm – 2.45pm**

**£7.00 1.45pm – 4.00pm**

**£4.00 2.45pm – 4.00pm**

**THE BREAKFAST AND AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THURSDAY 31ST AUGUST**

 **ALL BOOKINGS MUST BE MADE THROUGH THE ONLINE PAYMENT APP**

 **BY 11.59PM ON SUNDAY EVENINGS.**

The above Clubs have become extremely popular. You will appreciate that the correct level of staff is essential for safe provision, and this must be pre-planned.

There may be days when you may have to avail of the clubs at short notice, in this instance, please contact the school office.

**PARENT VOLUNTEERS**

We are very grateful to those who support the school by volunteering to accompany classes to swimming pool and on school trips.

Please let your child's teacher know if you are willing to help out, new volunteers are very welcome.

**REFRIGERATOR**: If anyone has a spare Fridge or knows of one the school could make use of, please contact the school office on 028 40622082 to arrange collection.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Monday 25th September – Friends of Edenderry AGM**

**Thursday 28th September** - MacMillan Coffee Morning- 8am School Assembly Hall (*more details to follow)*

**Thursday 28th September - P1 pupils** in school to 1.45pm

**Friday 29th September**  - School Development Day *(pupils off)*

**Monday 23rd – Thursday 26th October -** Parent Teacher Meetings *(details closer to the time)*

**Halloween** - Mon 30 October – Friday 3 November *(inclusive)*

**FLU Vaccination** - Monday 4th December

**P1-P4 Nativity** – 12- 14th December 2023 at 10am

**Carol Service -** Tuesday 19th December 2023 at 10am

**Christmas Holidays -** Friday 22 December – Wednesday 3 January 2024 *(inclusive)*

**IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN**

The Department of Education has advised that the following procedure be used if parents have any concerns about the safety of their (or another) child. The same procedure may be used for any other concern. **No promise of confidentiality can be made at any stage in this procedure.**

All schools have an obligation to inform social services if there is concern about the well-being of a child.

**How to raise a concern**

 I have a concern about my/a child’s safety.

 I can talk to the class teacher.

 If I am still concerned, I can talk to the

 Designated Teacher for Child Protection

 **Mrs Crory**

 Deputy Designated Teachers

 **Mrs Watson or Mrs Bicker**

 or the Principal **Mrs Orr**

 If I am still concerned, I can talk/write to

 The Chair of the Board of Governors,

 **Archdeacon R West**

 Or the Governor responsible for Child Protection

 **Mrs H Topping**

 At any time a parent can talk to a social worker

 at the Gateway Team: **Tel- 0800 783 7745**

 or the

 PSNI Public Protection Unit: **Tel- 0845 600 80000**

**School Policies are available on the school website or a copy can be obtained from the office.**