**EDENDERRY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

 **DECEMBER 2023**

As we approach the end of the first term of the school year, I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone in the Edenderry community for their continued support.

**CONTACT DETAILS**

Please ensure you **ALWAYS inform the school office** of any changes to addresses or mobile/home telephone numbers, your child’s medical condition etc.

**CHRISTMAS PLANS**

As we approach Christmas, we will again celebrate with **P1-P4 Christmas Nativity** and a **Carol Service in Holy Trinity** led by Key Stage 2 pupils. You will find dates and times in ‘Dates for your Diary’ at the end of this Newsletter. Further details to follow.

**This year our school charities will be NSPCC & Dr Barnardo’s**

**FUNDRAISING**

Thankfully, we have an incredibly supportive body of parents who are dedicated to our school and continually make a positive impact by encouraging the staff in all we do. Friends of Edenderry do a fabulous job and each year raise money to help support learning and teaching throughout the school.

You have now received a letter from Friends of Edenderry regarding School Funds for 2023-2024. Donations received are invaluable in helping to resource our school to support your child’s education. Additionally, FOE has supported staff in gaining grants to purchase sensory equipment and has supported each class by providing equipment and resources.

The staff would like to thank Friends of Edenderry for their continued hard work in fundraising and to all parents for their financial support for the school.

# **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 improving our rate of attendance and in turn reducing the days of lost learning. It is also important to have your child in school ready to start their day at 8.45am. 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.

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.**

Below you will see how see how attendance is graded by Department of Education.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 100%  | O Days Missed | Excellent |
| 95%  | 9 Days of Absence1 Week & 4 Days of Learning Missed | Satisfactory |
| 90%  | 19 Days of Absence3 Weeks & 4 Days of Learning Missed | Poor |
| 85%  | 28 Days of Absence5 Weeks & 3 Days of Learning Missed | Very Poor |
| 80%  | 38 Days of Absence7 Weeks & 3 Days of Learning Missed | Unacceptable |
| 75%  | 46 Days of Absence9 Weeks & 1 Day of Learning Missed |

If your child’s attendance falls below 85% with no explanation, then the Education Welfare Officer may contact you to ensure this is improved.

**FLU VACCINE -**

School nurse will be in school on **Monday 4 December** – flu vaccine program.

**UNIFORM**

As the weather starts to change, please ensure your child brings a **NAMED** coat with a hood to school. Children should be wearing their **FULL school uniform** (*not summer dresses or shorts)* to school during the Winter months. Our priority will be to let children play outside as much as possible at break and lunch.

**HOLIDAYS**

I have noted an increasing number of families holidaying during term time. I appreciate that this is due to cost, but it does impact on pupil learning. ***Please note: work cannot be provided for pupils who are taken on term time holidays.***

**FRIENDS OF EDENDERRY**

PTA again have organized this year Christmas Hampers raffle with a difference, a note has been sent home with your child along with raffle tickets which we hope you can sell to your family and friends. All raffle tickets must be returned by **Monday 18th December** at the latest.

**DONATIONS IN LIEU OF PRESENTS/GIFTS NSPCC & BARNARDOS**



Parents of over the years have shown their appreciation to all staff in school by buying gifts. They were always gratefully received and appreciated. As a staff, we recognize how fortunate we are to have jobs to support us and our families at this difficult time.

**This year we ask you again, not to send in presents but instead we would appreciate it if you would kindly donate to our two Christmas charities NSPCC & BARNARDO’S.**

**P1 ADMISSIONS 2024**

We would ask that if you are aware of any new P1 pupils looking to enroll in Edenderry PS in September 2024, could you please inform them of these arrangements.

**An OPEN NIGHT for prospective P1 parents will be held on Thursday 14th December 6.30pm – 8.00pm, prospective children are welcome to attend. If you are unable to attend on this date, please contact the school office to arrange a visit to the school - School office Tele: 028 406 22082.**

**ED connect portal opens for online applications**

**Tuesday 09 January 2024 @ 12 noon**

**Closed Friday 26January 2024 @ 12 noon**

**Notification of outcome of application Thursday 25 April 2024**

eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/primary-admissions-guide

**BANBRIDGE SPEECH & DRAMA FESTIVAL**

This year 51 pupils participated in the **‘In School Festival’**.

Congratulations to the following pupils who were awarded first place in their year group.

P7 ABIGAIL

P6 ALICE & TOM

P5 LUCY

P4 CLAIRE & JAMES

P3 SCOUT & JONAH

P2 SOPHIA & THEO

P1 LANA & JOE

Congratulations also to: -

The P7 Mime Group, led by Mr Godon and Mrs Strain, performed ‘P7 Sports Day’. They won an amazing three awards, Bell Cup, Armstrong Shield, and the Livingstone Shield. The senior special provision learning class who received the Perpetual Cup for Speech & Drama Group performance.

**AFTERSCHOOL CLUB**

It is very important that the Afterschool club is booked on a Sunday evening for the incoming week so staffing can be arranged. Please note from January 2024 if your child is sick payment will be refunded or you may use this at a later date.

**However, if your child does not attend when they are booked this will not be refunded or able to be used on another day!**

**School Website and Facebook**

Please remember to visit our school website (www.edenderryps.co.uk) for further information about our school. We have also set up a new school Facebook page for parents and prospective parents. You will find the page by searching for **‘Edenderry Primary School Banbridge’**, then please ‘like’ and follow for updates, information about events and a snapshot of school life.

Friends of Edenderry also have a Facebook page for information about their events throughout the year.

**DATES FOR YOUR DAIRY**

**1st December Christmas Jumper Day – Santa Mile (to be worn over school uniform)**

**4th December School Nurse – Flu Vac**

**12-14TH December FS & KS1 Nativity - 10.30am**

**14th December P1 OPEN NIGHT – Sept 2024 6.00pm – 8.00pm**

**19th December Carol Service in Holy Trinity Church @ 10.00am**

**20th December Christmas Parties organised by Friends of Edenderry**

**21st December Last day of term (see below departure times)**

**4th January Return to school (school open 8.30am)**

**9th January P1 Admissions Portal Opens @ 12.00 noon**

**26th January P1 Admissions Portal closes @ 12.00 noon**

**END OF TERM DEPARTURE - Thursday 21st December**

School will have a staggered finishing as below



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **P1 - P3****+ OLDER SIBLINGS** | **12.00** |
| **REMAINDER OF SCHOOL** | **12.10** |

**The staff of Edenderry Primary School, would**

**like to wish everyone a very happy,**

**peaceful and healthy Christmas & New Year**

**If you need the support of the Food Bank over the Christmas period or at any time, please contact: -**

** Grace Generation Church**

 **19-21 Church Street**

 **BANBRIDGE**

 **BT32 4AP**

 **Email: foodbank@gracegeneration.co.uk**