

St Peter's Primary School

November Newsletter



Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week, which is coordinated by the Northern Ireland Anti-Bullying Forum, takes place on the week beginning **11th November 2019**. The focus of Anti-Bullying Week 2019 is on the theme '*Change Starts With Us*'.

'Odd Socks Day' forms part of Anti-Bullying Week. It is a chance to celebrate that we are all unique. Millions of children and adults will be taking part across the country.

On Tuesday 12th November the children can wear ODD Socks to school. This day sends an important message to people that they should be allowed to be themselves, free from bullying, and helps us celebrate Anti-Bullying Week in a fun and positive way.

Throughout the week the children in each class will be using resources from the forum. There will be presentations, assemblies and workshops to highlight the important message that bullying of all kinds is wrong.

During this week we will also, as part of our consultation process, ask parents to complete a questionnaire on bullying. This consultation is important as there is a new Anti Bullying Act that has been passed in N.I. but is currently on hold by the Dept of Education due to industrial Action.

Strabane/Derry Culture Quarter

The Yr 4/7 children will avail of a workshop called 'An Introduction to Russia' on **Tuesday 12th November**. This workshop raises awareness about Russian culture and traditions. The workshops consist of a presentation introducing the pupils to Russia, it's famous cities, traditions, food, celebrations and language. Irina, the facilitator, is from Russia will deliver the workshop. After the presentation the workshop will continue with arts and crafts activities.

Month of the Holy Souls

Leaf templates for (P1 -3) have been sent home for children to write the name of someone they know who has died and whom they wish to pray for (children in Yr 4 -7 will make their own leaf). We will put all the names on our Tree of Remembrance in the hall and pray for them in November. If each template could be punched with a little string or wool attached it would be ready to hang on the tree. Thank you.

Meditation Workshops

The children will be introduced to meditation workshops in November by the religious Diocesan Advisor Therese Ferry. This will help to promote prayer for children.

GL Assessment

On **Saturday 16th November** some Yr 7 children will sit their transfer exam. Please say a little prayer for our pupils on this day that God will guide them and help them do their best.

See over the page >>>>>

Yr 6 Parent /Teacher Interviews

On **20th and 21st November** there will be parent /teacher interviews for the Yr 6 children. Please check your child's school bag for times.

Milk, Music and Meals fees

In order to reduce administrative time in the collection of fees for milk and music etc where we originally had five charging periods we will now use three periods only. The current period will run from Halloween to St Patrick's Day. Prompt payment of these fees will also reduce administration time. The amounts are as follows:

Milk fee: £15.60 per child

Music Fee: £12.80 per child

It has been noted that payments for meals have not been received in a timely manner. We would appreciate if these were paid on a weekly basis.

Payment in cheques

*The Education Authority has asked us to inform those parents who use cheques that payments for milk and music fees **must be paid for in separate cheques**. The milk and music accounts are separate and monies for these must be lodged as such. When we receive a cheque for both milk and music combined there is a considerable difficulty in the administration process here in the school and at the EA offices to make sure payments are logged accurately.*

Shoe Box Appeal

We will continue to donate a gift to someone in need and by filling a shoebox with simple things you can bring a smile to someone this Christmas. Leaflets will be sent home in your child's bag giving more information. Last year 81 shoe boxes were returned with the community getting involved too - so spread the word. The shoe boxes will be collected on **Monday 25th November**. The shoeboxes will be distributed in Eastern Europe.

Christmas Show

Keep the date **Monday 16th December** free at 7pm for the Christmas Show.

Christmas Tickets

In mid November your child will have a book of tickets to sell for the Christmas Draw. This is our main source of income for school funds and is needed more than ever due to the budgetary constraints. Each family will be given a book of tickets costing £10 and return to the school by **11th December**. If families could sell more than one book it would be greatly appreciated. Also, if any one would like to contribute to our ticket prizes or raffle prizes it would be delightfully accepted.

Friends of St Peter's

On **Tuesday 19th November at 2.15pm** there will be a meeting for Friends of St Peter's. We urgently need new members as together we can do more. We will need parents to help in the preparation of the school show - ticket preparation, prizes, costumes, seating etc. If you cannot make this time and are willing to help please give your name to Ms Gallagher. Fund raising throughout the year will be essential e.g. the Accelerated Reading Programme will need to be renewed at a cost of £1,922 for three years and we would like to purchase a Maths App also. If anyone has any ideas for events please get involved as we can only offer extras if the funds are available.

N.I.Assembly Outreach Programme

On **26th November** the Yr 6/7 pupils will attend a workshop from a N.I.assembly representative. This will help the children understand the importance of pupil voice and how our assembly is created and functions!

Paths

The Quote of the month for November is

Wouldn't it be a wonderful world if everyone followed

the Golden Rule?

Let's show the world

how to do it by treating others the way we want to be treated.

School Website - School Holidays and the new menu are available on the school website.

The Irish Language

During November we will begin to learn the basics of the Irish language. Children can practise at home by visiting the Irish app on our website.

Weather Warnings

It's that time of the year again! There may be days when the school will close due to snow and frost.

It is not always possible to make a decision in the early morning regarding school closures due to bad weather as the weather can change greatly within an hour. When a decision to close is made you will be informed through our text messaging service or school website at approximately 8.15.am.

If you have difficulty obtaining a connection to our website or texting service, please ensure that you have made contact with another parent so that you can obtain the necessary information.

Please do not drop your child off or send your child to school without checking that a member of staff is present in the building. It is imperative to use personal judgement on these days as broadband and other electrical failures may also affect the school. Also, at any stage throughout the day we may have to text parents to collect their children due to weather warnings therefore it is essential that parents have provided the school with up to date contact numbers.