



EBRINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

November 2018 Newsletter

A warm welcome back to school after our half term break. The next seven weeks will certainly be a busy time in school with all the classroom work being joined by the build up to the Christmas season. There will be many opportunities for pupils to express themselves through their curriculum learning, as well as through practising for concerts and events in school. We look forward to your ongoing support in this. I would also like to report to you how it has been so good to see the standard of uniform in school since return. This helps set standards and give us our identity and I am very happy to see how all parents and pupils are complying.

The Pantry Project/ Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to all those who donated so generously to our Pantry Project food collection. Over the three weeks, we managed to amass a large amount of dried food stuffs that will make a huge difference to families within our community. Also, thank you to those who have contributed so far to the Operation Christmas Child project. There has been a great response in gathering items together in each area in school. If anyone still wants to send any of the items in, there is still time.

Parent/ Teacher Interviews

It was great to hear from staff of the high percentage attendance for the parent interviews in October. All P7 parents were afforded the opportunity to meet with their child's class teacher. As well as this, other primary teaching staff requested particular parents. Speech & Language interviews also took place. In the Spring term, all parents of P1-P6 pupils will have the opportunity to meet with the class teacher, with P7 staff requesting particular parents. Nursery parents have the opportunity to get involved in a number of activities this half term, with the 'Big Read' project.

Car Parking/ On Site Traffic

In communicating with a number of parents recently, it is clear that car parking and on site traffic continues to be an issue.

Reminder: I ask parents to make sure they continue to **NOT** park up on the school paths/ kerbs. It is extremely difficult for those negotiating pushchairs/ prams etc. when vehicles are parked high on footpaths, and is also making it more dangerous for pupils/ parents using the footpaths, as it obscures moving traffic. Please observe the 'drop off' zone outside the main reception area of school. A number of cars are now parking in this area in the morning, which is causing considerable traffic flow issues at busy times, with drop off then happening on the road, thus blocking cars behind.

As I am sure you will appreciate, there is little can be done when operating at peak times. The school bus drop-off and collection was changed this year to help with the flow of on site traffic. As a school, it would be unrealistic to provide a parking space for each family in school. During the design of the site, traffic volume and flow was taken into consideration and what was deemed as 'adequate provision' was given.

Also, please drive slowly and demonstrate patience while driving on school premises.

I ask for your continued support in this.

Update-School Premises

The high level netting has now been erected along the side of the football pitch during the half term break, protecting cars and school from stray shots. Also, the shelter outside Nursery/ Foundation Stage is now on site, providing shelter to parents at drop off and pick up times.

P.T.O.

TEAM EBRINGTON

School has had a number of teams taking part in events during October:

The football team has enjoyed lots of success during October, hosting the local primary schools blitz. In total, they played six games-winning three, drawing one and losing two. There will now be a break in the football league until the new year, with a cup competition planned for December.

The Ebrington Highland Dancers performed in the Strule Arts Centre in Omagh as part of the UTU anniversary competition. It was with great excitement that Mr Guthrie & Miss Stone opened the letter on the last day of term to read that they have qualified for the main event in January.

The Ebrington PS Junior Choir performed extremely well at the City of Derry International Choral Festival towards the end of the month. They performed admirably among some very stiff competition, and did themselves and their school proud.

School Enrolment

This year, how you enrol your child at nursery & primary school is changing. An admission's 'portal' will be developed and found on eani.org.uk/parents/admissions. Applications can be made from Wednesday 2 January 2019 until Thursday 31 January 2019. This means parents making the application directly to EA, without involvement of school. School are currently updating admissions criteria to send back to EA.

School Funding

As well as receiving a letter from school in October, I am sure many of you will have heard various reports during the half term break regarding school funding cuts on budgets. Although our current financial plan in school can operate viably, with continued pressures and cuts in DE funding, there will be continued pressure for this to remain the case in future years. Just prior to the half term break, I attended a principal meeting for the schools in the city. There is a view to organise a public meeting in the coming weeks to give parents the opportunity to show support for their children's schools, right across the city. I will keep you updated when I receive further information on this.

School Flu Vaccine

REMINDER: The school health team will be visiting school on **Thursday 8th November** this week to give the nasal flu vaccine to all pupils who have returned the brown envelope to school with the required information.

PTA Events

The first PTA meeting of the year was held on Monday 8 October. It was extremely well supported, with a good number of parents in attendance. The main business of the night was to plan the Halloween disco for P4-P7 pupils. It was extremely well supported by pupils and parents and it was clear to see so many enjoying the music provided by our excellent DJ. Next up, the PTA will be sending home Christmas Raffle tickets to each family, with a good range of prizes on offer.

Remember, The Ebrington PTA are a vital team in helping raise much needed funding for school in this current climate-any activities planned or money raised through events goes back in to assist school in giving the pupils a positive experience while at Ebrington.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER

Thursday 8 th November	Flu Vaccine Nursery (Getting Ready to Learn)	1.00 pm – 1.30 pm 7.00 pm – 7.30 pm
Wednesday 14 th November	N1 Big Bedtime Read N2 Big Bedtime Read	6.30 pm 6.30 pm
Thursday 6 th December	Foundation Stage Concert (P1 & P2)	9.30 am - 11.00 am
Friday 7 th December	KS1 Concert (P3+P4)	9.30 am – 11.00 am
Monday 10 th December	N2 Concert	10.30 am (Assembly Hall)
Tuesday 11 th December	N1 Concert	10.30 am (Assembly Hall)
Tuesday 18 th December	Nursery Christmas Trip Santa's Magical Kingdom	Dept 9.30, Return 1.30 pm
Friday 21 st December	School Closes (Re-opens Mon 7/1/19)	12 noon