

School News August 2023

Welcome Back!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	28 th August	29 th August	30 th August P2, P4, P6 + P7 to attend school to 12 noon	31 st August P1, P3 + P5 to attend school to 12 noon	1 st September Full school day applies. Lunch and transport services start. Morning club starts	2 nd
3 rd	4 th Sallywags commences	5 th	6 th	7 th Swimming P5-P7	8 th French commences for P3-P7	9 th
10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th Gortatole Residential Trip P5-7	15 th	16 th
17 th	18 th P1's stay for lunch + finish school at 12:45pm	19 th	20 th	21 st Swimming P5-P7	22 nd	23 rd
24 th	25 th School Closed – Staff Training	26 th	27 th	28 th Swimming P5-P7	29 th	30 th

School Times

P1

P1 pupils finish school before lunch at 12:15pm until 15th September. From 18th – 29th September they stay for lunch and leave at 12:45pm. From 2nd October P1 pupils stay the full day to 1:45pm.

P1-2

Doors open in the morning at 8:45am. Class starts at 9am. School finishes at 1:45pm daily.

P3

Doors open in the morning at 8:45am. Class starts at 9am. P3 children finish at 2:45pm Mon – Wed. Thurs & Fri they finish at 1:45pm.

P4-7

Doors open in the morning at 8:45am. Class starts at 9am. P4-7 pupils finish at 2:45pm daily.

Please note, lateness's are noted and affects pupils' attendance.

Attendance Policy

In-line with our attendance policy, please remember **ALL** absences must be explained by a written note upon the child's return to school. The Education Welfare Officer may want to see parents of children whose absences have not been verified by letters.

Please note that lateness's are also recorded. Persistent lateness's will be referred to the Education Welfare Officer. If a pupil is late, please remember to use the front door, and press the buzzer to be admitted.

Child Protection

Our children's safety is of paramount importance. In school all members of staff are trained on how to identify and deal with child abuse. Please do familiarise yourselves again with our Child Protection Policy which can be found on our school website under key info / policies.

Ms Bolton is the Designated Teacher for Child Protection, and Miss Black is the Deputy Designated Teacher.

Uniform

Girls: Red school polo shirt, navy school jumper, grey skirt / pinafore, white socks or grey tights. Red gingham summer dresses are permitted in Terms 1 and 3 if desired. Black school shoes.

Boys: Red school polo shirt, navy school jumper, grey trousers, grey / black socks and black school shoes.

PE kits: Red t-shirt, navy shorts and trainers. Hoodies are optional.

Black school shoes are a part of our school uniform. It really does help raise the standard of presentation, which we are proud of.

Earrings

Children are only permitted to wear stud earrings which, for health and safety reasons, **MUST** be removed for P.E. It is the parent's responsibility to remove the earrings before the child comes to school.

Morning Minding Club

Morning Minding Club (starting 1st Sept) runs each day from 8am. Pupils can come into their classroom and will be supervised by their class teacher.

Unfortunately, we no longer offer breakfast, but pupils are able to bring their breakfast with them and eat in class if they wish. There is a £1 daily charge for this service, and pre-booking is **ESSENTIAL**. If we are not expecting your child, the staff may not be available to supervise with no notice!

Please use the main entrance if using this facility and press the buzzer to alert us of your presence.

Stewartstown Scallywags

Stewartstown Scallywags commences 4th September and will continue to run, as long as demand continues. It has been increased to £4.50 per hour and this rate will be reviewed at Hallowe'en.

Scallywags runs Monday – Thursday and closes at 4:30pm. Please do try and help with the organisation of the club, by pre-booking your child in on a

Monday. Full payment must be received upon collection of your child on the last day attending the club each week.

Maxine is leading the club this year.

Homework

Reading, spellings and mathletics homework will start on Monday 4th September. Written homework will not be given until October to allow a settling in period for all pupils.

Swimming

Swimming takes place this term for **P5-7** pupils starting Thursday 7th September in Cookstown Leisure Centre. Pupils should bring a swimming costume, goggles, towel and a swim cap for pupils with long hair. Lockers require £1 which is refunded after use. No additional money is needed as the school pays for these lessons and transport.

Pupils can bring a suitable healthy snack & some water for the journey there and back.



Piano

Piano lessons will continue this year. Any new pupils wishing to take on lessons should speak with Miss Black. We offer lessons to pupils in P3 – P7 for a weekly charge, which will be confirmed with Shirley Walker (Piano Tutor).

After-school activities

All after school activities are free for term 1, courtesy of Mid Ulster Council funding. A schedule of activities has been sent home.

Accelerated Reader

Following the huge success of our accelerated reader programme again last year, we will be continuing with it this year. It runs from P3-P7 with each child having a unique points target to reach by the end of each ½ term. Targets are already set. Please encourage your child(ren) to read daily and to take quizzes. Quizzes can now be completed on a computer at home using the following link:

<https://global-zone61.renaissance-go.com/welcomeportal/2252951>

Each school has a unique link for pupils to use, which is why if you do an internet search for Accelerated reader, your child will be unable to log on.

An information sheet of how parents can keep track has been sent home with P3-P7.

Remember points = prizes and children LOVE prizes! Let's get reading...!



Mathletics

Mathletics is the online mathematical tool which is available to all pupils in P1-7. Each pupil will be given their log in details and pupils can access the activities on a PC or iPad at home or in school. It has proven to be excellent for keeping the children's mathematical knowledge sharp and for further developing their skills. Please do encourage your children to log-on and complete some activities.

Any child who receives more than 1000 points per week is then rewarded with an on-line certificate. Silver and Gold certificates will be presented in assembly. 5 bronze certificates will get your child a silver certificate, and 4 silver certificates will get a gold certificate. The top 10 highest point scorers are displayed on our Mathletics Board outside P5-7 classroom and the children can get very competitive! Please do help your child and encourage them to make use of this fantastic resource. Mathletics is set as part of every pupil's homework each week... Remember: success comes from the result of hard work and perseverance!

Monthly Awards System

At the end of every month, the pupils are presented awards in assembly under the following headings:

- Boy of the Week
- Girl of the Week
- Merit
- Principal's Award



The teachers agree which pupils are to receive what award, taking into consideration behaviour in and out of class, work in class, attitude, manners, successes, achievements... etc

Certificates are presented in assembly, and the pupils get to select a prize from a prize box. Although the Principal's award is the most difficult to achieve, getting any of the awards is a great achievement, and pupils should be commended at home for their efforts. We are proud of all our pupils and all their wonderful talents and aim to recognise their achievements. If your child wins a competition or an award outside of school, please do let us know so we can all celebrate their success together 😊

School App

Please update your class groupings on the app, as your child will now be in a different year. Open the app, open notification tab, click on settings cog, tick classes required and select join.

Notifications / menus / newsletters etc are all uploaded on the app.

New parents – an info sheet is enclosed.

We plan on phasing out the usage of the app this year, following the upgrade of our website.



Healthy Eating

Please encourage your child(ren) to eat healthily at break and lunch time.

Pupils should bring water (not fizzy or flavoured) to school in a CLEAR bottle.

Drinking water in class helps with concentration. Bottles are available to buy in school at £2.50 each.

School Dinners

Each school dinner costs £2.60. Please send in exact money for the week ahead on a **Monday**. The money should be put in an envelope which is clearly labelled with the child's name and days taking dinner indicated. The menu is uploaded to app and website for your reference.

The school's bank details can be requested for those families who prefer on-line banking. Please do remember to text through the details of the money transferred on-line so we can keep your records up to date.

Birthday Celebrations

We love to celebrate birthdays in school. It is one of the most important dates in a child's calendar after all!

Please do be mindful that we do have multiple pupils in school with special dietary requirements. Cupcakes are already portioned, so are preferred over a cake. Teachers require a copy of the nutritional information at least 24 hours before the birthday, to allow information to be shared with the necessary parents.

School Fund

We are asking every family to continue to make the £1/week/family voluntary contribution to our 'School Fund'. With everyone contributing, it soon adds up,

and helps us to keep additional costs to you at a minimum. It is with this money, we subsidise school trips for example. Other schools charge a substantial amount per trip!

Cash for Clobber

Our purple bin located at the front door helps to top up our school fund also and has proved to be very successful. Please help by bringing in the bin bags filled with recyclable products – clothes, shoes, handbags, curtains.

Easy Fundraising

To date we have received payments totalling £1696.74 which is remarkable! Money is donated to us every time you shop online. All you have to do is register with easyfundraising.org.uk, select Friends of Stewartstown Primary School as your selected cause and then every time you buy something online, do it via the Easy Fundraising page. It is very simple and very effective. It does not cost you any more money and we do not get any information about what you bought or where you shopped. Imagine what we could get if every family joined! Please – next time you are shopping online (Asda, Tesco, Amazon, Ebay, Thomas Cook, Dorothy Perkins... the list is endless...) help get us some free money! Download the app today or visit the site.



Friends of Stewartstown Primary School

Our parent group was a huge success again last year and the staff would like to thank everyone involved in the group for all their hard work throughout last year. Money raised enabled us to purchase our new garden summer house as well as 5 new laptops for the pupils.

A date for our first meeting will be scheduled shortly, and we would love to see a good turnout of parents come along and support the group. Everyone is welcome, mums and dads!

It is a great way to get involved and help support your child's school.

Tissues

To help minimise the spread of germs we would like each pupil to bring in a box of tissues. The tissues then will be readily available in class.

School Closures

The holidays for this school year are uploaded to the school website. For your convenience they are set out below.

20223-2024	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T		
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Enclosed:

- **Authorisation & Confidential Record Forms**

Please complete the enclosed forms and return them to school for **Monday 4th September**. Please make sure you fill in EVERY box on the data collection form, even if you have completed them before in the past. Past forms are discarded and no longer valid. Please update us IMMEDIATELY if there are any changes in circumstances / details from these forms throughout the year.

- Intimate Care P1 families only **TO BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED**

- **Survey**

We are currently working on our budget figures and need an idea of projected numbers. Please complete the attached Survey Pro-forma and return it to school for Monday 4th Sept. OR send in a text of names of possible future pupils.

- Accelerated Reader parent info P3-7 families only
- Lunch Menu – **Please note, menu starts on WEEK 2**
- Attendance Matters - A parent's guide
- Milk for P1 families only
- App info for new parents
- After school activity schedule
- NHS – Guide to illnesses and school attendance

We are excited as the new school term begins... we wish all our families a very successful school year ahead.

“Together we can do great things.” Mother Teresa



SURVEY:

Please indicate the name and approx date of birth of any new children you think might be attending our school for the first time in the next 3/4 years.

Name	D.O.B (approx)

Signed: _____ Date: _____