



Dromore Central Primary School
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June 2017

This is quite a long newsletter – so much has happened in school this term that we wanted to share with you so please take the time to read it all as it contains some important information!

It is difficult to take in that we are almost at the end of another school year. We have had a very productive and exciting year – moving into the new school, building our Eco Garden, establishing a 'Friends of Dromore Central' support group and, of course, the highlight of our year, the official opening of our lovely new building, graciously attended by a very special VIP!

OFFICIAL OPENING



We were thrilled that Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Cornwall, agreed to be our special guest. The weather, it seemed, was on our side for once and the Duchess was greeted by parents and children in glorious sunshine. She mentioned on several occasions how much she enjoyed her tour of the school. She was particularly impressed with the wonderful behaviour of the children and how smart they looked in their school uniforms. Her Royal Highness was genuinely interested in the children, giving them her full attention when she was speaking to them.

It was lovely to have Mr Jim Cochrane, former Principal of Dromore Central Primary School, and his wife with us, along with Principals from other local schools, members of the Board of Governors with their spouses, representatives from the Education Authority and also representatives from Tracey Brothers (Builders), and Knox and Clayton (architects).

We all thoroughly enjoyed the occasion and wish to thank all those involved for helping the day run so smoothly.

FRIENDS OF DROMORE CENTRAL

On Friday 9 June 2017 we held a BBQ and Treasure Hunt. Again, the weather was very kind to us! It had been raining earlier in the day but the evening managed to stay dry. Around 600 people attended and the treasure hunt around Dromore town was great fun – with good food when we got back to school! Thank you to anyone who helped in any way – picking up supplies, cooking food, organising the treasure hunt, face painting and so much more! We raised just over £1300! Well done everyone!



SPORTS' DAYS

Our annual Sports' Days were held on Thursday 15 and Friday 16 June 2017.

Thanks to Mr Masters and his team of helpers, the days were a total success. The children really enjoyed their events and cheering on other classes during their races. It was wonderful to see so many parents and friends coming to support the children. Tea and coffee was gratefully received from members of the Friends of Dromore Central committee and Mr McDonald's Ice Cream van proved very popular too!

Prizes from Sports' Day have been awarded in school during a Special Assembly.

63RD TEXACO CHILDREN'S ART COMPETITION

Congratulations to Evanna Mackey, P4, Mrs Murphy's class who received a Certificate of Commendation from the organisers of the 63rd Texaco Children's Art competition for her drawing of a beautiful Peacock. This year thousands of entries were received. The task of judging entries was undertaken by a panel of six prestigious judges who remarked that the standard of art received was 'exceptional'.

Well done Evanna!

SUNCREAM



Still on the theme of good weather – please ensure your child has had sun cream applied before coming to school each day as, due to the weather being warm and dry at present, the children may be outside for PE and other learning activities in addition to playing outside at break and lunch times.

CAKES AND BUNS

We are very sorry to have to request that, due to a number of pupils having severe food allergies, parents no longer send cakes or buns into school for their child's birthdays or other special occasions.

PARKING

It is with regret that we again have to bring to your attention the issue of parking and driving in the school grounds and surrounding area.

Please drive slowly and carefully when on school grounds. We would strongly urge parents, grandparents and childminders to park considerately in delegated parking bays only. Please do not park in the staff car park.



It has also been noted that drivers have become more impatient and, at times, quite aggressive, whilst travelling through school grounds. We cannot emphasise enough, please exercise patience and caution when dropping off/collecting children from school, remembering that many carers have younger children with them who may unintentionally step out in front of drivers.

Recently, someone collecting a child 'double parked' their car, blocking a number of other cars from leaving their spaces. One, obviously frustrated, parent manoeuvred around the incorrectly parked car and then accelerated away at speed, narrowly missing a mother and child who were crossing to get into their own vehicle. On another occasion someone reversed out of a parking space without looking and a parent had to quickly lift their child out of the way. As you can imagine, both the carers and children concerned were very shaken by these experiences.

We would also again request, if you are parking in the surrounding area, that you would be respectful of local residents and not block access to properties or footpaths.

LOST PROPERTY

If your child has mislaid an item of uniform or water bottle/pencil case, please send them to check if it has been placed in our 'lost property' container which is situated at the top of the P7 corridor, beside the Assembly Hall. We have amassed quite a collection over the year and would really love items to be returned to their rightful owner!



Due to lack of storage space, any unclaimed items will have to be discarded at the end of this term.

SCHOOL DINNERS

We wish to remind you that, from September 2017, school meals will cost £2.60 per day, therefore will be £13 for a full week.

Please note – we are no longer able to accept cheques in payment for school meals or school milk. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.



FREE MEALS

Many families are unaware that they may be entitled to avail of the Free School Meals and Uniform Grant. The benefits of free school meals are twofold:

- Your children can receive a nutritionally balanced meal in school
- The school receives additional funding for each pupil for whom entitlement to free school meals has been established

Menus are issued every month and you are welcome to take a look at these, then inform the class teacher at the beginning of each week which days, if any, you wish your child to have a meal.



We would strongly encourage those who believe they could be eligible for free school meals to apply by completing the attached form and forwarding it directly to the Education Authority. Forms are treated with the utmost confidentiality. At no stage are any personal details shared with the school.

Should the application be successful, your child is under no obligation to take their meal each day, or even at all. However, as already stated, the Department of Education uses entitlement to free school meals as one of the criteria when allocating funding to schools.

LITERACY NEWS

At the end of May, we were delighted to welcome author Ed Vere, who visited the school as part of the Book Trust NI Author tour in conjunction with the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. Mr Vere, a New York Times bestselling writer and illustrator, has won several awards, including the Highlands' Children's Book Award.

Mr Vere ran an interactive workshop with 108 Year 4 pupils, reading excerpts from his books and conducting live drawing sessions. Mr Vere captivated all the pupils with his Grumpy Frog story! The children learnt how to illustrate their own 'Grumpy Frogs' and decided upon the reasons why their frogs would be grumpy! The pupils thoroughly enjoyed meeting a real author and finding out where Mr Vere got his inspiration for his books - and were thrilled to each receive a personally signed copy of one of his books.



Here are some comments from the pupils, showing how much they enjoyed the visit:

- ❖ 'It was amazing to meet a real author.' Will McGrann
- ❖ 'I thought he was really funny.' Molly Bell
- ❖ 'I thought his books were really funny.' Sam Norris
- ❖ 'I like the way all his books have animals in them.' Faith Luke
- ❖ 'I liked the illustrations, particularly the one of the Grumpy Frog doing a fist pump!' Maisie Murphy
- ❖ 'It was a really big surprise when I found out Ed Vere was coming.' Henry Martin
- ❖ 'I liked the way Ed Vere used a pen that could draw thick and thin lines to draw his illustrations.' Jamie Kidd
- ❖ 'I liked the way Ed Vere got the ideas for his books from different places he visited.' Josiah Rogers
- ❖ 'I didn't think Ed Vere would take the time to sign all the books.' Alfie Clarke

Mr Vere was greatly impressed by our pupils and the quality of their illustrations and questions. He even gave us a mention on the BBC Arts Show. Well done Year 4!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

National Book Tokens are currently running a prize draw. The winning school will win £5000 of book tokens for the school library and, if your entry is picked, you'll get £100 for yourself also. Anyone can enter and the more entries for our school, the more chance we have of winning! Please submit your entry at:

*nationalbooktokens.com/schools
Summer Reading Challenge*

This Summer we will be running a Reading Challenge for our pupils to encourage them to keep reading. Further details coming soon!

ECO-GARDEN

We are delighted to inform you that we have created an Eco-Garden in school. It contains the following:

- a grow bed for each year group, containing herbs & vegetables
- fruit, such as strawberries, blueberries & raspberries
- a 'mini-beast' bed with a 'critter hotel'
- bird feeders & boxes
- a seating area for outdoor learning
- a squirrel feeder, hedgehog houses, butterfly house
- a compost area
- a water butt to collect rainwater
- a butterfly garden



We hope to develop additional areas in future, perhaps a sensory area and fruit trees.

Thank you to the following businesses who have supported us in this venture so far:

Monetary Donations

- Graham Construction
- Wrights Accident Repairs
- NFU Mutual, Banbridge (S A MaCauley & D M Simpson)

Donations of compost, materials and/or top soil

- Tesco
- The Olde Mill Nursery
- Mrs Bland (Chairperson, Board of Governors)
- J P Corry Ltd
- Gilmore Developments
- SuperValu Dromore
- B & Q

We would like to make special mention of local gardening company **Gardens 'R' Us** as they sourced materials and donated time to build grow beds, seating and fencing. **Tesco**, Bridgewater, have also donated a voucher and volunteers have been supporting us with developments which will continue next year. Several parents and eco-school representatives also assisted with planting, mounting equipment and gave much appreciated guidance.

I'm sure you'll agree this venture will be hugely beneficial to the children of Dromore Central Primary School and we look forward to keeping you informed about future progress.

RETIREMENTS

At this time of year, we sometimes have to say goodbye to members of staff who are moving on to other adventures!

At the end of May 2017 Mrs Gamble took early retirement from her post as Executive Officer in our school office, where she had worked for almost 25 years! She has seen many changes in school life, the number of pupils having doubled in size since she joined us back in September 1992. Indeed, some of the pupils when she first started working with us now have children of their own in school! She ran the school office like clockwork and we will sorely miss her thoughtfulness, wealth of knowledge, expertise and understanding of the school calendar!

Mrs Helen Burke has been appointed as our new Executive Officer. We welcome Mrs Burke to school and wish her many happy years with us here at Dromore Central Primary School.

Mrs Pepper, after many years of dedicated service, will be retiring at the end of June 2017. Mrs Pepper is a much loved member of staff and will be deeply missed by pupils and staff alike. Mrs Pepper started her career with us as a teacher in Key Stage 1 but her talent on a one-to-one basis with children who would benefit from a little extra support was soon realised. Mrs Pepper is always smiling, always ready with a word of encouragement, always willing to help and wonderfully patient and considerate with pupils. We should like to reassure her that she is more than welcome to call to visit us any time – especially if she is bringing her famous Lemon Drizzle cake!



Mrs Dee, one of our classroom assistants, will also be retiring at the end of June 2017. Many pupils, past and present, have been in receipt of Mrs Dee's kind, gentle, caring attention. She quietly comes alongside children, encouraging and motivating them to achieve to the best of their ability and is loved by all the pupils.



All these ladies will be sorely missed and we wish them every blessing as they embark on this new adventure in life!

P7 PUPILS

We are also saying goodbye to our P7 pupils. Although it is sad to see them go we are confident they are ready for this next stage in their school career, and wish them well as they continue into secondary level education.

FINAL ASSEMBLY

On Wednesday 28 June 2017 we will be holding our annual Final Assembly and Prize Giving in the school Assembly Hall at 1.30 pm and parents of all P7 children, plus parents of prize winners, are invited to attend. School meals will be available as normal for P7 pupils and P6 Senior Choir members. To accommodate Final Assembly, all P1 to P5 children, plus those P6 children who are not involved in the Senior Choir, will be dismissed early on that day as follows:

11.45am **P4, P5 and P6 (non-senior choir) children, along with their younger siblings**

12.00 noon **All remaining P1 – P3 children plus those children collected by Day Nurseries**

There will be no school meals for P1 to P5 or P6 (non-choir) children.

END OF TERM

School finishes for the 2016/2017 academic year on Friday 30 June 2017.



Dismissal times will be as follows:

12.00 noon **Y6 and Y7 children, along with younger siblings**
12.15 pm **Y4 and Y5 children, along with younger siblings**
12.30 pm **All remaining children, along with those pupils collected by Day Nurseries**

AUTUMN TERM 2017/2018

The new term commences on Tuesday 29 August 2017 as detailed below:

Tuesday 29 August 2017: Only the following classes attend

P1 - only Group A children	Leaving at 12:15 pm	<i>P2, P4 and P6 children <u>do not</u> attend school on Tuesday 29 August 2017</i>
P3	Leaving at 2:00 pm	
P5 and P7	Leaving at 3:00 pm	

Wednesday 30 August 2017: Only the following classes attend

P1 - only Group B children	Leaving at 12:15 pm	<i>P3, P5 and P7 children <u>do not</u> attend school on Wednesday 30 August 2017</i>
P2	Leaving at 2:00 pm	
P4 and P6	Leaving at 3:00 pm	

Thursday 31 August 2017:

P1 – only Group C children	Leaving at 12:15 pm	<i>All P2-P7 pupils attend</i>
P2 and P3 children	Leaving at 1:15 pm	
P4 - P5 children	Leaving at 2:00 pm	
P6 - P7 children	Leaving at 3:00 pm	

From Friday 1 September 2017 all pupils attend daily:

P1 children	Know own arrangements
P2 children	Leaving at 2:00pm
P3 children	Leaving at 3:00pm - Monday - Wednesday / Leaving at 2:00pm Thursday & Friday
P4 – P7 children	Leaving at 3:00pm



We wish you all a lovely summer break, wherever you may be spending it, and look forward to seeing you all again in August 2017.

L Allen (Mrs)
Principal