

Coagh Primary School

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Principal: **Mr I Bayne B.Ed.(Hons), PQH (NI)**

Upcoming Dates and Events

Letter Dated – 6th November 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you have had an opportunity during Half Term to spend some time with you children after what was a busy Term 1A. As we start back for Term 1B please take a few minutes to carefully read this letter which will outline some of the upcoming dates and events happening in school during what is traditionally a very busy term.

Monday 7th November

School reopens for all pupils on Monday 7th November with 'flexible drop off' from 8.30am. Fun Club (P1-P3) and Homework Club (P1-P7) are available as 'normal'.

Miss Dunn

As outlined in a letter a few weeks ago we welcome Miss Dunn who will be teaching the P1 class on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday starting from Monday 7th November. As a school community we hope that Mrs Glasgow enjoys a few 'quiet' weeks before her new baby arrives, and we look forward to hearing about this exciting news.

Library Van

The library van will be in school on Monday morning (7th November) so if your child wishes to change their library book, please return their completed one.

PE Uniform

School PE Uniform consists of 'Plain' Navy or Black tracksuit bottoms/leggings, trainers along with the school polo shirt and jumper. The Board of Governors made the conscious decision several years ago not to get parents to purchase 'branded' school PE kit because of the cost. The use of our PE uniform has been very successful because it allows pupils extended PE time due to not changing before lessons and does keep our uniform costs lower than average. Please **do not** send your child in 'colourful' tracksuit bottoms/leggings/shorts as the Board of Governors may have to revise the PE Uniform Policy going forward.

School Photographs

Photograph Order Forms will be given to all pupils on Monday (7th November). Photographs can be ordered online (instructions are inside the envelope) or the completed order form can be returned to school before Monday 14th November (this will ensure timely delivery before Christmas). Please ensure all details and money etc are correct inside the envelope as school staff do not open the envelopes and they are sent directly by school to Tempest Photography who process all orders. There is no need to return the 'proof' copies if you are not placing an order.

Shared Education

The Shared Education programme for the P6/7 class with Ballylifford continues into Term 1B with Ballylifford pupils visiting Coagh Primary School on Monday 7th November. The P6/7 class will then be visiting Belfast Zoo on Monday 14th November. Please see the letter sent out to P6/7 parents prior to Half Term for more details.

Swimming

Pupils in P6/7 will continue with their weekly swimming lessons on a Tuesday morning during Term 1B. After Christmas pupils in P5 along with P6 pupils will begin their Term of weekly swimming lessons.

IFA Coaching

Judith Watt will be in school each Tuesday afternoon and will continue to work with P5, P6 and P7 pupils. On a Tuesday all P5-P7 pupils should wear PE Uniform.

Parents Association AGM

The Parents Association are holding their AGM on Wednesday 9th November at 8.30pm in the School Assembly Hall. Following the short 'official' AGM the members of the Parents association will be focusing on their preparations and plans for the 'Evenings with Santa' which are planned for the start of December. All Parents are very welcome to attend, and tea/coffee is available during the AGM.

Area Planning (Education Authority)

The Education Authority are due to release a statement on Monday 7th November regarding 'Area Planning' in the local area. Mr Bayne will be available during the Parents Association AGM on Wednesday from 8.30pm to answer any questions that parents may have following this announcement.

Hockey Tournament

Coagh Primary School are entering one boys and one girls team into the first 'Blitz' Hockey Tournament which will take place on Thursday 10th November. This will hopefully be the first of three 'Blitz' tournaments which will be organised during this academic year. Pupils will be given further information this week.

Remembrance Day

On Friday 11th November pupils from P4-P7 (Weather permitting) will walk to the War Memorial in Coagh for Remembrance Day at 11am. Representatives from the School Council will lay a Poppy Wreath on behalf of the school community. Pupils should ensure that they have a warm coat, hat and gloves with them on Friday.

Anti-Bullying/Friendship Week

Throughout Northern Ireland schools will be participating in 'Anti Bullying' Week which begins on Monday 14th November. This year we will be 'rebranding' the event in Coagh Primary School so that it will be referred to as 'Friendship' Week. Throughout the week each class will be taking part in lessons focusing on 'friendship' and as part of this we will be selecting 'Friendship Ambassadors' who will be assist other pupils particularly during Break and Lunchtime in school.

Parent/Teacher Interviews

All parents will have received invitations to attend Parent/Teacher interviews which will primarily be taking place on Tuesday 15th, Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th November. During these days pupils should be collected from school at 12.45pm to facilitate interviews starting at 1pm.

Arrangements have been outlined in the previous letter for those pupils who are unable to be collected from school at 12.45pm.

Classroom Assistants will supervise these pupils between 1pm and 1.45pm. At 1.45pm those P1-P3 pupils who 'normally' attend Fun Club can do so at the 'normal rate of £1'. P4-P7 pupils will be supervised without charge as this is their 'normal' class time. Homework Club is available (P1-P7) from 3pm – 5.30pm on all three days. We hope that this minimises disruption regarding 'childcare arrangements' etc.

Football Tournament

The Tri County (Indoor) football tournament will take place on Friday 18th November at Cookstown Leisure Centre. This is a 7 a side tournament and this year there will be an indoor tournament on 18th November and an outdoor tournament prior to Easter 2023. Pupils will receive further details closer to the tournament.

Open Night

We will be hosting our annual 'Open Night' for prospective new P1 pupils and parents on Thursday 1st December starting at 7pm. Posters will be put up in the village during this week and we would extend a warm invitation to anyone who has a child starting P1 in September 2023. Members of the school choir will be performing on the night. Pupils from the P6/7 class will act as 'Tour guides' like in previous years. If you know of anyone due to start school next September, please extend our invitation to them for our Open Night on Thursday 1st December.

Homework

The final day of 'written' homework will be Wednesday 30th November. This will allow pupils time to learn songs and scripts for the Christmas Concerts. Spellings/Tables and Reading will continue during the Week beginning 5th December.

Pantomime

P1-P7 pupils will be attending the Market Place Theatre in Armagh on Monday 5th December to watch the Pantomime 'Cinderella'. Could anyone who still needs to return either the consent form or £11 please do so this week. If you are unsure whether you have sent in these please contact Mrs Gates in the school office.

Evenings with Santa

Provisional dates for 'Evenings with Santa' are Tuesday 6th and Wednesday 7th December. Further information will be conveyed following the Parents Association Meeting on Wednesday 9th November.

Christmas Concert

Wednesday 14th December has been earmarked as the date for the school Christmas Concert. There will be a morning and evening performance and further details will be communicated over the coming weeks. All pupils should be collected from school following the morning performance (Details of times etc. will follow)

Christmas Holidays

School will close at 12 noon on Wednesday 21st December for the Christmas Holidays and will reopen on Thursday 5th January 2023.

As you can see Term 1B will be busy for all our pupils and as other events arise, we will keep you informed.

Yours sincerely,



Mr I. Bayne
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