## Education Authority Western Region

**STRABANE CONTROLLED PRIMARY SCHOOL**

# 43 Derry Road

Strabane

Co. Tyrone

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27th February 2023

**Principal Mrs. C Thompson**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Time is racing by. I trust you had an enjoyable half term break. March is on the horizon, and so I wish to bring you further details on items listed from our last letter as well as additional information.

Please find attached the new **Dinner Menu** which begins on 20th March 2023. The current Menu is now on Week 4. Remember that the most up to date menu will always be located on the school’s website. As this Thursday is World Book Day, Thursday’s dinner will swap with Friday, therefore, Thursday will be chicken bites and chips and Friday will be a roast dinner.

**World Book Day** will be celebrated this Thursday, 2nd March. Following tradition, we will have a day where the children can choose to dress up as a character from a book. Please be mindful of appropriate characters and costumes which are suitable for a full school day but also for younger pupils in the school. This day will focus on the importance of and enjoyment of reading.

On Thursday 16th March, we are delighted to welcome back our annual **Mother’s Day Breakfast** in school. We welcome mothers, grandmothers, aunts etc. along with our pupils, celebrating the importance of these role models in their lives. The canteen will begin serving a cooked breakfast from **8.00am** where you can purchase a breakfast and enjoy a time of fun and fellowship together. (Please note, due to allergies in school, we are unable to include eggs with this breakfast).

**PIN** was launched on Monday 20th February through our newly revamped **Times Tables Rockstars** encouraging parental involvement in Numeracy with all pupils in P5, P6 & P7. The programme will run for 6 weeks in total so look out for our school in the Times Tables Rock Stars leadership board!

**Year 6** Parent information session on the **SEAG** test will take place in the school Assembly Hall on Wednesday 15th March starting at 4.15pm.

**Attendance**

I am very conscious that there are still a lot of sicknesses in homes and in the community and that often, there are genuine reasons for absences. As we endeavour to resume to higher levels of attendance, and as this is monitored on a tiered level within schools, I wish to inform you of expected levels of attendance by categorising attendance rates using the diagram below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **100% Attendance** | **0 Days missed** | **Outstanding** |
| **95% Attendance** | **9 days of absence = 1 week and 4 days of learning missed** | **Satisfactory** |
| **90% Attendance** | **19 days of absence = 3 weeks and 4 days of learning missed** | **Cause for Concern** |
| **85% Attendance** | **28 days of absence = 5 weeks and 3 days of learning missed** | **Unacceptable** |
| **80% Attendance** | **38 days of absence = 7 weeks and 3 days of learning missed** | **Involvement of outside agencies** |

Please ensure that if your child is off for periods of time due to medical or other complications, a supporting letter to evidence these absences is essential for your child’s records. If your child’s attendance falls below 85%, we will make contact with you to discuss and the Educational Welfare Officer will consider further intervention. If you feel that there is an area affecting attendance which can support you with, please contact your child’s teacher.

**Calendar Reminders**

* 2nd March World Book Day
* 8th March World Maths Day
* 11th March Year 7 Confirmation
* 15th March Year 6 parent information meeting on the SEAG test
* 16th March Mother’s and Grandmother’s breakfast in the canteen
* 17th March School closed for St Patrick’s Day
* 22nd March EA Springfest for Year 5,6 and 7 at The Millennium Forum
* 27th & 28th March School Photographer
* 5th April School closes half day for Easter

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. C Thompson

Principal