

ENNISKILLEN MODEL PRIMARY SCHOOL

April 2024

Dear Parent

I hope everyone had an enjoyable and safe Easter break.

Thank you for your support of everything last term. A lot was organised and helped by ongoing/strong parental, staff and pupil input.

1. The school had many individuals who achieved much success in various categories of Fermanagh Feis – choral, verse speaking, poetry etc. There were many entries representing this school from P1 to P7. The children were well prepared by Mrs West (formally Miss Williamson) and Mrs Johnston (Co-ordinators) and parents had a huge input – thank you. Our school choir reached a particularly high standard this year.
2. The Fermanagh and County Show was also supported and again, many entries from this school featured in each of the categories. It is hoped that all the prize winners will be acknowledged in August as well as having their work displayed for family/visitors to view.
3. The P.T.A. Easter Fair generated much interest. Thank you for the support. The number of people who attended was well above expectation.
4. We were delighted at the end of term when one of our P5 pupils (Sophie Cadden) received a prestigious Seamus Heaney prize for her poetry writing (overall province winner in this category). This followed a N.I. Arts Council 'Poetry in Motion' programme which the P5s have been engaging in this year alongside many primary schools from elsewhere in the province. Well done to Sophie and pupils in P5.

Thank you for being mindful of your child's engagement with social media. Issues can filter into school if children are given access to sites that are not age appropriate and when messaging becomes 'too free' and unchecked.

P.T.A. events to come:-

Summer Fun Night - Tuesday, 25th June

The P.T.A. will also be kindly supporting a few other events such as our Book Fair and Sports Day.

A new P.T.A. Committee will hopefully be established in the months ahead. The support/commitment of an active P.T.A. has always been a huge strength of this school and it is vital (moving forward) that we try to keep this going. I would like to thank the current Committee members/helpers (and Mrs Clarke) for all that they have organised for the school this year –

the Easter Fair alone required considerable input. I am also inviting other parents to register names - if interested in being part of the next P.T.A. committee (September on) please leave your details at the office for the attention of Mrs Clarke/Facebook message. Any parent who would be willing to help and not form part of the committee is most welcome – thank you.

Recently, the P.T.A. donated a cheque to the school for **£15,000** – a fantastic amount and very much appreciated. Regular P.T.A. donations like this enable us, for example, to replace reading and mathematics core material, purchase key assessment resources, fund swimming lessons in full, employ specialist coaches for P.E., subsidise many educational trips and offer some after school activities for free. The mounting cost of things in a school of this size and type is always increasing and yet funding from the Department of Education is, year-on-year, being scaled back. The forecast for next year shows trivial improvement.

The school endeavours to maintain exacting standards regarding **uniform and appearance**. This policy is exceptionally well supported by parents of children who attend this school. In term 3, I am keen that standards are maintained – uniform, black shoes, jewellery, no nail varnish etc. Appearance includes hair styles. **For safety reasons we prefer children to wear stud type earrings only (not hoops).** I am not interested in what might be acceptable in other schools – inevitably all schools vary in their policy/implementation of policy. The wearing of P.E. gear on designated P.E. days is allowed but given the warmer weather in term 3, we are reverting to just P.E. kits (there is no need to wear leggings under shorts).

Key dates this term (some are tentative at this stage). To help you plan:

APRIL

Thursday, 11th

P7 swimming continues

April letter and year group information leaflets to go home

Monday, 15th

P7 Cycling Proficiency starts (2 weeks)

Tuesday, 16th

Rugby tournament, Omagh

P1 Fermanagh Fun farm visit

Wednesday, 17th

P7 swimming continues

Thursday, 18th

P7 swimming continues

P1 Fermanagh Fun Farm visit

Friday, 19th

'Come and Learn through Play' afternoon (pre-school pupils)

Tuesday, 23rd

Football tournament

Wednesday, 24th

P7 swimming ends

Thursday, 25th

P7 swimming ends

Friday 26th

P7 Young Enterprise Sale (whole school)

Monday, 29th

Book Fair

P6 & P7 standardised tests start

Tuesday, 30th

Book Fair

MAY

Wednesday, 1st

P4 swimming starts

Thursday, 2nd

P4 swimming starts

P7 school trip meeting (7.00 p.m.)

Friday, 3rd

P7 group photographs

Lowry Corry football match

Monday, 6th

Bank Holiday – school closed

Tuesday, 7th

P4&P5 standardised tests start

Monday, 13th

P3 standardised tests start

Friday, 17th

'Come and Learn through Play' afternoon (pre-school pupils)

Tournaments Day (P4 to P7)

Saturday, 18th

P7 post primary school notifications

Monday, 20th

P7 School Trip Week (Chester/Manchester)

Monday, 27th

Bank Holiday – school closed

Tuesday, 28th

Staff Development Day – school closed to pupils

Wednesday, 29th

P6 Magilligan Trip meeting (7.00p.m.)

Friday, 31st

Sports Day (P1 to P7) - weather permitting. If wet, we will try to reschedule for a day next week

JUNE

Monday, 3rd

F&ODC Cross Country to be run this week (day tbc)

Tuesday, 4th

West Midlands Theatre performance – ‘Sigurd and the Dragon’

Thursday, 6th

D-Day 80 Celebration (School/Community focus)

Primary 1 (new) Induction Evening for parents (7.00p.m.)

Wednesday, 12th

P4 swimming ends

P6S Magilligan Field Trip

Thursday, 13th

P1M Outdoor Play Morning (weather permitting)

P4 swimming ends

P6S/R Magilligan Field Trip

Friday, 14th

P1McC Outdoor Play Morning (weather permitting)

P6R Magilligan Field Trip

Primary 1 (new) – Induction Afternoon – 2.30p.m.

Tuesday, 18th

P7 Leavers’ Assembly dress rehearsal (1)

Wednesday, 19th

P7 Leavers’ Assembly dress rehearsal (2)

Thursday, 20th

P7 Leavers’ Assembly main performance (7.00 p.m.)

Friday, 21st

Primary 1 (new) – Induction Afternoon – 2.30p.m.

Monday, 24th

Reports to go home today

Tuesday, 25th

P7 pupils – post primary transition day

P.T.A. Summer Fun Night - tbc

Friday, 28th

End of Term (shorter day)

Details have previously been released in relation to our **SUMMER SCHOOL** programme (reminder attached). There are four days over the first three weeks in July earmarked for the operation of various clubs. In addition, Starcamp will be operating a one-week club in late July and Ross (Multi-Sports) will be offering a further two weeks in August- relayed separately.

SCHOOL WILL RE-OPEN ON **THURSDAY, 29th AUGUST 2024**. This will mean a two-day week for the children which is deemed better than returning after an exceedingly long break. The **2024/2025 holiday list** can be found on the school’s website (reminder attached).

Other events being planned for the children will be relayed at the proper time when dates have been finalised (often via the class teacher). All year group teachers are sending home information leaflets (April 11th) to inform parents about what is planned for the term – curriculum, events etc. Hopefully, these leaflets will be of interest and will give more detail in relation to some of the dates listed in this correspondence.

School should be informed of a pending absence and guidance will be given on activities that can be undertaken during the approved leave – extra reading, keeping a diary etc. During a period of absence, the curriculum for the rest of the children must continue and as you can appreciate frequent or long absences can distort a pupil's learning.

Likewise, thank you for ensuring your child arrives punctually to school by 9.00a.m. The initial part of the school day is key for pupils and staff.

The After School Homework Clubs will continue and remain open until 5.30 p.m. every day.

After School Activities - Summer Term 2024: Restarting on Monday, 15th April – see accompanying details.

WATCH OUT FOR HEAD LICE THIS TERM – IF DETECTED, TREAT AND INFORM THE SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY

PLEASE TELEPHONE THE OFFICE IF YOU HAVE CHILDREN DUE TO START SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2025. AN INTAKE DATABASE IS KEPT AND UPDATED FROM TIME TO TIME.

We welcome the return of Mrs West next Monday following her marriage last weekend (formally Miss Williamson). She had a lovely wedding day and was particularly taken by the P7 children from her class who greeted her after the marriage ceremony.

I would like to convey my best wishes to Mrs Kerr (principal of Enniskillen Integrated Primary School) as she prepares to take early retirement at the end of this term (as she announced before Easter). Her contribution, hard work and dedication to education in this town/province over many years has been immense.

Should you require clarification on these or other points, please do not hesitate in contacting me. Thank you for your continued support of the school amidst many pressures in/out of school.

Yours sincerely

Please use our website – www.enniskillenmodel.enniskillen.ni.sch.uk The site is updated periodically and hopefully will prove to be of interest.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES (SUMMER TERM 2024)

Week beginning Monday, 15th April and ending in late May. Children are welcome to attend any of the activities which end at 4.15pm. (the coach who takes ju-jitsu does operate a waiting list policy). If not picked up by 4.15p.m. from the playground children are sent to the dining room. The staff member in charge of the activity ensures all children have been accounted for.

MONDAY

P5, P6 & P7

FOOTBALL – no cost.

TUESDAY

P1, P2 & P3

MULTI SPORTS – continuing (cost involved) – separate leaflet in circulation gives details.

P4&P5

RUNNING CLUB – no cost

P6& P7

RUGBY – no cost

WEDNESDAY

P4, P5, P6 & P7

MULTI SPORTS – continuing (cost involved) – separate leaflet in circulation gives details.

THURSDAY

P4, P5, P6 & P7

JU-JITSU – continuing (cost involved) – starts on 11th April

P6&P7

RUNNING CLUB – no cost

P4 & P5

TENNIS (organised by a coach from Enniskillen Tennis Club) – no cost

FRIDAY

No activities operating