



Dromore Central Primary School
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DROMORE
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Principal: Mrs H M Bentley BEd (Hons) PQHNI

10th January 2024

Dear parents/guardians,

May I take this opportunity to wish you a Happy New Year and trust that 2024 will be a peaceful year for all of us and our families.

Having looked at the calendar, it is clear to see that January is going to be a very busy month, so I wanted to highlight a few key events.

Strike Action: 18th January 2024

I am writing to confirm the details of the forthcoming strike action by teachers and many other public sector workers which will take place on Thursday 18th January. This will be a full day strike so please do not book dinners etc. for that day. Your child's school attendance record will not be negatively affected by the strike action.

Once again, I would ask for your understanding at this period of ongoing difficulty for teachers and those employed in the education sector. The education system remains chronically underfunded and school budget deficits continue to rise across Northern Ireland. Our pupils deserve to receive an education that is on parity with the rest of the United Kingdom. Likewise, with an increasing pay gap between Northern Ireland teachers and teachers in every other country in the British Isles, members of local teaching unions are taking a stand and seek to be fairly remunerated for their work.

P6 & P7 NSPCC Workshops

Our P6 and P7 pupils participated in a Safeguarding assembly this morning. As a follow-on to this, they are being given the opportunity to attend NSPCC workshops between Monday 15th January and Wednesday 17th January. Separate correspondence giving more details was sent home on Monday.

P5 & P6 Parents' Spelling Workshop

Currently, one of our areas of focus, in school, is the development of the teaching and learning of spellings. We have selected P5 and P6 to participate in a pilot spelling project which we feel will prove to be extremely beneficial.

As input from home will be vital to the success of this project, we are planning to host a parents' workshop on Wednesday 17th January at 2:15pm. During this workshop, you will hear details regarding the programme and ideas for how you can help your child at home. If possible, we would love as many parents

as possible to meet with us in the assembly hall for a maximum of 45 minutes as we showcase the spelling programme to you.

Holiday List update

We have updated our school holiday list for the Easter holiday period. School will now finish on Friday 22nd March for the Easter holidays, with a return to class on Monday 8th April. There will be no early closure on Friday 22nd March, with normal finishing times applying.

Christmas Presents

Many of our older pupils will have received new mobile phones, smartwatches etc. as Christmas presents. May I please remind you that all mobile phones must be switched off whilst children are in school. If you need to contact your son/daughter, please telephone the office staff who will happily pass on a message for you. Smartwatches with any connectivity are not permitted in school to avoid issues around child protection.

Dinner Money

Can we please remind you to book your dinners in a timely manner. However, we fully appreciate that sometimes a late payment will occur. In these circumstances, we would ask you to make this payment as soon as possible. We do not like having to cause embarrassment by phoning to ask for back payment. Thank you for your co-operation regarding this issue.

Kind regards,



H M Bentley
Principal