



# SEPTEMBER 2023



Upcoming Events	
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> September	Nursery & Pre School pupils commence full days!
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	Parents' Council AGM 6.30pm
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	School Closure Staff Development Day
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Whole School Flu Vaccinations

## Welcome Back!

Our pupils have settled back into the school routine incredibly well...Our Nursery and Pre-School pupils will soon be completing a full day and already, our Year 1 pupils have been attending for full days at school this week. Well done everyone!

We hope that all our parents have settled well too and we look forward to an exciting year ahead.

## Parents' Council AGM

This will take place on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September in the Assembly Hall at 6.30pm. All parents are invited to attend. Please note that attendance does not obligate you to join Parents' Council.

We are seeking further members however, so an invitation is extended to everyone to consider joining the team, be that as a committee member or simply a volunteer.

An expression of interest form was sent out recently on the app for anyone who is interested. Alternatively – ask around in the Car Park at drop off or collection times, a member of the team is sure to be around.

## Seesaw

Teachers will continue to access Seesaw for teacher to parent communication. Please be mindful however that your child's teacher may not be able to respond during class time. This is particularly relevant to pupil absences. If you are aware that your child is going to be absent, the timeliest way to let us know is by telephoning the office.

We recognise that parents may wish to communicate information to a teacher in the evening or morning before school begins and teachers will respond (where it is necessary) when the opportunity arises during the normal school day.

### Contact Information

SIMS Data Info, and consent forms (including a Flu Vaccine form) have been sent home recently.

These are especially important documents. Please return to your child's teacher as promptly as possible so that we can update our records.

Throughout the year, should any of your contact details (such as mobile phone numbers) change, please let the office know immediately.



### Pupil Drop Off & Collection

Thank you to everyone for following our guidance on safe drop off and collection of pupils.

We are delighted to see our youngest pupils being brought each day to their hub door (Nursery to Year 3) and our older, more independent pupils in Years 4-7, making their way to class by themselves.

Parents of older pupils – you are helping develop your child's independence by dropping off at the entrance near Drumragh. Staff are on duty at each hub door so be reassured that pupils are safe when they make their way by themselves to Years 4 - 7.

### Safe Car Park

A huge 'Thank You!' parents for leaving the bus parking area (our three buses require the bays on the left of the car park from just before the corner, right around to the pedestrian crossing near the gate to Drumragh College) free at collection time.

Your respect for this designated area has allowed for safer pupil collection and the smooth flow of traffic through our one-way system.



Thank you for continuing to help the safe flow of traffic in the car park by...

- Only parking in a disabled space when displaying a blue badge.
- Taking up spaces in the main parking bays first.
- Vacating spaces quickly and carefully upon collection of pupils – this allows parents arriving afterwards to avail themselves of a space.
- **Avoiding parking in the Staff Only Car Park or near the entrance and exit gates**

**This has really helped!**

### Breakfast Club

Our popular Breakfast Club is proving a hit again this year. This takes place in the hall (entry via the side entrance to our hall near the Year 3 hub) from 8.00am onwards at a cost of **£1.20 per day**.

This early morning handover can be more challenging for some pupils than others, especially our younger pupils!

Please be patient when handing over children each morning as the staff are often busy helping children settle (where necessary) once Mum or Dad has left.

## **Year 6 Swimming**

Year 6 pupils have already begun their swimming lessons and will be followed by Year 6 and 7 through the course of the year.

## **Broadening Horizons – Integration Through Sport**

Thanks to funding from the IEF (Integrated Education Fund), our Year 5 to 7 pupils are availing of coaching in two sports during our 1<sup>st</sup> term.

Year 5 pupils are learning the skills of hurling with Ulster GAA Coach Colm Dillon and our Year 6 and 7 pupils will have rugby sessions with Darren McGuigan from Omagh Accies.

This project is designed to broaden the opportunities our children have to access sports that they may be unfamiliar with or will never have played before.

## **World Peace Day Soccer Tournament – Drumragh College**

10 of our Year 6 and 7 pupils represented our school at this tournament today. They did the school proud and had a very enjoyable time.

## **Drumragh Sarsfields GAC – Primary Schools Tournament**

We will also have a team representing the school at this event on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September. The tournament takes place at Drumragh's ground, Clanabogan Park.

## **Futsal**

Our Year 6 pupils will soon be able to enjoy Futsal Coaching (Futsal is a form of indoor soccer), commencing on Wednesday 20th September, with David Alonso from Omagh Futsal.



## **Allergies!**

Remember that some of our pupils have allergies, which can be very serious, especially in relation to nuts. It is vital that snacks and lunches DO NOT contain nuts.

## **Sacraments**

Pupils in Years 4 and 7, who wish to receive the sacraments of Penance, Eucharist and/or Confirmation will be supported to do so as always.

Letters have gone home recently to help us identify who will be receiving sacraments this year. Please return these if you have not already. Year 4 pupils will also need to present a Baptismal Certificate.

## **School Uniform**

We are still stocking some extra second-hand uniform in the school. Should you require any uniform, please let us know and we will see if we have what you are looking for. It is great to see our boys and girls so smartly dressed in their uniforms. This is particularly so in relation to footwear...black footwear does make such a difference.

## After School Activities

These are now up and running with the timetable as follows...

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<b><u>1.45 – 2.45</u></b>	<b><u>Core Kids NI</u></b> (Hall)  Y1/Y2  <i>Exit from hall door (beside hub 3)</i>	<b><u>Pro-Football Coach</u></b> (hall)  Y1/Y2  <i>Exit from hall door (beside hub 3)</i>		
<b><u>2.45 – 3.45</u></b>	<b><u>Core Kids NI</u></b> (Hall)  Y3-Y7  <i>Exit from hall door (beside hub 3)</i>	<b><u>Pro-Football Coach</u></b> (Hall)  Y3-Y7  <i>Exit from hall door (beside hub 3)</i>	<b><u>Art Club</u></b>  Y3 and Y4 2.45-3.45pm  <i>Exit from hub 2</i>	<b><u>Musical Society Club</u></b> (Starts 28 <sup>th</sup> Sept)  Y3-7  <i>Exit from hall door (beside hub 3)</i>
<b><u>2.45 – 3.45</u></b>	<b><u>Athletics Club</u></b> Y5-7  <i>Exit from main door</i>	<b><u>Netball</u></b> Y5-7  <i>Exit from hall door (beside hub 3)</i>	<b><u>OIPS Instrumental Group</u></b> Y5-7  <i>Exit from hall door (beside hub 3)</i>	<b><u>Irish Dancing</u></b> (Hall)  Lewsley School of Irish Dancing  <i>Exit from hall door (beside hub 3)</i>

Please note the collection arrangements for each activity and share these with any relatives/childminders who may be collecting....

**An adult MUST come and collect a child. Children will not be allowed to make their own way to the car park.**

## Instrumental Tuition

Each year, pupils in Year 4 are assessed for their suitability to learn a musical instrument. Pupils are then given the chance to learn to play instruments such as the Cornet, the Violin, or the Viola

Please note that this tuition, (which is provided by specialist teachers from the Education Authority) comes at a cost, as does the hire of instruments. These costs are set by EA and school facilitates the payments. Unfortunately, we are not aware of the exact costs until the academic year commences. If your child is currently learning an instrument, a letter will be issued shortly to explain all charges and arrangements for payment.