



# NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2015



## PUNCTUALITY AND SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

The Department of Education's leaflet "School Attendance Matters, A Parents' Guide", available on their website, offers advice and information on children's attendance at school and how parents can help. While illness cannot be avoided, taking holidays during term times can and under DENI guidelines, all such term-time holidays will be categorised as an "unauthorised absence" unless in exceptional circumstances. **All** absences must be covered by an explanatory note to the teacher.



When a child comes **late to school**, we are obliged to note the time on the register. Persistent lateness can have a huge impact on the time missed in class which in some cases can add up to **days** lost in learning! As with absences, the Education Authority's Welfare Officer also monitors those pupils who have a pattern of arriving late to school and parents will be contacted as necessary to discuss concerns. If your child will be late in to school because of a pre-arranged appointment or other reason then please let the class teacher know in advance. We appreciate your cooperation in this important aspect of your child's education.

## DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP TIMES

School opens at 8.15am for Breakfast Club. Any children being dropped off before that will not be supervised as staff playground supervision starts at 8.30am

Year 1 and 2's day finishes at 1.50pm and also Year 3 on a Friday only with pick-up between 1.50-2.00pm. We ask you to please be prompt at pick-up time as teachers return to classes for other duties at 2pm. **Likewise, school ends at 2.55pm for the rest of the classes, so we ask you to pick-up children promptly at this time as teachers are normally involved in curriculum meetings, planning and preparation or after school clubs from 3.00pm onwards each day.**

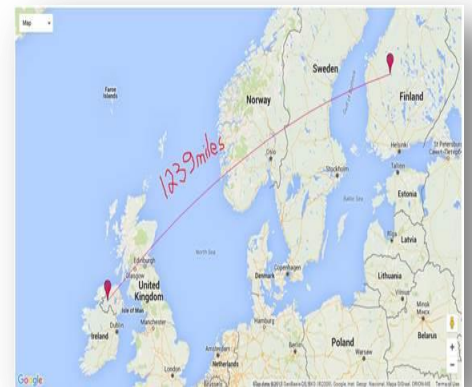
## 25th ANNIVERSARY BALLOON LAUNCH



On Monday 28th September the Year 2'S held a Balloon Launch to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the opening of our school. There was great excitement as children, staff and parents gathered to witness this special event. There was even further excitement when one of the balloons (Amber's to be exact) was found in

a forest in Töysä, Finland an **AMAZING** 1239 miles away!

Well done to the Y2 teachers and assistants for organising this great event and the Y2 pupils for their participation and enthusiasm.



## SCHOOL HEALTH

### Head lice

Please check your child's hair regularly for head lice and treat as necessary. Please ensure that girls with long hair keep it tied up.

### Healthy Eating

We are continually trying to promote fruit breaks and healthy packed lunchboxes at OIPS. New incentives to encourage healthy eating will begin shortly with further details to follow!



## SCHOOL CHOIR SINGS WITH THE THREE TENORS

On Saturday 10th October 2015, the senior choir under the direction of Ms Finlay, and accompanied by Mr Douglas, performed with 'The Three Tenors,' in the Strule Arts Centre. The choir sang 'Somewhere Over The Rainbow' and then accompanied the tenors with a rendition of 'Hallelujah.' The children thoroughly enjoyed singing with the tenors and having the opportunity to see the second half of the concert. Thanks to the children, parents and staff for supporting the children on the night! A special 'thank you' also to Miss Eccles for arranging the opportunity for the OIPS children to perform with the Three Tenors.

## SHOE BOX APPEAL

Earlier in the month, you would have received a note about the Shoe Box Appeal as organised by Blythswood Care. This organisation provides practical help and support for those in need. Through their Christmas shoeboxes, Blythswood brings a little joy and happiness to many children and adults in need throughout Europe, Africa and Asia.

The staff of Omagh Integrated P.S. & Nursery have agreed to ask parents and children to fill a shoebox in lieu of presents for staff this Christmas. If you wish to show your appreciation a simple card will suffice. We really hope that each family in the school will be able to donate a shoebox and support those most in need.



## SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS



In November, Cool for School Photography will be in school to spend the day taking photographs of class groups for a commemorative whole school photo which will be available to buy after Christmas. A separate note will follow with further details.

## SCHOOL CLOSURES

### Hallowe'en

Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> Oct  
Friday 30<sup>th</sup> Oct  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov



### Christmas

Half Day Closing  
Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December

Y1-Y4 to be collected at 12.15pm

Y4-Y7 to be collected at 12.30pm

## OMAGH CREDIT UNION



Credit Union savings are collected every Thursday morning and we have quite a few junior savers.

**If you would like your child to open an account, please contact the school office and we can send out an application form.**

## PASTORAL CARE AND CHILD PROTECTION

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.

## PINOCCHIO



## WHOLE SCHOOL SHOW

**Wednesday  
21<sup>st</sup> October**

Following the success of last year's excellent show, we have rebooked M&M Productions to perform Pinocchio for all classes next week. Unfortunately the school is no longer able to subsidise the cost of the show so we need to charge £3 per pupil to cover costs.

The quality of the production is excellent and we can assure you that the children will enjoy the show thoroughly.

**Please send £3 (or £10 for four or more children) to the Class Teacher by Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.**

## PARENTS' COUNCIL NEWS

The Five Week Draw is still on-going. Have you been a lucky winner yet? There's still time to support this main school fundraiser, the profits from which the children will benefit directly from. Look out for the Hallowe'en Ball and Fancy Dress Disco on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October, carve a pumpkin, dress up and be in with a chance to win prizes galore! All classes will participate throughout the school day in the assembly hall.



Trinity Presbyterian Girls' Brigade

Contact Lorraine Reid: 07780731227

for further details

