

Killinchy Primary School

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Principal:
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Parents' Bulletin January 2020

Dear Parents,

Every bulletin begins with a full list of closures and diary dates for the year ahead which can also be downloaded from the school website; please keep a close eye on them for changes/new additions **highlighted in yellow** as the year progresses.

Holidays and Diary Dates 2019/20

Monday 6 th January	Term 2 begins: everyone back to school.
Monday 13 th January	P1 Toytime with Nannie (Rescheduled)
Tuesday 14 th January	P6/7L start swimming
Tuesday 14 th January	Open Evening (Rescheduled)
Thursday 16 th January	P7M start swimming
Saturday 25 th January	AQE results (P7 only).
WB 27 th January	P7 Transfer interviews.
Tuesday 4 th February	P4 Trip 'Pack Up Your Troubles', Castle Ward
Fri 14 th February	Closed for School Development Day.
Monday 17 th – Wed 19 th Feb (inclusive)	Closed for Half Term.
WB 2 nd March	P1 – P6 Spring Parent/Teacher Consultations. (Early Close Mon/Tues 1:00pm)
Monday 16 th March	Closed for School Development Day.
Tuesday 17 th March	Closed for Bank Holiday
Thursday 19 th March	P4B start swimming
Tuesday 24 th March	P5M start swimming
Friday 3 rd April	Close 12:00 for Easter.

Mon 6 th April – Fri 17 th April (inclusive)	Closed for Easter.
Monday 20 th April	Term 3 begins: everyone back to school.
Wed 22 nd – Fri 24 th April	P6 Residential to Greenhill Centre, Newcastle
WB 27 th April	Summer Assessments.
Thursday 7 th May	Closed for School Development Day.
Friday 8 th May	Closed for VE Day Bank Holiday.
Thursday 14 th May	P4K start swimming.
Friday 15 th May	Junior Sports Day (P1 & P2 AM) (P3 & P4 PM).
Wednesday 20 th May	P2 Trip 'Birds, Bugs and Beasts' Castle Ward
Friday 22 nd May	Senior Sports Day (P5 – P7 PM).
Monday 25 th May	Closed for Bank Holiday.
Tuesday 26 th May	Closed for School Development Day.
Tuesday 2 nd June	Information Evening for new P1 parents.
Tuesday 9 th June	P1 Induction Afternoon
Tues 16 th – Fri 19 th June	P7 Trip to Falkirk
Friday 26 th June	P7 Leavers' Presentation (P7's last day)
Monday 29 th June	'Moving Up' Day
Tuesday 30 th June	Close 12:00 for Summer.

Open Evening Re-Run!

Following postponement of the evening event scheduled for 7pm Tuesday 26th November, this has now been **rescheduled for Tuesday 14th January 2020**. Please pass on the word to anyone who might have missed out. Thank you!

Dinner Bookings

Sufficient time has now elapsed for parents to adjust to our online booking system for dinners. Organising lunch for pupils is a parental responsibility therefore **from January 2020, pupils who come to school without a dinner booked may not be provided with an alternative**. Please remember that the latest time to book is 9:30am on the day.

Upcoming Holidays!

School will close at the normal times **on Thursday 13th February**. We will then be closed from Friday 14th – Wednesday 19th inclusive for half-term.



School will **re-open on Thursday 20th February** for all pupils with all clubs and services resuming as normal.

P1 Applications for September 2020

Similar to last year, the Education Authority invites pre-school parents to apply for a P1 place in Killinchy PS via the EA's online application portal. The site will **go live on Tuesday 7th January** after which parents should provide their first choice school with a hard-copy Birth Certificate. If sending by post we recommend using recorded delivery. The **closing date for punctual applications is Thursday 30th January**; applicants should ensure they apply before this date to avoid being categorised as 'late'.

Parents of siblings should note that they still need to make a formal application even if they already have a child attending Killinchy PS.

If you, or anyone you know, has any questions about the P1 application process they should get in touch with us as soon as possible.

As with earlier item, our **rescheduled Open Evening will take place on Tuesday 14th January at 7:00pm.**



P7 Transfer Interviews



AQE and GL results are due to be with pupils on Saturday 25th January. On the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of the following week (27th/28th/29th) we will be hosting P7 Transfer Interviews during which parents will complete a formal application for post-primary school.

January is always a very busy time for Open Days/Evenings but if you haven't yet decided a 'Plan A and Plan B' for your child I would encourage you to visit as many of these as possible and begin researching Entry Criteria. Most are similar but there are subtle (but important) differences affecting some of our recipient schools i.e. Saintfield High and Lagan College.

If you would like any guidance on this in advance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Interviews with Mrs McBride's class will be with Mr Currie and those for Mrs Leckey's P7 will be with Miss Finlay. The link for the online booking system has already been circulated.

Spring Parent/Teacher Consultations

These will take place WB Monday 2nd March 2020. **School will close at 1:00pm on Monday 2nd March and Tuesday 3rd March** to enable teachers to meet with parents. There will be **no afternoon buses or Extended Schools Services on these dates.**

The normal school timetable will resume on **Wednesday 4th March**. Links to the online booking system will be with you mid-January.

Extra-Curricular Clubs Term 2

Our ever-popular programme of extra-curricular clubs continues into Term 2 as usual. Miss Finlay has compiled another exciting and varied list available to classes from P2 – P7. At Killinchy PS we do not offer Extra-Curricular Clubs to P1 pupils due to complications it creates at home time.



Letters will be distributed on Monday 6th January and **returns requested by Wednesday 8th January**. In the event of over-subscription, punctual returns will be given preference over those which come in late. If there is an unavoidable reason why pupils may not be able to receive or return their letters eg. illness, please get in touch so your child does not miss out.

RSE Lessons



As you will have seen in the information distributed pre-Christmas, our programme of learning in the area of **RSE (Relationships and Sexualities Education)** will commence in January with some of the 'newer' material (P6 and P7 Puberty) being delivered for 3 Wednesdays from (and including) 15th January.

Depending on parental preference, you may wish to touch on some of this in the days or weeks beforehand so pupils aren't caught off-guard.



We are pleased to inform you that a team from the NSPCC will be visiting us again on **Wednesday 5th February** to deliver **age-appropriate assemblies and workshops on Safeguarding and Child Protection.**

There is no charge for this service however, as the NSPCC is a charitable organisation, it relies heavily on voluntary donations for its existence. For that reason we will be showing our appreciation by participating in their '**Odd Sock Day**' fundraiser on the same date. Details to follow.

Thank you for taking the time to read this bulletin. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to get in touch with us. Wishing you all a very happy new year!

With thanks,

Chris Currie