



ACADEMY

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parent,

25 June 2018

The end of another busy but successful school year is in sight. Here are just a few of my own **highlights**:

- A record number of pupils with 100% attendance!
- Highest ever numbers at Academy (454 pupils) enrolled in Department Census of October 2017 and oversubscribed at both nursery and P1 for next year! (c. 20 children P2-7 have also been turned away)
- The success of our children at AQE & GL and the progress of countless children from Nursery to P7.
- Being awarded our Eco Green Flag for the next two years!
- Our PTA Summer Fair – what great weather and what a great community day!
- Our whole school visit to the cinema.
- Accompanying P6K to visit Daisy Lodge – such a worthwhile cause!
- Fitness Freddy Super Hero Day and Crazy Hair Day for Children in Need.
- The third successful year of our fully funded Shared Education Programme with Holy Family.
- Great performances at our P1-3 Harvest, P1-3 Nativity, Nursery Nativities, P4-7 Carol Service, Spring Concert, Spanish Celebration and our School Performance of 'The Pirates of the Curry Bean'!
- Great performances from our children in a range of team and individual sports with the Under 10 Football Team winning the Lisburn and District Cup
- Our residential visits to Castlewellan (P5), Ardnabannon (P6) and Edinburgh (P7)
- Above all, I think learning Spanish and my visits to our nursery in the third term have been the most personally rewarding.

School Uniform

If you have any old school uniforms either with the old or new logo, please send them into school this week. The collection point will be in the P4 work area. Mrs Hamilton and a few helpers will come along to sort and pack the clothes for the journey to Romania on Friday 29th. All children are to wear uniforms with the new school logo from September as previously notified last year. A uniform allowance is available to children of parents receiving income support.

Classes / Reports

Classes and comprehensive reports have been issued to all classes. If you have any queries or concerns, then please contact me and I will happily discuss them with you. Please note that standardised scores are not included on reports but are available from class teachers on request.

I am pleased that in this era of educational underspending our recently agreed 3-year financial plan with the EA does not include any reductions in staffing. The following staff will be responsible for the classes indicated in September 2018. As previously intimated I will be working a four-day week from September with Mr Fegan as Principal on Wednesdays.

| N a.m. Mrs Cockroft | | N p.m. Mrs Jordan | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| P1 | Mrs Logan / Miss Ross (4:1) | P1 | Mrs Craig |
| P2 | Mrs Dickson / Mrs McClements (4:1) | P2 | Mrs Ewart / Mrs McClements (3:2) |
| P3 | Mrs Martin | P3 | Mrs Campbell |
| P4 | Miss Adamson | P4 | Mrs Magwood |
| P5 | Mrs Kells / Miss Ross (4:1) | P5 | Mrs Reid / Mrs McIlrath (3:2) |
| P6 | Mrs Kennedy | P6 | Mrs Eadie |
| P7 | Mr Fegan / Mrs Johnston-Wood(4:1) | P7 | Mrs Allen / Mrs Johnston-Wood (3:2) |
| SEN | Mrs Donnelly (15hpw) | | |

I wish to express sincere thanks to those who contribute to making Academy the happy and successful school that it is. Our **Board of Governors**, under the able leadership of Mr Geoffrey Perrin voluntarily spent many long evenings working for the good of the children and staff. Their guidance and leadership are second to

none. Sadly, after 7 terms of office, Geoffrey has decided to step down. I wish to formally place on record my sincere personal and professional thanks for all that Geoffrey has contributed to this school over 29 years. His wisdom and guidance have ensured the continued improvement of our school. Jon Cockroft and James Hyndman have also stood down from his position on our Board. Once again we will miss their vast knowledge and contribution from our meetings. We welcome Nadine Kirk, Katherine Irvine and Ray Gallagher on to the new Board as their replacements.

Our **teaching staff** not only plan, prepare, deliver and evaluate lessons but engage in a wide range of activities such as educational visits, residential visits, after school activities, coaching sports teams, preparing children for musical exams and attending musical events, home-school visits, additional duties linked to respective posts, additional training, attendance and participation in PTA and Board of Governor events, events held in Saintfield and the local community, Open Days and Nights, meetings regarding the curriculum and transfer, attending competitions, representing the school at Board and Department level, organising DELTA courses for parents, preparing pupils for Religion, liaising with outside agencies in relation to Learning Support, Child Protection and pastoral matters etc. The list is by no means exhaustive but it certainly exhausts me just thinking about it! The school continues to be served not just by an excellent teaching staff but also by a very dedicated and able group of people collectively known as the **non-teaching staff**. I would like to record my sincere thanks for everything they do in ensuring the children at Academy are well supported and catered for during their time here.

I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank **you** for the tremendous support you give to the school and the backing you give to your children and to the staff. The good working partnership the school enjoys with parents is worth commenting on. We not only appreciate your financial support and presence at events but also your daily support in terms of attendance, uniform, behaviour and homework. A sincere word of thanks to our parents who are reading partners and who help with maths recovery. A varied and enjoyable programme was organised throughout the school year by our hard working P.T.A. I would like to formally thank the committee on your behalf and would take this opportunity to ask for some new parents to consider getting involved in September. A big thank you to the many individual parents who gave lifts, helped with our nursery, went on school trips, brought pets into school, talked about their jobs, who helped improve our grounds and facilities etc.... too many for me to recall! We are also indebted to the business community and to the generosity of parents who help financially in so many ways.

Wrap Around Care

- Breakfast Club continues to open at **0800** and run to 0850. **Cost from September will be £1.00.**
- The Sleepy Hollow Group provide our day care. Please see their website for details.

Meals

School meals will cost **£2.60** from September 2018. Free meals are available to children of parents receiving income support. Please feel free to enquire about this provision at any time. I would encourage you as parents to provide healthy choices for packed lunches and breaks. I would remind parents that on **Friday 29 June** there will be no canteen breakfasts, breaks or lunches and that **school finishes at 1300.**

August 2018

P6 Revision classes (for children commencing P7 in September 2018) will take place on Wednesday 15th, Thursday 16th and Friday 17th August from 0945-1200. School recommences on **Tuesday 28 August 2018 for all children in Primary 2 to Primary 7.** Please note this will be a shortened day and school will close at 1300 for all pupils. **Wednesday 29 August 2018** will also be a half day. There will be no canteen or school bus service on these days. The Nursery and Primary 1 children have already been notified about starting times. **Parental Curriculum** talks have been organised as below. In the past these days were very well attended and received by parents. Staff will talk to parents about homework, behaviour and curriculum expectations as well as routines relevant to their year group. The maximum length of time will be 20-25 minutes. The timings are:
Tuesday 28th P2 1305 P3 1330 P4 1355 P5 1420 P6 1445 P7 1510
Finally, may I wish every family connected with the Academy a safe and enjoyable summer break.

Yours sincerely

S.H. Moore