



# JANUARY 2019 Newsletter



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Principal: Mrs. Mary Bacheta

Dear families and friends

**HAPPY NEW YEAR** to everyone. We hope 2019 brings good health and happiness to us all. As always we have hit the ground running and the boys and girls are busy learning and enjoying being at our lovely school.

## **REMINDER-PRIMARY 1 & PLAYGROUP APPLICATIONS**

If you have not yet applied for P1 or are having any difficulty with the online application process, please do not hesitate to get in touch and we will try to help you. Also tell others about our fantastic school if you have friends or family who are looking to apply.

The closing date and time for pre-school and primary one applications will be **12.00 midnight on Thursday 31 January 2019**.

Please visit: <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions> for more information.

## **REMINDER SCHOOL CLOSURES**

School will close for HALF TERM **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2019 to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2019**. Children return to school on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

## **GRANDPARENT'S MASS**

As part of Catholic School's Week our annual Grandparent's mass will take place on **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019**. Please come along and join us.

## **ANNUAL DERRY FEIS**

Will take place from 23<sup>rd</sup> April-26<sup>th</sup> April 2019. A letter will be sent out next week with more details.

# PARENT-TEACHER MEETINGS

An opportunity for you to come along and talk with your child's class teacher has been planned for **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February between 1.00pm and 3.00pm.** The children will remain in school under the supervision of the teaching assistants.

The class teachers will be available in the assembly hall to meet with parents to discuss progress and development. It is our practice to arrange meetings with parents as and when the need arises so these meetings are expected to be brief. If for any reason you need more time to discuss any issues at length, please make an appointment to meet the teacher at another time.

Also if this time is not suitable please contact the office or speak to the class teacher. It is important to have a meeting with the teacher to find out how your child is doing.



## **CONFIRMATION-PRIMARY 7**

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2019 at 2.30pm in St. Columb's Church, Chapel Road followed by refreshments in the parish hall.

## **FIRST CONFESSION-PRIMARY 4**

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 2.00pm in the assembly hall.

## **FIRST COMMUNION-PRIMARY 4**

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at 11.30am in St. Columb's Church, Chapel Road followed by refreshments in the school assembly hall.

## REMINDER-ADVERSE WEATHER/SNOW ARRANGEMENTS

Luckily, we do not experience too many days where we feel that we may not be able to open the school or that weather conditions may hinder attendance at school. To put it into context, children are expected to attend 185 school days so we are only talking about a very small number of adverse weather days when conditions may cause us an issue. We try not to dwell on these days but focus on all the other happy days we come to school.

In the event of adverse weather conditions, the most important factor is the Health & Safety of every member of our school community.

To ensure you do not feel under pressure or put anyone in a situation where children or adults are at risk we would encourage you to carefully assess the weather conditions before making the journey to school. We understand that a large number of families including staff live in areas where there are steep hills and untreated roads.

We do not want anyone to worry about the journey to school. We also understand that parents and guardians have the added pressure of needing to get to work on time. Unfortunately, we cannot predict or change bad weather but we can offer solutions to help us have a more pleasant experience.

### Please note the following:

As far as is possible we will always try to open the school, however, on the rare occasion where it is deemed too dangerous, a message will be sent through the website and on Facebook at the earliest opportunity.

In the event of adverse weather, there is no immediate rush required to get to school. Children will be marked in for the morning session if they arrive in before 10.30am. Just contact the office to let us know.

If you can avoid driving up the hill to the school, please do so as it can be very slippery, especially around school time when traffic is going in both directions. A later arrival will also mean you will miss some of the congestion. A number of parents used the entrance down at Shepherd's Glen last year and they found this an easier route.

**Just an additional note on the above:** I have tried for the last 3 years to get the 'gritter' to come up and salt the hill and have been told that we need to have a larger number of road users to justify this. If you have time, I would encourage you to continue to put pressure on the local MLAs and council to afford us this much needed service.

This made us LOL! 😊



*Mrs. Bacheta and staff*