

Education Authority Western Region

STRABANE CONTROLLED PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Strabane

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5th, February 2024

Principal Mrs. C Thompson



Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is good to see the daylight hours lengthening and the promise of better weather to come. As we move towards the half term break, I have collated as much information as possible to keep you informed of upcoming events for your calendar.

- Mrs. McKnight, our Nursery Assistant, has reached retirement. Mrs. McKnight will retire on the 12th of April 2024. We wish Mrs. McKnight a happy, healthy and long retirement and take this opportunity to thank her for her long years of dedication, service and commitment to 30 years of pupils at Strabane primary including 23 years here in our Nursery at Strabane Primary school.
- We welcome Mrs. Allen back from her maternity leave after the half term break and express our thanks to Miss Gailey for teaching P2/3 during this maternity leave.
- **Monday 5th February – Friday 9th February is our annual Health and Well Being week** for our pupils and staff. There is a busy week planned and we look forward to rolling this out in our school. The theme this year is ‘My Voice Matters’.
- **Safer Internet Day 2024** is being coordinated in the UK by the **UK Safer Internet Centre** and is taking place on the **6th February 2024** with the theme ‘Inspiring change? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online’.



Please also visit <https://saferschoolsni.co.uk/parent-carer/> informing you of the **Safer Schools NI App**. Please continue to reinforce these messages and guidance for online usage at home.



- **Valentine's Disco** - The PTFA has organised our Half Term disco for the children on **Friday 9th February**. The classes will have their disco in the Assembly Hall in various sessions. Children may come to school in non-uniform for the day. Admission is £1.50 and this includes crisps and juice (Capri Sun).

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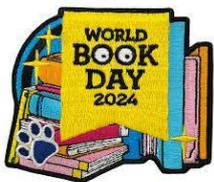
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- The cook will be having a special fun dinner on **Friday 9th February**. **Dinner** will be Sausages, chips, novelty biscuit and a carton of juice with the usual cost of £2.60. Children on free school meals will continue to get the meal free.
- Please remember that the school will be closed for half term from **Monday 12th February - Friday 16th February 2024**.
- **Year 7** Post Primary transfer application window **is now live 30th January – 22nd February 2024 at twelve noon**.
<https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/post-primary-admissions-guide>



- The **School photographer** will be in school on Monday 26th and Tuesday 27th February.
- As we have a number of children and adults in school who have egg, nut and kiwi fruit allergies parents are requested to ensure that **no egg, nut or kiwi fruit products** come to school for break or lunch.



- **World Book Day** is on Thursday 7th March. On this day we would like to encourage the children to come to school dressed as one of their favourite characters from a book with the overarching aim of seeking to encourage our children to pick up a book and read for enjoyment.
- **World Maths Day** is on Wednesday 14th March
- A **SEAG** Year 6 parent information meeting will be held on the 14th March at 3.15pm in the school hall.
- Friday 8th March, **Mother and Grandmother's Breakfast** in the school canteen. 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).
- **Paired Reading continues in P4 and P6**. Well done to all pupils and families for their continued participation and efforts in this worthwhile programme.
- **PIN** We look forward to launching our newly revamped **PIN** Parental involvement in Numeracy programme to all pupils in P5, P6 & P7 on Monday 19th February for 6 weeks. **Parents are invited along to this launch on Monday 19th** at 3.15pm. Look out for our school in the Times Tables Rock Stars leadership board!

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**"Safe, Secure,
Successful"**

School Car Park – Health and Safety

Can I remind you to follow these simple but effective guidelines when using the school car park:

When the car park has spaces available to use, please occupy these spaces first before finding somewhere else to stop your car.

As we only have one entrance in, and one entrance out, the flow of cars moving around the car park is extremely important. To this end, PLEASE DO NOT stop your car on the roadway thus blocking the flow of traffic. This impacts all drivers and ultimately the collection of pupils.

EA is well aware of the difficulties we are faced with in regard to our school car park and this is being examined. Please be mindful of your fellow drivers especially as the road works are impacting the free flow of traffic outside the school gates. Thank you for your co-operation.

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 remind you of expected levels of attendance.

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 you require support with, please contact your child's teacher.

- **A new dinner menu** is now available and is attached. A digital copy will always be available on the school website.

Outline of Dates

- 6th February Safer Internet Day
- 12th – 16th February Half Term Break
- 30th January – 22nd February 2024 Year 7 application window for post-primary
- PIN parent launch at 3.15pm on Monday 19th February
- 24th February Year 7 Confirmation
- 26th & 27th February School Photographer
- 1st March Banyan Theatre, Nursery – Year 4
- 7th March World Book Day
- 8th March Mother's and Grandmother's breakfast in the canteen
- 13th March Year 5 – 7 Springfest at The Millenium forum
- 14th March Year 6 parent information meeting on the SEAG test
- 14th March World Maths Day
- 18th March School closed for St Patrick's Day
- 27th March School closes half day for Easter holidays (27th March – 5th April)

Term 3 commences on Monday 8th April 2024.

Yours faithfully,
Mrs. C Thompson

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