**Oisin Chesters**

The school community returned in January to the devastating news of the sudden death of Oisin Chesters, a much loved pupil who had left us for the Sacred Heart College in June 2017. He was a real character and a “superhero”. Oisin was a valued member of our school for the past 8 years, having started his journey in Nursery.

Reverend Linton led a fitting tribute to Oisin during assesmby and there will be many other times when we remember him throughout the year.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all of Oisin’s family.

A Message from Mrs.Taggart

With the arrival of the New Year we look forward to another busy but productive period. This applies to both staff and parents/carers. To summarise- you will have a few months to catch your breath after Term 1!

January is always an important time for Y7 as they begin to consider post-primary schools. I wish them well in this first step on the transition to ‘big school’ and look forward to meeting with parents in the coming weeks to discuss options.

Unfortunately, Mr. Bradley is off ill at present. Mrs. Clements is also ill and we wish them both a speedy recovery. If you have any concerns, please make an appointment to speak to your child’s class teacher or myself.

Some of you may have noticed due to unforeseen illness, an increased presence of sub- teachers over the last number of weeks. We acknowledge that it causes some short-term disruption in classes but this is unavoidable. In all cases, work is planned and prepared for subs by class teachers in advance.

Over the coming weeks we will share with you our new 3-year School Improvement Plan for OIPS Primary & Nursery. There is an exciting time ahead.

**Integration ‘FOCUS’ Group**

Through our whole school self-evaluation, it has become evident that we as a school need to refocus on Integration.

The plan is to set up an Integration ‘Focus,’ group, consisting of pupils, parents, staff and governors. If you are interested in joining this group, please sign up with leave your with Mrs. McElduff in the office.

Planning the Move to the New School

The new school build continues to progress at speed. At present the completion date is still on track for 15th May 2018. It is envisaged that the move to the new build will take place in late May or early June. Take a look at our website and Facebook page to see how the building is progressing.

In order to facilitate the move to the new build it will be necessary to change some of the planned holidays **Tuesday 8th of May and Tuesday 29th of May are no longer holidays.** These two days will be combined with the 3 days allocated by the department to help us with our transition to the new building.

School will be closed for a week in late May/early June so that the move to the new site can take place.

This will all be dependent on the build remaining on schedule. The project manager and contractors will not be able to confirm the completion date until early May so please try to make provisional arrangements for childcare. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

The school will be holding an information evening for parent/carer(s) in March with new updates on the new building. This will be an opportunity for you the school community to see the progress, ask questions and make further suggestions for our new building. The date is to be confirmed.

Thank-you for your generosity in collecting for the school Christmas Draw. We raised over £2500.00 This money will be used to provide resources in the new school.

**School Logo & Uniform**

Following consultation with pupils, parents, staff and governors it has been decided that the logo will remain the same as we move to the new school.

Many felt that the school logo is a part of our history and it is easily recognisable within the community. There were also concerns over the cost for parents. In the interest of having an easily recognisable logo. We will have one logo for all uniforms/kits. We will consult with parents and update you after the mid-term break in February of who will supply our school the uniform/Kits.

We appreciate the time that pupils and parents spent on creating designs. These are reflective of our school and integration. We plan to use these contributions in some capacity in our new school.

**Credit Union Quiz**

Four teams from Y6 and Y7 represented the school at the annual Omagh Credit Union Quiz. Well done to all the pupils who participated. You did us all proud. Thank-you to the parent/carer(s) for attending the event.

Brilliant News

Congratulations to **Lewis Forsythe in Year 7** who won a family pass to “We Are Vertigo” by entering a competition on Q101 Radio. His mum is also the lucky recipient of a spa treatment! Lewis was up bright and early to answers questions on the radio.

Stay & Play

Our Winter Stay and Play took place on Mon. 8th January hosted by the Foundation Stage Staff. It was a great success. Thank-you to the families who attended. Our February Stay and Play takes place on Wednesday 14th February 2018, 1.30pm-2.30pm. For ages 2-5. Everyone Welcome.

**Charity Thanks**

This year to date OIPS has raised just over £– a massive thank you to every parent, extended family member, child or member of the community who has donated in anyway. Below are the total amounts raised since September 2017: -

* NSPCC - £250.00
* Poppy Appeal- £
* Care for Cancer- £

Holidays and Closures 2018/19

We’ve received a few enquiries recently about holidays/closures for next year. As you know we like to plan ahead and give everyone plenty of opportunity to be organised. The holidays for 2018/19 will be sent out in due course.

Social Media

As you are aware we launched our school Facebook page in Term 1. The purpose of this page is to inform parent/carer(s) of events and activities taking place in school.

We would now like to enhance this page by uploading photographs/videos of the children to show what is happening in our school on a regular basis. Alongside the newsletter is the attached permission form for each pupil to complete for each pupil. No names will be included in the photos/posts when uploaded. Please read the permission slip carefully and return to your child’s class teacher by **Wed. 7th February 2018.** The current Social Media Policy is under review in light this change.

There have been no changes to the points below.

Parents/carers should:

* Not post pictures of pupils, other than their own children, on social media sites when these photographs have been taken at a school event.
* Make complaints through official school channels rather than posting them on social media sites.
* Not post malicious or fictitious comments on social media sites about any member of the school community.
* Report any damaging or negative comment about the school on social media to the

Principal/Vice Principal.

After-School Activities

These will begin after the ½ term holidays in February. Details will be sent out soon. The clubs will run for 5 Weeks.

**Reminders**

* We kindly ask you to ensure we have your most up-to-date contact details and phone number. Please also inform us of any house moves and if you are not receiving text messages.
* In the interests of Child Protection parents should call at the at the office if you need speak to or collect a pupil during the day.
* It is important that all pupils are on time for school at 9am. Even a few minutes of lateness each day means that pupils miss out on “Teaching and Learning”.
* Remember to phone the school in the morning of a child’s absence and then send a note to their class teacher on return.
* If pick up arrangements change, please inform your child’s class teacher.
* We are always trying to improve our communication to parents.
* **ALL** information is on our website: [www.omaghintegratedps.com](http://www.omaghintegratedps.com)
* Photographs and videos will be posted on the website which is updated very regularly throughout the month.
* Visit the school website and scroll to down on the homepage to download the School App. This app will send you updates from the school.

***Pastoral Care***

Staff at OIPS are always ready to listen to any problems or queries you may have. Sometimes you may have other concerns where you or your children may want to talk in confidence to an appropriate adult. Our Designated Child Protection Teacher is Mrs. McKernan, Year 3 and Deputy Child Protection Teacher is Mrs. Taggart, Year 7.

**PARENTS’ COUNCIL NEWS**

You will have received a letter from the Parents’ Council about their role within our school. We would encourage as many parent/carers to support our council. If you feel that you can give of your time to help and support Parents’ Council please contact the school or Parents’ Council Members. Any help is very much appreciated, even if it is only for an hour.

Parents’ Council plan to run a “Smartie Tube” Fundraising activity for all pupils before Easter. Any money raised will be used for pupils.

A movie night is planned for Y4-7 on Tuesday 13th November 2018. Tickets will be sold to this event. Please send your money in with your child and a ticket will be sent home on receipt of payment £2.50

To celebrate the many years spent on our current site, there will be a street party for the whole school community. The proposed date is Thursday 3rd May. Further details are to follow.

Pupil Council

Mrs. Waring and Pupil Council have begun to plan events to celebrate time spent at our current site and our move to our new school. Our pupils want to celebrate the history and memories created and sustained throughout the 28 years of OIPS. Some ideas include:

* A Tea Party for all pupils entitled, “Your Child’s Future is Already Here.” Pupils will dress up as what they would like to be when they grow up.
* A Balloon launch.
* Time capsule

All events are to be confirmed shortly by Pupil Council.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

* See overleaf bulletin of dates from February- June.
* Anti-Bullying Flyer
* Parents’ Council Letter
* Child Protection Flyer
* Uniform Consultation
* SEN Flyer
* Social Media Consent

**Holidays and Closures 2017/18**

**Changes/new additions highlighted in yellow as the year progresses.**

Monday 19th March **Closed for St. Patrick’s Day.**

Thursday 29th March **Close 12:00pm (N-3) 12.30pm for (Y4-7).**

**There will be NO Transport, from school and No meals available.**

Fri 30th- Wed 11th April (Inclusive) **Closed for Easter Holidays.**

Thursday 12th April **Term 3 begins.**

Note: We are due to move to the new school in May/June. We will use the planned days on Tuesday 8th and 29th May with the three days allocated by the Department to move. We will confirm these dates as soon as we know our move day.

Monday 7th May **Closed for Bank Holiday**

Tuesday 8th May **School Open (Staff Development Day TBC).**

Monday 28th May **Closed for Bank Holiday.**

Tuesday 29th May **School Open (Holiday TBC).**

Friday 29th June **Close 12:00pm (N-3) 12.30pm for (Y4-7).**

**Dates for Your Diary 2017/18**

Thursday 1st March **World Book Day/ Y7 Trip to Folk Park.**

Monday 5th March **Y4 First Confession in SHC at 7.30pm**

**Safeguarding Inspection**

Saturday 10th March **Y7 Confirmation at 11am in Sacred Heart Church.**

Fri.9th –Thu15th March **Travelling Book Fair (In library).**

Friday 16th March **Parents’ Council Smarties tubes deadline**.

**Y6 Trip the Navan Centre - cancelled**

Wednesday 21st March **Pupil Council Tea Party**

Friday 23rd March **Parents’ Council Smarties/Draw Winners announced.**

Wed 25th -Fri 27th April **Y7 Residential Trip.**

Sunday 29th April **Y4 First Holy Communion at 12.30pm Sacred Heart Church.**

WB: 30th April- 18th May **Summer Assessments**.

Thursday 3rd May **Celebration BBQ 6pm-8pm (Parents’ Council).**

Friday 4th May **Junior Sports Day (Y1-2AM) (Y3-4PM) Weather dependent.**

Friday 11th May **Senior Sports Day (Y5-7AM/PM) Weather dependent.**

Tuesday 15th May **Proposed Completion Date of the New School Building.**

WB:11th-15th June **Y1 Baseline Assessments.**

Tuesday 19th June **Nursery/Y1 Induction Day (TBC).**

Thursday 21st June **Y7 Leavers’ Night at 7pm.**

Tuesday 26th June **Prizegiving (Y1-7).**

Thursday 28th June **‘Moving Up’ Day/ Y7 pupils last Day.**