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January 2024

Dear Parents

[](https://www.google.co.uk/imgres?imgurl=https://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/blocks/03.-support-us/more-ways-to-support-us/christmas-raffle-2020/christmas-raffle-2020-logo2.png&imgrefurl=https://www.nspcc.org.uk/support-us/ways-to-give/christmas-raffle-2020/&tbnid=NGwuKBIKs9W6mM&vet=12ahUKEwjl-szJ2bHtAhVaZRUIHWMrCzwQMyhZegUIARCSAQ..i&docid=mjJ9u0hmv9ARPM&w=900&h=506&q=free%20clip%20art%20job%20xmas&hl=en&safe=active&ved=2ahUKEwjl-szJ2bHtAhVaZRUIHWMrCzwQMyhZegUIARCSAQ)A very warm welcome back after the Christmas holidays. We wish you a very happy, healthy and peaceful 2024. We hope you all enjoyed your break, seeing family and friends. We look forward to a very busy and productive Spring term.

**Christmas Ballot Tickets/Play/100 Square**

A wonderful amount of £1,500 was raised from our Christmas ballot tickets/Nativity Play/100 Square. A massive thank you to everyone who bought and sold tickets and who brought in items for the ballot. A special mention to our parents who collected prizes from the local shops and businesses further afield, and to anyone who helped in any way to making this fundraiser such a success. ***Your support is greatly appreciated.***

***Thank you also to the grandparents who kindly baked shortbread for our Christmas visits to the elderly.***

**Christmas Jumper Day**

Our Christmas Jumper Day was also a great success having raised £250.00 for Leukemia and Lymphoma NI (we have already raised £320). Thank you again for all your generosity and support.

**Important Dates for Sacraments 2024**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **DATE** | **SACRAMENT** | **TIME/VENUE** |
| **Thursday 14th March 2024** | **First Confession** | **11.00 am**  **Oratory** |
| **Friday 19th April 2024** | **Confirmation**  **(P7)** | **12 noon**  **St Patrick’s Church, Ballyphilip, Portaferry** |
| **Thursday 9th May 2024** | **First Holy Communion**  **(P1-P3 will go home at 11.30 am and also non choir children)** | **1 pm**  **Oratory** |

[](https://www.google.co.uk/imgres?imgurl=https://s.clipartkey.com/mpngs/s/127-1275308_transparent-clipart-cartoon.png&imgrefurl=https://www.clipartkey.com/view/xRibbi_school-closed-clip-art/&tbnid=0R77PJbCZ5naeM&vet=12ahUKEwj5wI-NyNLtAhXlThUIHYjuCy4QMyg3egQIARA9..i&docid=7Xn5ltok80w8hM&w=500&h=320&q=windows%20clip%20art%20schol%20closed&hl=en&safe=active&ved=2ahUKEwj5wI-NyNLtAhXlThUIHYjuCy4QMyg3egQIARA9) **School Closure**

Just a reminder that school will be closed on Monday 29th January to facilitate staff development.



**Parent/Teacher Interviews**

### If you require an optional parent/teacher meeting for your child in this term, please contact the individual teacher or office by Monday 22nd January. These will take place in February.

**School Counsellor**[](https://www.google.co.uk/url?esrc=s&q=&rct=j&sa=U&url=https://www.gograph.com/vector-clip-art/counselling.html&ved=2ahUKEwiG6ZCo4rP0AhXEiVwKHaiaB4Q4FBCqhQF6BAgOEAE&usg=AOvVaw1HkaGjkYivg6e6tpCv9XKt)

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

**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**

[](http://www.google.co.uk/url?esrc=s&q=&rct=j&sa=U&url=http://clipart-library.com/school-attendance-cliparts.html&ved=2ahUKEwiGmOrpiYr7AhXNilwKHdV2DU4QqoUBegQIDxAB&usg=AOvVaw2nQZrS67UDfDOFdLBiI81U)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](mailto: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***](mailto:econlan823@c2kni.net) ***or telephone 028 427 28523 first thing at 9 am.***

**[](https://www.google.co.uk/url?esrc=s&q=&rct=j&sa=U&url=https://www.canstockphoto.com/illustration/child-protection.html&ved=2ahUKEwi7p5jezt_5AhWTnVwKHaUlAeIQqoUBegQIDhAB&usg=AOvVaw3plTvNVEKSh3_TC1fzwEx8)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.

### After School Clubs

### After School Clubs commence on Tuesday 30th January.

### P1 Portal [https://encrypted-tbn0.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcTvkEegxGqf2qCKcVmEXcBVyM28R3nrFgdJWE7AspYJ-ESt4eQ7Iy62f9Wwqzs&s](https://www.google.co.uk/url?esrc=s&q=&rct=j&sa=U&url=https://www.gograph.com/vector-clip-art/admissions.html&ved=2ahUKEwiyqdyKqJj1AhVaPcAKHS6jBfUQqoUBegQIExAB&usg=AOvVaw2BY8sPOc43a6YIlCImkfmZ)

Just a reminder that on Tuesday 9th January 12 pm, the P1 Admissions Portal opens at <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions> and closes on Friday 26th January at 12 noon.

### P7 Post Primary Admissions

### Parents of Primary 7 pupils are being asked to ensure they have applied for a post-primary place before the deadline of Thursday 22nd February 2024.The P7 portal

### opens on Tuesday 30th January. If anyone needs help in this regard, please contact Mrs Allen.

### Accelerated Reading (P4-P7) [https://encrypted-tbn0.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcRLYsxbBlGnsq3cfFRs4aYm8sM4BPUcMRTgecev3PMPao1n5-bIQItp9iADDEk&s](http://www.google.co.uk/url?esrc=s&q=&rct=j&sa=U&url=http://clipart-library.com/clipart/1783755.htm&ved=2ahUKEwj9uYSrp5j1AhWzQUEAHU6BCW8QqoUBegQIEBAB&usg=AOvVaw3jQHJpBsDLDQJ9kRwaAl20)

### Please make sure your child is reading their AR book every night as this is part of their daily homework. We have lots of great prizes for the children who achieve their individual targets this term.

### [https://encrypted-tbn0.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcS5ZsIhhKQqHRxTicWDBkPkd0MDAhW53ngOfzBr75v1cn0kTOidF9G_Fptjbg&s](http://www.google.co.uk/url?esrc=s&q=&rct=j&sa=U&url=http://www.clipartbest.com/mathletics-logo&ved=2ahUKEwiF2Ya6p5j1AhVFi1wKHRpuB9gQqoUBegQIABAB&usg=AOvVaw1G2KLIvJyNnXC6SdwGS6Fa) Mathletics

### Each child from P2-P7 has a log-in for Mathletics. Please us this valuable resource at home to connect mathematics with ICT.

**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.

### Strike

### At the time of writing, school will be closed on Thursday 18th January due to a staff strike. If this changes, we will let you know.



**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 in to any teacher or the school office.

### Yours faithfully

Nicola Allen

MRS NICOLA ALLEN

PRINCIPAL

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Tuesday 9th Jan 12 noon – Fri 26th Jan 12 noon – P1 Admissions Portal

Thursday 18th Jan – Teachers Strike – School Closed

Monday 29th Jan – School Closed – Staff Training Day

Tuesday 30th January – Wed 22nd Feb - P7 Post Primary Admissions Portal

* 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 (First session)

Monday 15th April – Edenmore Photography

Saturday 27th April – Tractor Rally

Monday 6th May – Bank Holiday – School Closed

Thursday 9th May - First Holy Communion 1 pm in St Cooey’s Oratory

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 (Last session)

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

