 Tel: 028 427 28523

Email: nallen400@c2kni.net www.portaferryips.co.uk

 December 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians

**Open Day**

Please note Open Day is on Thursday 7th December from 11.45 am – 12.30 pm. Any parents and children considering enrolment in P1 and any parent of younger children who are planning ahead are most welcome. The best way to find out about our school is to visit us. It will enable the children and parents to get a taste of life in the school, see our facilities, meet staff and current pupils and ask questions. Please spread the word amongst family and friends.

# Confessions (P4 – P7 ONLY)

We shall be attending confessions at St Cooey’s Oratory at 9.30 am on Thursday 7th December.

Please prepare your child by helping them to examine their conscience and practice the

Act of Contrition. Please make sure the children have a coat to wear as we shall be walking down to the

Oratory. Your child may bring the Baby Jesus from the crib at home for Fr Feargal to bless, if they wish to

do so.



**Book Fair**

Our recent annual Book Fair made a total of £399.97. We thank you all for your tremendous support in

raising this amount. With the commission earned, we shall be able to purchase more books for the school.

**Craft Fair 2023** 

We made £905 (before expenses) at our recent Christmas Craft Fair.

A very big thank you to everyone who attended, sent in prizes, to our parents and grandparents and

everyone who sold tickets, served teas, helped out at stalls, did door duty and

cleared up afterwards. We especially thank Dorothy Jayne for organising this great fundraiser.



**P1 – P3 Nativity**

As you know our P1 – P3 Nativity Play on Thursday 14th December at 11 am is in Ballyphilip Parish Centre

Entry will be by ticket only (minimum donation £5) which are on sale at the school. Children should come into

school in their own clothes and we will dress them in their costumes. They will go home immediately

afterwards. There will be ballot tickets and 100 Squares for sale.

We hope to organise a show for our P4 – P7 classes during the summer term.

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**Christmas Jumper Day**

***Just a reminder*** – Wednesday 20th December is Christmas Jumper Day! All we ask is that everyone wear a

festive jumper and donate a minimum of £1 which will be for the **Leukaemia and Lymphoma NI** charity.

***(we have raised £320 to date*).** We don’t want anyone to go out and buy a jumper – all

you have to do is dress up an old jumper by decorating with tinsel, paper snowflake patterns, sparkle with

glitter or any other way you can think of to make it look Christmassy!

**School Counsellor**

If anyone wishes their child to avail of the school counselling service, please contact Mrs Allen for referral.

** Used Stamps**

We are still collecting used stamps for the RNIB.The collection box is in Mrs Allen’s room (P1),

however, they may be left into any teacher or the school office.

**Handle with Care**

If your family is experiencing difficulties at home. I would like to provide additional support at school.

I understand that you are not always able to share details and that’s okay. If your child is coming to

school after a difficult night, morning or weekend, please email me “Handle with Care”. Nothing else

will be said or asked. This will let me know that your child may need extra time, patience, or help during the day. Also in these bleak economic times, we know how difficult it is to be able to put food on the table, pay bills

etc., so if you feel your child needs any extra food for breakfast and/or break or avail of the community

foodbank, we will be able to provide some food if needed. Just let Mrs Allen know by email or telephone

the school and ask for her specifically.

***Important -* Absence from School**

If a child is absent from school due to illness or for some other reason, we would ask you to please ring the school or email (econlan823@c2kni.net) to let us know the situation. ***It is a requirement for us to inform the Education Welfare Officer of any child’s absence for which we have no explanation.*** ***If there is no explanation of a child’s absence from school, the unauthorised absence code will be used.***

***Absence will be monitored monthly and if your child’s absence is under 85%, you***

***will be contacted by telephone initially. If there is no improvement, the Education***

***Welfare Officer will be contacted to advise them of this.***

***If your child has an appointment during the day, please email***

***econlan823@c2kni.net*** ***or telephone 028 427 28523 first thing at 9 am.***

**Child Protection**

**Designated Teacher/Deputy Designated Teacher**

The Designated Teacher for Child Protection is Mr Martin McKeown and the Deputy Designated Child

Protection Officer is Mrs Allen. If you or your child have any concerns in this respect, please contact one of

the above.

 **Breakfast Club**

Breakfast Club is still continuing at Cuan Kids Community Pre-School from 8 am – 9 am.

Cost is £2. Please ring Cuan Kids on 028 427 29933 for more information.

Christmas Party Day is Wednesday 20th December. We would be grateful if

everybody could bring in some of their favourite goodies to share.

**Early Closures** 

On Thursday 14th December, school will close for P4-P7 at 2 pm. On Monday 18th, Tuesday 19th and

Wednesday 20th December, school will close for P1-P7 children at 2 pm. School closes at **12 pm** on Thursday 21st December for the Christmas Holidays.

**Well Done! **

We would like to thank all our pupils, parents and families for being so supportive during this term. We

appreciate all your efforts, especially with the enormous rise in the cost of living.

***Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful 2024.***

Yours faithfully

Nicola Allen

Nicola Allen

PRINCIPAL

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Thursday 7th December – Confessions P4 – 7 at 9.30 am in Oratory

* P1 Open Day 11.45 – 12.30pm

Friday 8th December – Carol singing at Elderly Resource Centre 11 am

Thursday 14th December – Nativity Play – 11 am - Ballyphilip Church Hall

 P4 – P7 School closes at 2 pm

Friday 15th December – Carol singing at Barr Hall 10 am

 Christmas Dinner in St Columba’s canteen for whole school

Monday 18th December – Carol singing at Ard Cuan 12.15 pm

Monday 18th December – Wednesday 20th December - School closes for P1 – P7 at 2 pm

Tuesday 19th December – Christmas Ballot

Wednesday 20th December – Christmas Jumper/Party Day and Special Visitor – donations to Leukaemia and Lymphoma NI

Thursday 21st December – School closes at 12 noon for Christmas Holidays

Friday 22nd December – Friday 5th January – Christmas Holidays

Monday 29th January 2024 – School Closed – Staff Training Day

Tuesday 30th January – Extended Schools commences

Monday 12th February – Friday 16th February – Half Term Holidays

Thursday 22nd February – Bee Safe P6/P7

Sunday 25th February – Peace Proms SEE Arena 7 pm performance

Thursday 14th March – First Confession 11 am Oratory

Monday 18th March – School Closed – St Patrick’s Day

Monday 25th March – Friday 5th April – Easter Holidays

Wednesday 10th April – What’s Inside P6/P7

Thursday 11th April – Debutots 9.30 – 10.30 am P1/P2

Monday 15th April – Edenmore Photography

Thursday 18th April – Debutots 9.30 – 10.30 am P1 – P2

Thursday 25th April – Debutots 9.30 – 10.30 am P1 – P2

Saturday 27th April – Tractor Rally

Thursday 2nd May – Debutots 9.30 – 10.30 P1 – P2

Monday 6th May – Bank Holiday – School Closed

Thursday 9th May – Debutots 9.30 – 10.30 am – P1 - P2

 First Holy Communion 1 pm in St Cooey’s Oratory

Thursday 16th May - Debutots 9.30 – 10.30 am – P1 - P2

Thursday 23rd May - Debutots 9.30 – 10.30 am – P1 - P2

Monday 27th May – Bank Holiday – School Closed

Tuesday 28th May – **Fundraiser - Pub Quiz in Portaferry Hotel**

Thursday 30th May - Debutots 9.30 – 10.30 am – P1 - P2

Saturday 1st June – **Fundraiser - Coffee Morning at Portaferry Market in the Square**

Thursday 6th June – Sports Day

Friday 28th June – School closes for summer holidays

