

School & Community Newsletter

January 2017

Welcome back to Term 2 ... and Happy 2017!

A really big 'THANK YOU' to everyone for your generous support for our Christmas charities and fundraising. December is an extremely expensive time for families but despite the usual pressures we still appreciated everyone's generosity. The PSG Christmas Ballot raised **£550** and the Smartie Tubes **£777**. Thank you to all the local businesses and individuals for your exceptional generosity in donating gifts to raffle (and especially to the Parent Support Group members for their hard work).

The PHOTOGRAPHERS from OPUS will be in school on Wednesday 8th February. Look out for the notes coming home. If you would like your child photographed with any pre-school siblings ... please come to the assembly hall between 8.30am and 9.00pm so that these can be taken first. Please remember that full uniform (shirts, ties and sweatshirts) must be worn for the photographs.



Morning Routines

- Please remember **not** to park across or near the pedestrian gates at the front or back of the school **as this can be a real danger to pupils and parents** crossing the road. Please also remember not to park across neighbouring driveways as this is inconsiderate.

Staff News for 2017

- Mrs McCarey, our Vice-Principal, goes off this week to have baby number 3! I am sure you all join with the staff and pupils in wishing for a safe arrival and enjoyable time with the new baby and the rest of her family. The Board of Governors have appointed Mr Paul Campbell as Acting Vice-Principal until Mrs McCarey returns, so we wish him all the best with his new responsibilities in school.

Lost Property & Toys in School

- Please make sure all items of clothing and property are clearly marked with the pupil's name, as it is almost impossible to return items to owners without names.
- School cannot take responsibility for toys, sticker books or other items brought in to play with. We would always advise parents not to allow children to bring these items in.

IMPORTANT: P1 Enrolment for September 2017

Application forms (with birth certificate) for P1 must be in school by **12 noon on Wed 11th January**

We all enjoyed three fantastic performances by our P1 – P3 children just before the end of term ... so a big 'Thank You' to all the children and staff involved, as well as the audiences!

Ticket sales raised **£950** for our chosen charities, Stand by Me, Autism NI and Children's Cancer Fund NI.





We don't want any 'lost lambs' when it comes to attendance and lateness

Attendance Matters!

As a school we are committed to providing the best possible learning experiences for your child ... and as a parent you are legally responsible for making sure they attend regularly. Our attendance is rigorously monitored by the Education Welfare Service and we have a statutory responsibility to inform parents when attendance falls below an acceptable level.

Did you know ...?

95% Attendance **9 days** absence

90% Attendance **19 days** absence
(3 weeks & 4 days missed)

85% Attendance **28 days** absence
(5 weeks & 3 days missed)

80% Attendance **38 days** absence
(7 weeks & 3 days missed)

You might think **90%** attendance is good enough ... but this means missing half a day each week, or nearly **four school weeks** a year

☺ Please note any concerns re. **Safeguarding or Child Protection** should be referred to the Safeguarding Team in school, Mrs S Morrow or Mr I Skinner (see reception)

Diary Dates (Term 2)		2016 – 2017
w/b 16 th January		P4 – P7 After-School Activities start for term 2
Sat 28 th January		AQE Results issued to parents of P7 pupils
Mon 30 th January – Thurs 2 nd February		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer Interviews for P7 parents • Parent Consultations for all other pupils • Pupils home at 12.30pm every day
Wed 8 th February		'Opus' Photographers in school
Fri 10 th February		Closed @ 12 noon (no Breakfast Club or lunch)
Mon 13 th – Fri 17 th February		Closed for Half-Term
Mon 27 th February		Blood Donation Sessions 2.00pm & 5.15pm
Thurs 2 nd March		World Book Day – Details to follow
Tues 4 th – Thurs 6 th April		KS2 Performance 'Beauty & the Beast'
Fri 7 th April		Closed @ 12 noon (no Breakfast Club or lunch)
Mon 21 st April 2017		School starts back @ 8.55am (Breakfast Club)