

MOUNT SAINT CATHERINE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



WINDMILL HILL
ARMAGH BT60 4BR
Tel: (028) 37522241
Fax: (028) 37527422

Principal: Mr Kevin O'Neill
E-mail: koneill344@c2kni.net

29th August 2022

Mount St. Catherine's Primary School 2022 - 2023

Letter from the Principal - Start of Term Arrangements

Dear Parents,

I trust this letter finds you and your family safe and well. I would encourage you please to take the time to read this letter carefully, as it contains important information about the beginning of our new school term.

Our new start date for the Autumn Term is **Thursday 1st September 2022**. Children should enter the school via the front gate on Windmill Hill. The gate will be opened each morning at 8.45am. A full school dinner service is available and **all children from P2-P7 will go home at 2pm (both Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd).**

Children should wear their full, clean school uniform to school **every day**. Children need to bring a coat for break time, lunchtime and outdoor learning. **Dressing smartly and wearing uniforms enhances school pride, unity, and community spirit.** At Mount St. Catherine's Primary School all children are expected to follow our uniform policy throughout the school year and appreciate your cooperation on the matter. **We have pre-owned uniforms in school in fine condition, please don't hesitate to come into school and check if they fit your child.**

From **Monday 5th of September** onwards, we would ask that parents leave their children at the gate and allow them to independently walk to their now familiar classroom entrance and teacher.

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School will finish 2pm for children in Primary 2 and 3 and at 3pm for children in Primary 4-7 (except on specified dates).

The school canteen is available for free school meals and paid dinners from the 1st September. **Cost of £2.60 per day or £13.00 per week.** Any money or dinner money should be sent in a with clear labelling of the child's name and what it is for. Lunch boxes should be clearly labelled.

- **FREE SCHOOL MEALS – Are you entitled?**

Did you know that each child on the register for FSM can add almost £700 to the schools' annual budget from DE. So even if you don't avail of it every day, you can still make a significant difference to your school and the quality of learning on offer just by filling out a form and testing for eligibility. Please contact Mrs Trainor in the office to see if your child is eligible for Free School Meals.

- **School uniform grant**

If you need to find out if you are eligible for a grant for school uniform, please use this link for more information.
<https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants/apply-for-free-school-meals-uniform-grants>

- **Parental Curriculum Engagement Meetings**

As part of our aim to improve home school partnerships and communications this year you are all invited to a curriculum engagement meeting with your child's teacher. Teachers will use the opportunity to give you all a learning overview for the year ahead and how best to support your child at home. It is also your opportunity to ask questions about what our expectations are for your children over the next ten months. The meetings will take place in your child's classroom. (dates/timings overleaf)

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Tuesday 21st of September – **P2 and P3** meetings (1.30 – 2.00pm)
Wednesday 22nd of September – **P4 and P5** meetings (2.30 – 3.00 pm)
Thursday 23rd of September – **P6 and P7** meetings (2.30 – 3.00pm)

- **Morning Drop Off and Afternoon Pick-Ups**

Thank you in advance for co-operating with our staff and patrol teams. Traffic calming measures are put in place to ensure the safety of all our patrons. Your patience, good manners and understanding is much appreciated as we welcome our children through the gate each morning with a friendly smile.

Please do encourage and model with your child, safely walking to and from school as much as possible. Please do also remind your children that after school they must go home directly and to not congregate in groups.

Children are NOT PERMITTED to travel to and from school on Electric Scooters.

- **WRAP AROUND CARE** (Begins Monday 5th of September)

EARLY BIRD BREAKFAST CLUB (P1—P7) open from 8:10am, gate will close at 8:30 £1/child per day (paid on the day)— **ONLY CHILDREN GOING TO BREAKFAST CLUB TO BE IN SCHOOL BEFORE 8.45am**

CHILL OUT CLUB (P1 -P3) (P2/P3 children can use the care from Monday 5th of September; P1 children can use the care from Monday 26th of September).

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This is primarily for pupils who have older siblings finishing school at a later time. £2/child per day (additional child in family £1) available from **2pm until 3pm**. Small snack will be provided. Please inform office if you wish to use this facility. Ensure payment is made (in envelope with child's name) at the beginning of the week.

- **Medication**

Pupils who need medication during the school day must bring medication to school in a plastic bag. Parents are requested to complete the appropriate administration forms. Forms are available from the school office.

- **PROVISIONAL 2022-23 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

Please see the school calendar for 2022-23 which is on the school website.

- **School Council and Teams Elections**

Student body elections will take place throughout the month of September. Encourage your child to take part and let the pupil voice be heard louder within the school.

- **Key Stage Two Reading List**

A number of parents have been in touch regarding suggested additional recommended reading titles for their children. I will send out a list in the coming days and would like to thank our (now left) Primary 7 children for their help in reviewing the books on offer out there for children.

- **Extra-Curricular Clubs**

We hope to be in a position to begin our after schools programme towards the end of Sept and start of October.

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I will write again with further updates as and when we get them. In the meantime, I wish you well and look forward to seeing you again all of you over the coming days.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Kevin O'Neill

Principal

School Safeguarding Children Team 2022-23

Designated Teacher for Child Protection: Mrs A McLaughlin

Deputy Designated Teachers: Mrs J McCaul and Mrs C McKenna