



ACADEMY

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parent,

24 June 2019

Academic Year 2018-2019

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

- Highest ever numbers at Academy (456 pupils) enrolled in Department Census of October 2018.
- The success of our children at AQE & GL and the progress of countless children from Nursery to P7.
- Our whole school visit to the cinema to see Mary Poppins.
- Fitness Freddy and Burns Fitness days!
- The fourth 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, and our School Performance of 'Goodbye My Friend'!
- Great performances from our children in a range of team and individual sport. A special mention must go to our girls' soccer team who competed competitively for the first time.
- Our nursery programme for parents.
- Our numerous education visits and residential visits to Castlewellan (P5), Ardnabannon (P6) and Edinburgh (P7). I managed to survive all three, as did Mrs McConnell!
- Our PTA Summer Fair – what a great community day and our PTA Wine and Cheese Evening – a great night of entertainment!

A Year of Change!

This year we said a sad farewell to three long standing servants of the school in Mrs Hilman (Executive Officer), Mrs Johnston-Wood (P7 teacher) and Mrs Judith Barr (Nursery teacher). I would like to place on record my sincere gratitude for their faithful service over many years to the children in our school. We wish each of them health and happiness.

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.

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 2019.

N a.m.	Mrs Cockroft	N p.m.	Mrs Jordan
P1	Mrs Logan / Mrs McBriar (4:1)	P1	Mrs Craig / Mrs McBriar (4:1)
P2	Mrs Dickson / Mrs Ewart (4:1)	P2	Mrs McClements / Mrs Ewart (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 / Miss Ross (4:1)	P7	Mrs Allen / Miss Ross (4:1)
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 Peter Shaw voluntarily spent many long evenings working for the good of the children and staff. Their guidance and leadership are second to none. 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 evening 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.

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 is **£1.00** entrance plus any expenditure.
- Paddington Day Care provide our day care. Please contact Paddington directly for details.

Meals

School meals will cost **£2.60** from September 2019. 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 28 June** there will be no canteen breakfasts, breaks or lunches and that **school finishes at 1300**.

School Uniform

If you have any old school uniforms, 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 28th. In August the wearing of full school uniform is expected. A uniform allowance is available to children of parents receiving income support.

School Attendance

Due to the increase in parental requests for pupil attendance marks to be given in lieu of attendance at agriculture shows, sporting events, specific family reasons for holidays etc. the governors at their June meeting have deemed that **all absences** of this nature from August 2019 will mean that attendance marks will not be granted.

August 2019

P6 Revision classes (for children commencing P7 in September 2018) will take place on Monday 19th, Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st August from 0945-1200. School recommences on **Tuesday 27 August 2019 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 28 August 2019** will also be a half day. **There will be no canteen or school bus service during this first four 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 27th P5 1305 P3 1330 P4 1355 P2 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. Moor