



EBRINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

June 2019 Newsletter

School Consultation

Following on from our consultation with our key stakeholders, we will hold a parents' information evening to share our VALUES and some of our key findings, as well as giving an overview of how we plan to move certain areas forward. This will take place on an evening the week beginning 24 June, at 7:00pm. The night will be confirmed closer to the time. We look forward to seeing a good turnout of parents at this event.

Attendance at school

While monitoring recent attendance reports, a number of pupils have caused concern, regarding % absence. I am concerned about the impact this will have on the effective learning of a pupil. I am also troubled about the persistent lateness of a small number of pupils to school. Teachers are ready to begin lessons at 9:00am, though each day a small minority are arriving between after this time. Over the course of a week, this can lead to up to an hour's teaching lost for a child, as well as being disruptive towards the whole class teaching. Please see the information below:

Children are expected to attend school for 185 school days each year. Attendance is recorded on the Computer Attendance Module (SIMS-morning and afternoon sessions) and this shows whether the pupil is present, engaged in an approved activity off site or absent.

If a pupil is absent, every half day absence has to be classified by the school as either authorised or unauthorised. Only the school can authorise the absence, not parents/carers. For this reason, information about the cause of each absence is required in writing.

If a child goes home in the morning due to illness he/she will be marked absent for the afternoon session.

Schools have a legal responsibility to report any pupil whose absence falls below 85% or where there has been an absence of more than 10 days and where it is proved impossible to make contact with a parent or carer.

100% Attendance	0 days missed	Excellent
95% Attendance	9 days of absence 1 week and 4 days of learning missed	Satisfactory
90% Attendance	19 days of absence 3 weeks and 4 days of learning missed	Poor
85% Attendance	28 days of absence 5 weeks and 3 days of learning missed	Very poor
80% Attendance	38 days of absence 7 weeks and 3 days of learning missed	Unacceptable
75% Attendance	46 days of absence 9 weeks and 1 day of learning missed	Unacceptable

School Choir

Another wonderful opportunity was afforded to our senior choir on Monday 27 May, when they sang on stage with Katherine Jenkins, at the Waterfront Hall, Belfast. The choir accompanied her on one of her own songs, 'Jealous of the Angels', then performed one of their own songs from the BBC School Choir of the Year competition, 'California Dreaming'. Katherine loved being part of 'Team Ebrington' for the night, and we received some wonderful praise from many in the audience, both on the night and through phone calls and emails to school in the days after. A Thank You must also go to Miss Stone and Mrs Wasson for all their hard work in preparing the choir and to our team of choir 'groupies', Mrs Brown, Mrs Mitchell and Mrs Watson for their help and support.



Continued School Success

We had three teams-one girls' team and two boys' teams, enter the David Nicholl Cup in Limavady. The final in the main competition went down to a penalty shoot-out against the Gaelscoil and the Ebrington boys held their nerve to come out victorious. Well done to all for representing school the way they did.



Our boys' rugby team travelled to the NI Primary Finals Festival at Kingspan Stadium Belfast on Wednesday 8 May. They gave a great account of themselves and played three tough, competitive matches. They did exceptionally well, winning the first two games and losing the last to a very strong Millington PS from Portadown.

Congratulations, also, to two of our staff members who have recently completed professional development courses.

Mrs Farren has completed her 'Senior Pathways' leadership course

Mrs Armstrong has completed her 'Steps into Leadership' course.

School looks forward to both staff members having the opportunity to put these to good use and continue to drive Ebrington upwards and onwards...

School/ PTA Fundraiser

Cinema Evening/ Night

Our Cinema Nights proved to be a hit with the pupils who attended each. This was not being run as a big fundraiser but, more so, giving the pupils (and some parents) the opportunity to get together in school in a less formal time.

Everyone had a popcorn and sweets treat and, after purchasing the various items needed, the PTA made a profit of...

School/ PTA Fundraiser (contd)

REMINDER: The Summer Fair will take place on Thursday 20 June, 6:30-8:30pm. We have already planned and booked a wide range of events and activities for the children and adults to enjoy. To help share the load of responsibility on the night I would like parents to consider giving an hour of your time as a 'helping hand' to assist at a stall. This would allow members of the PTA, who are parents also, to get to experience some of the fun and excitement of the night with their own children, as well as helping provide it for others.

A list of events and times has been in the office since the week beginning Monday 13 May-please give this some due consideration, and help share the load, where you can.

Illness in school

There are times when pupils are genuinely absent due to illness. To help prevent the spread of various illnesses, in particular vomiting &/or diarrhoea, please follow the guidelines from the HSC Public Health Agency. It states that the recommended period for a pupil to be away from school is 48 hours from the last episode of vomiting/ diarrhoea.

Admissions

We were delighted to welcome all our new P1 parents to our familiarisation evening on Thursday 30 May. We hope this will be the beginning of many exciting, informative meetings as your child begins their educational journey through the primary school. Parents are reminded of the P1 Open Afternoon on Friday 7 June.

We are also excited about welcoming all our new Nursery parents to school on Thursday 13 June for their meeting, as well as the Open Day on 14 June.

We are happy to see all our P7 pupils gaining admission to their post-primary schools. They will have the opportunity to visit over the coming weeks.

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 4 June-	Sports Day (weather permitting!)
Thursday 6 June-	Nursery Sports Day (1:00pm, weather permitting)
Friday 7 June-	P5B Shared Education trip
Friday 7 June-	P1 Open Afternoon
Tuesday 11 June-	P7 Shared education trip to St Joseph's
Tuesday 11 June-	Highland Dancing Prize Giving
Wednesday 12 June-	Speech & Language Information Day (new intake)
Thursday 13 June-	Seagate visit to school
Thursday 13 June-	Cricket tournament @ Brigade CC
Thursday 13 June-	Nursery Parents meeting @ 7:30pm
Friday 14 June-	Nursery Open Day (new children)
Friday 14 June-	Ryan McBride Football tournament @: Brandywell stadium
Tuesday 18 June-	P4 school trip to Ulster American Folk Park
Wednesday 19 June-	Speech & Language Meet & Greet afternoon (new intake)
Thursday 20 June-	Summer Fayre/ Fun Night 6:30-8:30pm
Friday 21 June-	'Whistle Project' football tournament
Thursday 27 June-	P7 Leavers assembly
Friday 28 June-	End of school year 12:00 noon finish time

Please also find attached a copy of next year's holiday list. Apologies in the delay in this being issued. I trust that parents will take these dates into consideration when booking family holidays.