



School News

September 2016

Dates For Your Diary

9th Sept – Swimming commences for P4-7 pupils

6th Oct – Dog's trust visit P1-7

24th – 26th Oct - P5-7 residential trip to Shannaghmore

28th Oct – 2nd Nov School closed ☺

3rd Nov – Flu Vaccine Day

10th Nov – Craft Fair

16th Dec – Last swim session for P4-7

21st Dec – Christmas Carol Service

22nd Dec – 11am finish

5th Jan – School reopens for term 2

Class Composition

P1-4 Monday – Friday - Miss Black **

P3-4 2 hours literacy withdrawal
Monday – Wednesday Miss Finn

P5-P7 Mon – Tues: Miss Bell
Wed – Fri: Ms Bolton

** Miss Artt is still unwell, and will be off for the foreseeable future. We will keep you posted on her progress.



School Dinners

Each school dinner now costs £2.50
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.

P1 Times

For the first 2 weeks and 2 days of school P1 children stay until 12:30pm.
The following 2 weeks they stay for

lunch and leave 1:15pm. From 3rd October they will stay the full day to 2:10pm.

P3 Times

P3 children finish at 3:10pm Mon – Wed. Thurs & Fri they finish at 2:10pm.

Breakfast Club

Starting 1st September, Breakfast Club will run from 7:45am – 8:50am in our spare classroom. It costs £1 per child. Your child(ren) will be offered a selection of cereals, fruit, yoghurts, toast and healthy drinks. Please see Alison Armstrong for more details.

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. We are the only school in the area to offer **free** after school activities, **free** swimming lessons for P4-7, reduced costs for trips & residential, cheap breakfast club... etc. Every bit helps!

Cash for Clobber

Our purple bin located at the front door has proved to be very successful last year. Please help by bringing in the bin bags filled with recyclable products – clothes, shoes, handbags, curtains.

Website

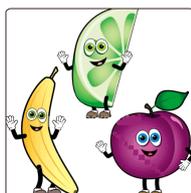
Please keep checking our website for news, menus, photos etc and keep telling your friends and neighbours all about it. www.stewartstownps.org

Earrings

Children are only permitted to wear stud earrings which, for health and safety reasons, **MUST** be removed for P.E.

Healthy Eating

Please encourage your child(ren) to eat healthily at break and lunch time. We are strongly encouraging more healthy eating this year and are asking the pupils to help us with the monitoring of the foods eaten. We will also be holding special Healthy Eating events each month to help encourage pupils to try something new... We will keep you posted!



P5-7 pupils should bring water to school in a CLEAR bottle. Drinking water in class helps with concentration. Bottles are available to buy in school at £2.50 each.

Cereal Box Tops For Books

Please continue to collect tokens found on some cereal boxes. Last year we received £40 of free books for school.

Attendance Policy

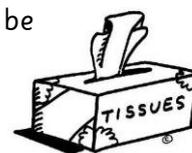
Having updated our attendance policy, please remember **ALL** absences must be explained by a written note upon the child's return to school. The Education Welfare Officer may want to see parents of children whose absences have not been verified by letters.

Open Day

We are holding an open day in school where possible future families can come for a walk around tour and see our wonderful work in action. This will take place in early Dec. More details to follow.

Tissues

It's that time of year again! 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.



Craft Fair

As our Craft Fair has been very successful the past 4 years we have been inundated with interest for another this year. We hope to run it on the evening of Thursday 10th November in school. More details will follow but please mark this date in your diary.

Swimming

Swimming takes place this term for **P4-7** pupils starting Friday 9th 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. Pupils leave school 10:30am and should be back 12:15pm. 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.

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 will be set early September once reading assessments have been carried out in class. Please encourage your child(ren) to read daily and to take quizzes in class. A log-on information sheet to enable parents to log on at home and track progress will be sent home in the near future. 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 proved 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 in assembly with a certificate for their efforts. 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.

After School Activities

There are **NO** after school activities first week of September. All activities commence week beginning 12th September. There is a maximum of 20 children allowed per session so please return the form to register your child's interest in the appropriate club.

MONDAYS

- Gardening with Miss Bell (6 weeks only)
3:10 – 4:10
P4-7



TUESDAYS

- Fun with Drums (4 weeks only)
(Drums Tutor)
P2/3 2:10 – 3:10
P4-7 3:10 – 4:10

WEDNESDAYS

- P3/4 iPad club / fun games with MS Bolton or Miss Black
3:10 – 4:10
- P5-7 Coding (BYTES Tutor)
3:10 – 4:10

THURSDAYS

- JuJitsu (Sensei Christy Colhoun)
2:10 – 3:10 P2/3
3:10 – 4:10 P4-7

Counselling Service

Our excellent counselling service with Karen McKillion is continuing this year, and will recommence 8th September. Several families have availed of this service to date and they cannot recommend it highly enough. If you feel you or your child(ren) could benefit from this free and confidential

service, please do not hesitate to speak with Ms Bolton. It is an excellent service to have in school and we are privileged to have secured another year's funding to enable us to offer it free to our families in school.

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. They managed to raise almost £6000 for our school which is remarkable.

The first meeting of the group will take place in school on Tuesday 6th September at 7:30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend and new parents would be made most welcome.

Please like the Friends of Stewartstown Facebook page if you have not already done so. Let's help publicise all the wonderful events we hold.

Easy Fundraising

To date we have received payments totalling £123.23 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. To date we only have less than 10 people registered to easy fundraising and have raised over £100 already. Imagine what we could get if every family joined! Please –

easyfundraising
.org.uk

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.

School Development Plan – A Bright Future

We are currently working on our new school development plan and really appreciated the input from yourselves when you completed the questionnaires last term. They were very informative and reassuring that we are doing an excellent job! We are however always striving to improve our school so please keep thinking of any further suggestions as to what we could work on to make our school better.

We have summarised our 3 year plan into a child/parent friendly version. Please do have a look at what our key targets are over the next 3 years.

Authorisation & Confidential Record Forms

Please complete the attached forms and return them to school for Monday 5th 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.

Internet Safety

Please see attached sheet regarding Rules and Responsible Internet Use in School. Please return form(s) to school by Monday 5th September.

Planner Overviews

Teachers have compiled an overview of the work on-going in class for Term 1. We hope this gives you an insight into what your child will be doing in school.

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 enclosed, with particular reference to the last page, 'How a Parent Can Make a Complaint.'

Ms Bolton is the Designated Teacher for Child Protection, and Miss Black & Miss Artt are the Deputy Designated Teachers.

Early Finish P3-7 Tuesday 6th September

School will finish at 2:10pm for all pupils on Tuesday 6th September to allow staff training to take place. The bus has been arranged for this time and will take its usual route, although may be a little quicker home as St Mary's pupils will not be present.

A Final Word of Thanks...

We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to those who were able to help out in July with the painting & tidying up work. It was a hard slog but without the following people, it would have been much worse!

Emma Ferguson, Miss Black, Ms Bolton, Trevor, Stephanie Shepherd, Nicola Anderson, Karen Anderson, Alison Armstrong, Debbie Giles, Sandra Dougherty and Ros Stewart for their painting expertise, The McElroy family for the donation of painting materials, Mr Billy Armstrong for the removal of unwanted garden items, Derek McReynolds for laying the new floor in the office and last but by **NO** means least, Phillip Armstrong for the delicious breakfast baps he cooked himself to feed us all!

