



PARENT NEWSLETTER

September 2014



Welcome Back

The Principal and staff would like to take this opportunity to welcome back the children and parents after the Summer holidays. The children all look fantastic and we look forward to working with our parents and children in the year ahead.

Issues Which May Arise

If a parent has an issue they wish to raise they can talk to Mrs Boyd or Mr White rather than use 'social media'.

Registration

School begins at:

- P1-3 pupils at 9:00 am
- P4-7 pupils at 9:15 am

It is important that your child is present from this time. Children who arrive into school fifteen minutes after the starting time will be marked absent for the entire morning session as the school day is divided into morning and afternoon sessions for registration purposes.

Medical Appointments

Children who arrive in late due to medical appointments, etc (accompanied by a parental letter) will be registered accordingly – not marked absent.

If you are aware that your child will be late/absent due to medical/dental appointments, etc please send in a note to your class teacher in advance.

Appointments with Teachers

Parents are asked to make appointments outside teaching hours so

your child does not miss out on lessons.

Dropping Off in the Morning

- P1 and P2 children may be left into the classroom from 8.50 each morning.
- P3 children may play in the bottom yard from 8.45 to 9.00. Staff will collect them at 9.00.
- P4 children will be collected from the playground at 9.15. There will be staff on duty from 8.45.
- P5-P7 children should play in the top yard from 8.45-9.15.

Pick-up in the afternoon:

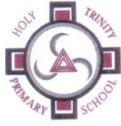
- P1-P3 children should be collected from the classroom at 2.00. The teacher will send your child out to you. Parents should not take a child without the teacher's permission.
- P4 children should be collected from the bottom yard or the side gate at 2.45.
- P5-P7 children should be collected from the side gate, back gate or car park at 2.45.

Collecting P4-7 Children

Children in Primary 4 and above finish at 2:45 pm. This fulfils the legal weekly requirement. Parents should not collect pupils in these classes at 2:00. If, in an exceptional situation, a parent needs to take a child at 2:00, they must first see Mrs Boyd or Mr White.

Dogs

Dogs are not permitted within the school grounds.



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Car Parking

As you are aware there can at times be a build-up of traffic at certain busy times. Over the last few years we have built extra car parking spaces reserved for parents. In the interests of safety to the children and the public parents are asked to use the two parent car parks and not to park on the double yellow lines or block the turning circle.

Dropping Off Zone

There are several spaces for cars at the front of the Key Stage 1 yard. These are specifically for dropping off children and moving away. This is not a parking area.

P7 Pupils' Transition

Parents who wish their child to attend a Grammar school next year must apply directly to a Grammar school. **Registration closes on Friday 26th September 2014 at 2pm.**

Curriculum Meetings

Your child's curriculum meeting will take place during the month of September. It is very important that you make every effort to attend as you will be given important information about the school and the curriculum which your child will be following this year. The Principal will address the meeting and then teachers will escort parents to the classrooms to discuss what they are planning to do this year. The meeting will take approximately 30 minutes.

School Dinners

If you think your child may be entitled to school dinners please request a

'School Meals Form' from the office. If you receive 'Family Credit' you will be entitled to free dinners. Only pupils who are entitled are permitted to receive free school meals. Even if your child does not wish to take a school dinner but would be entitled to receive one we would ask you to complete the form and send it to BELB as the number of pupils on Free School Meals affects the school's budget.

Last June the pupils completed a survey of their preferred food options. As a result of this the canteen is drawing up a new menu and this will be distributed to the children as soon as it is ready.

Our dinners are excellent and both healthy and nourishing. Dinners cost £2.40 daily.

Packed Lunches

Your child may choose to bring a packed lunch. In order to ensure a healthy snack **NO** sweets, crisps, chocolates, fizzy drinks or nuts should be put in lunches.

Peanuts are not allowed as we have a number of children with anaphylaxis which could prove fatal if they come in contact with nuts.

After School Activities

In Holy Trinity we offer a range of after school activities which are free of charge. Members of staff are currently planning activities which will be sent out as a request form over the coming weeks. Children can select the activities they wish to join. As lots of activities have limited numbers due to health and safety we encourage children to stick at the activity which they choose for the term as they are stopping another child gaining a place if they don't attend every week.



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P1- P3 After School Club

The After School Club for children in P1-P3 will begin in October. The club will only be available to those pupils who have a brother or sister in P4-P7. Parents will be issued with a letter at the end of September and a place will be issued on a first come basis. Pupils who do not get into the club will be placed on a waiting list. Pupils whose attendance at the club is sporadic or who do not come to the club for a two week period will lose their place and it will be given to a child on the waiting list. We apologise in advance as we are aware that the need will exceed the places but we must ensure the safety of the children.

Parents' Room

Mrs Steele will be continuing to organise and run events in our Parents' Room this year. There will be a range of parent courses organised as well as exercise classes and art and craft activities. We will also have a coffee morning once a week. When we have the room set up we will send out information to parents. Last year it was great to see some new faces come along and take part in the various activities. Why not come along and join in. At present we are organising accredited courses and will be sending out information about these in the next few weeks.

Counselling Service

This year Holy Trinity has three counsellors working in the school. If your child is lacking in self confidence, if they have experienced bereavement, family separation, if they have anger management difficulties or have difficulty making friends etc your child may benefit from speaking to the counsellor. If you would like your child to see the school counsellor

please contact Mrs Boyd and she will arrange this for you.

School Uniform

Our pupils look beautiful in their school uniforms at the start of the new year. Thanks to all the pupils' parents and guardians. Please could you ensure that the child's name is written on the label. When jumpers especially, are taken off on warm days it can cause great confusion trying to establish the owner.

Safe flat footwear is recommended in the interests of safety. Black shoes are recommended.

P.E. Uniform

This year we have decided that on the day of PE children can wear their PE uniform into school and wear it for the day. The PE uniform consists of our usual grey T-shirt with school black track suit bottoms. The track suit bottoms have our school logo on them and are available at Monagh Fashions and Truly Fare.

Uniform Grants

Uniform grant forms are available from the school office.

Homework

Our teachers, past and present, are extremely proud of the standards our children attain in Holy Trinity. We always have been firmly of the belief that this is due in no small part to the role of homework. This gives the children opportunities to consolidate the work which they have been doing in school and allows parents to see what their children have been doing. We would like to thank our parents for encouraging their children with their homework activities.