

WINDSOR HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Monday 23rd November 2020

Dear Parents,



P1 Admission for 2021

Information regarding enrolment to primary school will be available on the EA website at <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions> from 18th December. The P1 online procedure opens on Thursday 7th January 2021 and closes on Thursday 29th January 2021. As soon as further Department of Education guidance becomes available we will inform parents. While digital applications are preferred, support is available for everyone who needs it with paper applications – just contact the office and Miss McKane will call you back. P1 applications should be made for children whose 4th birthday falls on or before 1st July 2017. Unfortunately, we are unable to invite prospective parents to see around school but would encourage you to have a look at our school website which will provide a flavour of the excellent resources and opportunities available in our school.

CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS

Unfortunately, like so many of our regular school routines, Christmas too will have to be ‘tweaked’ in the light of the Covid Restrictions, but we still want our children to enjoy as much of the usual excitement as possible. We do not want Covid to disrupt Santa’s deliveries on Christmas Eve, so to keep him safe and well, he will not be coming into school, but, given how hard everyone is working, we hope that he will be able to call into the playground at some stage before the end of term.



Christmas Post

If children wish to post Christmas cards to their classmates, they can do so in a **class post box** from Monday 7th December – Friday 18th December. Post will be sorted and distributed in the class on a Friday. Cards should only be written for pupils in their own class.

Class Christmas Parties

Each class will arrange their own Christmas party which will take place in the assembly hall. Teachers will inform parents directly of the date of their class party. Pupils may wear their party clothes to school that day and school will provide juice and some sweets / treats to enjoy at the party. Children should not bring other party food into school.

Christmas Jumper Day

We are inviting everyone to wear their Christmas jumpers on Friday 11th December. A donation of a **non-perishable item of food for the Newry Larder Foodbank** would be appreciated on Friday 11th December. These will be collected at the bottom of the stairs at the entrance door.



Christmas Performances

Each class is providing a short piece of festively themed entertainment via the **class pages** on the school website. Performances will be approximately 5 minutes and it is planned that these will go ‘live’ during the week beginning **Monday 14th December**. While we know this does not replace a normal performance, it gives the children the opportunity to have the experience of preparing together and by using the website, they can potentially reach a ‘global audience’ with their talents.

Christmas Dinner

This year’s school Christmas dinner will be served on **Tuesday 15th December**. It is important that Christmas Dinner is booked and paid for in advance.



PTA

Unfortunately, our PTA have been unable to meet to date, hopefully we will be able to resume activities in the new year. There will be no PTA Christmas Raffle at this stage but they are hopeful that this can be done before Easter.

Christmas Presents

The staff plan to continue to donate money to charity in lieu of buying individual presents for the children this year. The charity chosen to benefit is **Newry Hospice**. We have always donated the collection at our Carol Service or the money raised through ticket sales to the Hospice, which cannot happen. Parents, are also welcome to contribute to this very worthy cause in lieu of presents for staff, donations can be sent into school in an envelope at any time between now and the end of term.



Christmas Pantomime

We have arranged for the Pantomime **Jack and the Beanstalk**, by the Ulster Theatre Company to be streamed directly into classrooms on Thursday 17th or Friday 18th December. While, not a live performance as such, it is being re-edited to make it as authentic as possible and teachers will encourage traditional pantomime audience participation. School funds will cover the total cost.



End of Term

School will end from 11:30am on **Tuesday 22nd December**. There will be no dinners served that day.

There is no bus to Shandon Park. Please ensure that your child is aware of arrangements for going home from school at the end of term.

Staggered finishing times: P1 11:30am, P2 11:40am, P3 & P3/4 11:50am, P4 /5 & P5 12:00, P6 12:05, P6/7 & P7 12:10pm with families leaving with their youngest sibling.

COVID Reminder.

This has been a very 'unique' term – possibly the understatement of the term! Covid has brought significant changes to how we do most things and around school, this will unfortunately continue for the foreseeable future. The way our pupils have adapted, their resilience and acceptance of a different routine has been brilliant and I must also acknowledge the outstanding support I have from all our staff team, particularly our caretaker Sammy, who have worked together so cordially to keep school as safe as we can. We are also grateful to our parents for your support as well. In the lead up to Christmas please continue to be vigilant – keep up the regular handwashing and hand sanitizing and in school we are continuing to operate in our class bubbles.

Do not sent your child to school if they are unwell.

If they have any covid symptoms:

- High Temperature, New / Persistent Cough, Loss of taste or smell – **Stay at home, isolate and book a test.**
<https://covid-19.hscni.net/testing>
- Inform school immediately and advise us of the result as soon as possible.
- Pupils do not return until symptoms have gone for at least 48 hours – even if the test result was negative.
- If children are isolating at the direction of the Public Health Agency, please contact the office. School work will be made available to minimize the impact on their learning during the isolation period. Further information is available on the school website or contact school if you have any questions.

New Term

School reopens for all pupils on **Wednesday 6th January 2021**

As a staff we thank you all for your continued support and wish all pupils, parents and friends of the school a very Happy Christmas and healthy New Year.

Yours faithfully

I. McKane
Principal

