



EBRINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

September 2023 Newsletter

It has been wonderful seeing all the pupils return to school this past week. They all look so smart in their uniforms. I extend a warm welcome to several new families who have joined #TeamEbrington. I trust that your child/ren have settled well and will enjoy their time with us and make continued progress.

The start of the year has gone as smoothly as possible, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank both pupils and parents for helping to make this happen.

School Crossing Patrol Update

Thank you to everyone using both the Nelson Drive pedestrian gate, road crossing and upper car park in such an appropriate, safe manner.

I have continued to press several groups/ organisations for solutions to the issue of no SCP in place.

I would like to remind parents that this was not a school decision, but an EA decision, due to budget cuts. They have made it clear that it is not a statutory duty for EA to ensure pupils arrive safely to the school gate, rather it is a parental/ guardian responsibility.

I have been so impressed to see parents and pupils talking about safe road crossing at this junction and we will continue to reinforce the road safety message in school.

I would like to thank our local representatives from the UUP, Ryan McCready and Darren Guy and DUP, Gary Middleton and Niree McMorris, who have come to discuss the matter in school and are carrying through with action points through the appropriate channels. I was pleased to have a visit from Department for Infrastructure on Monday morning, where I had the chance to highlight the issues and put forward potential solutions. I am hopeful that we can have some form of safer crossing markings and signage in this area.

I am very conscious that there is a reduced traffic volume this week due to the good weather.

I trust we can all continue to work together as the darker, colder, wetter mornings arrive to ensure the safety of our pupils arriving to school.

With this in mind, could I ask you to please NOT PARK at the footpath area on the school side beside the upper car park. It creates a bottleneck with traffic and has a significant impact on sightlines for pedestrians.



Car Park

I wish to pass on a huge THANK YOU to so many of you who have followed our updated guidance with regards parking off site. I know it places additional pressures of time in the morning for many families, but it has been fantastic to see the vast majority of parents keeping the lower area free for drop offs, pedestrians, staff cars, taxis and those with mobility issues who have previously contacted school-both in the morning and afternoon. Please continue to follow this guidance.



Primary 7 SEAG registration

A reminder for all our P7 pupils/ parents who wish to sit the new SEAG assessment later this term.

The application process ends on Friday 22nd September at 5:00pm.

Further details on the process are available by visiting the website on

www.seagni.co.uk



Friends of Ebrington PTA

The first meeting of the new school year for our PTA members is on Monday 11th September @ 7:00pm in the school staffroom.

If you are a new family to the school and you would like to be involved as a member of the PTA, why not come along to the meeting, where you will be made more than welcome.



Active travel to school

The weather over the last week has seen so many more pupils travel actively to school. It is wonderful to see this, with so many bikes and scooters parked up at the shelters. With this in mind, please remind your child that bikes should be ridden safely within the school grounds and should be walked when there is a high number of pedestrians. We have had a couple of close calls on the path down from Nelson Drive in the last couple of mornings.



School Dinner bookings

Please ensure school dinner bookings are completed the night before dinner is required. They can be booked well in advance. We will be sending out a paper copy of the menu to each family. I would encourage you to put this on the fridge door, so that you can see clearly the menu for a day and any allergens there may be.

Reminder of booking process:

- ✚ When app set up, the three black lines  on top left of screen, let you go into **dinners** (to book child's meals)
- ✚ Click on your child's name (green bar at top), if you have more than one child, simply swipe across for next child's name
- ✚ Select the W/C (week commencing) down arrow, go into day required, down arrow again and make your food selection
- ✚ When the total appears at bottom left, click on the **+** (plus sign)
- ✚ Go into top right and click on highlighted green box with number inside 
- ✚ Click on  Pay option
- ✚ Put in details of Cardholder's Name & Press **Next**
- ✚ Put in all details – Card Number, Expiration Date, Security Code etc
- ✚ Press **Pay**
- ✚ It comes up with **Processing**
- ✚ Then **Payment Successful**
- ✚ Select Done- a receipt of confirmation should be sent to your email.

School start times and finish times

School starts at 8:50am, with **pod doors opened at 8:40am**. There have been quite a few families arriving between 8:50-9:00am. This means by the time pupils get to class, they will have missed registration and welcome and the daily timetable. For pupils, especially younger ones, this can cause quite a disruption. I ask that **we all** please make a special effort to be in class **on time**.

After school activities-provision and booking

This week and next week, we continue to offer our standard after school club.

From Monday 18th September, we will have our activities running alongside this, with a variety of activities for various age groups. Please see below:

Monday	2:00-5:00pm Standard after school club 2:00-3:00pm P1 & P2 Fundamental Movement 3:00-4:00pm P4-P7 Maiden City Soccer
Tuesday	2:00-5:00pm Standard after school club 2:00-3:00pm P1 & P2 Mini Movers 3:00-4:00pm P3 & P4 Middle Movers
Wednesday	2:00-5:00pm Standard after school club 2:00-3:00pm P1 & P2 Rugby Tots 3:00-4:00pm P3 & P4 Rugby Tots 3:00-4:00pm P5-P7 Hockey 3:00-4:00pm P5-P7 Rugby
Thursday	2:00-5:00pm Standard after school club 2:00-3:00pm P1 & P2 highland dancing 3:00-4:00pm P3-P7 highland dancing
Friday	2:00-5:00pm Standard after school club



Clubs should be available to book from Monday 11th September

Dogs on school grounds

It is great to see so many parents/ guardians walking pupils to school and this also gives the opportunity to 'double-job' and get the dog out for one of its daily walks. **Could I ask you to ensure that if your dog fouls within the school grounds, it is lifted in a bag and taken off site please**. We have had a couple of incidents since returning and I would prefer not to have to find the culprits through our CCTV footage!



School funding

With such drastic cuts to our school budget this year, through the loss of Happy, Healthy Minds (which funded our school counsellor), Engage (which funded 5 days learning support), SEN funding cuts and more, as well as many of our community groups who would have delivered funded sessions during the school day (Sollus Dancers, Ryan McBride, Bagpipe tuition) we, as a school, will struggle to provide certain aspects as previously managed during the school year.

We have plans to have a whole school sponsored event this term, in the hope that it would raise enough funds to help deliver in school provision of some of these former activities, including school counsellor, highland dancing and Ryan McBride pupil wellbeing programme. If any of our parents have other ideas that would help us with our fundraising, which could be through either staff in school or with our PTA, we would be delighted to hear from you.