

School Fund

I want to thank everyone who has made a donation to our School Fund so far. This is an **extremely important** source of income for us, and your generosity is very much appreciated. Around one quarter of families have already contributed and we are still taking contributions.

Burns Skills School

This year we will be partnering with Burns Skill School who will be helping to deliver our after school clubs. The clubs will begin in November and further information will be sent home to you soon, along with details of how to sign up.

Parking

Please do not park in front of the main school gates when dropping children off, as this blocks access for staff.

Parent Interviews

We plan to hold our annual parent/teacher interviews in **February**, as usual. In the meantime, we will be sending home a brief interim report in November, to provide an update on your child's progress. If you wish to speak to your child's class teacher before the interviews in February please contact the school office and we will arrange a mutually convenient time.

Sickness

Please keep children at home when they are unwell, even if they say they want to come to school. Sickness spreads very quickly within a school environment. If your child has had either diarrhoea or vomiting we ask that you keep them at home for a minimum of **48 hours after the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting**. This is in line with guidance that all schools have received from the PHA.

Boots/Tights

As we start to experience colder weather some of the girls often like to wear boots and tights. We would ask that they only wear black boots and grey tights, as per our Pupil Dress Code, which can be found on our school website.

Morning Drop Off

Some children are being dropped off at school before our doors open to pupils. Please ensure that children are not dropped off before 8:35am.

Mobile Phone Numbers

If you have changed your mobile phone number recently please contact the school office, and we will update our records. It is vital that we have someone, for every pupil, who is contactable at any time during the school day.

Book Fair

The Book Fair will be arriving in school on **Thursday 15th October** and the books will be on display in the Assembly Hall until **Wednesday 21st October**. Each class will be given a couple of opportunities to visit the Book Fair, when they can buy a book, if they wish. You can send money in to school and your child's teacher will help your child to choose a book.

Parents can also visit the Book Fair on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon between 1:45pm and 2:30pm, if you would like to help your child choose a book. Book Fairs provide a wonderful opportunity as they encourage reading and benefit our school by way of providing books in commission for the library and classroom. Children who read and enjoy books at home become better readers. Please note, the deadline for buying books is Wednesday 21st October at 2:30pm.

Questions for Staff

Please avoid approaching staff outside of school to discuss school matters. If you have a question, please contact your child's class teacher in school to make an appointment to discuss any concerns. Please do not address queries to any of the non-teaching staff.

Notable Dates

- **Book Fair:** 15th to 21st October
- **P6/7 Forest School Experience @ Mourne Park:** Thursday 5th November
- **School Development Day:** Monday 16th November (school closed)
- **Kilkeel High School Open Day (P7 class):** Wednesday 25th November
- **Carol Service (Mourne Presbyterian):** Monday 7th December @ 7pm
- **P3 visit to Hillsborough Castle & Gardens:** Wednesday 9th December

Mobile Phones/Smartwatches

Please remember that children are not permitted to bring a mobile phone to school. This has been reiterated by the Department of Education in Circular Number: 2026/16. They have also specified that any devices with internet connectivity should not be brought into school, which includes smartwatches.

Holidays

School will be closed for the half-term break from **Monday 26th until Friday 30th October**. We will re-open on Monday 2nd November.

Kind regards,

M J Peacock