



# School News

September 2017

## Dates for Your Diary

**8<sup>th</sup> Sept** – Swimming commences for P4-7 pupils

**18<sup>th</sup> Sept** – Healthy Tuck Week

**27<sup>th</sup> Sept** - Waterbus

**2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Oct** - P5-7 residential trip to Shannaghmore

**6<sup>th</sup> Oct** – School closed ☺

**16<sup>th</sup> Oct** – Healthy Tuck Week

**30<sup>th</sup> Oct – 1<sup>st</sup> Nov** – School closed ☺

**8<sup>rd</sup> Nov** – Flu Vaccine Day

**20<sup>th</sup> Nov** – Healthy Tuck Week

**11<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Healthy Tuck Week

**15<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Last swim session for P4-7

**20<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Christmas Carol Service TBC

**22<sup>nd</sup> Dec** – 11am finish

**5<sup>th</sup> Jan** – School reopens for term 2

## Class Composition

### Miss Black:

P1-3 Monday – Friday  
(P4 Mon – Fri afternoons)

### Miss Finn:

P4-5 Monday – Friday 9am-12:30

### Miss Bell:

P6-P7 Monday – Tuesday

### Ms Bolton:

P6-P7 Wednesday – Friday

(P5 join P6-7 Mon – Fri afternoons)

\* 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 £2.60

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.

## P1 Times

From 1<sup>st</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> Sept P1 children stay until 12:30pm. The following 2 weeks they stay for lunch and leave 1:15pm. From 2<sup>nd</sup> October they will stay the full day to 2:10pm.

When the Music Therapy afterschool club is confirmed and running, P1 pupils are welcome to stay from October on.

## P3 Times

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

## Swimming

Swimming takes place this term for **P4-7** pupils starting Friday 8<sup>th</sup> 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.



## Breakfast Club

Starting 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

### Stewartstown Scallywags

Stewartstown Scallywags was very successful in Term 3 and we will be running it as long as demand continues. It will begin on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September at the same rate of £3 per hour. ☺ We accept payment by childcare vouchers through Employers For Childcare. If there is an afterschool's club that your child can attend, Scallywags will commence when it finishes. Scallywags closes at 6pm. Please do try and help with the organisation of the club, by pre-booking your child in on a **Monday**. Everyone is welcome.

### Authorisation & Confidential Record Forms

Please complete the attached forms and return them to school for **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> 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 **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September**.

### 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.

### Earrings

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

### Child Protection

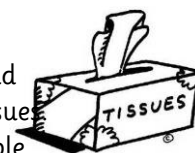
Our children's safety is of paramount importance. In school all members of staff are trained on how to identify and deal with child abuse. Please do familiarise yourselves again with our Child Protection Policy and find enclosed the last page, 'How a Parent Can Make a Complaint.' Ms Bolton is the Designated Teacher for Child Protection, and Miss Black is the Deputy Designated Teacher.

### Counselling Service

Our excellent counselling service with Karen McKillion is continuing this year, and will recommence in 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.

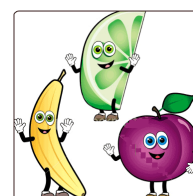
### Tissues

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 tissue. The tissues then will be readily available in class.



### 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...See dates above!



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.

### Website

Please keep checking our website for news, menus, photos etc and keep telling your friends and neighbours all about it.  
[www.stewartstownps.org](http://www.stewartstownps.org)

### 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 in class. A log-on information sheet to enable parents to log on at home and track progress is enclosed.

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 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 Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September. Please note these could change slightly when the Bee Project activities commence.

#### MONDAYS

**Archery** – facilitated by Take a Bow

P2-P4: 2:10 – 3:10

P3-P4 will do this during class time. P2 will do this as an afterschool activity if they wish.

P5-7 3:10-4:10

#### TUESDAYS

**Gardening** with Miss Bell

P3-4 3:10 – 4:10

P5-7 3:10 – 4:10 on alternate weeks. See table for dates.

**Guitar** with Nathan Cruise starts on the 12<sup>th</sup> Sept for 6 weeks.

3:10-4:10

For those who registered in June. £30 to be paid at the first lesson.

For those that have ordered guitars Miss Black will be in touch.

**Coding** – we are hoping to organise a coding club for P5-7 3:10-4:10 organised through the Bee Project. We have not yet got a start date for this.

#### WEDNESDAYS

We are hoping to run Music Therapy 2:10-3:10 and 3:10-4:10 through the Bee Project. We have not yet got a start date for this.

#### THURSDAYS

Construction Club with Miss Black 3:10-4:10 P4-5 or P6-7 on alternate weeks. See table for dates.

### 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 & residentials, 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.

### 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. The first meeting of the group will take place in school in September. More details will follow. 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 over £300 which is remarkable! Money is donated to us every time you shop online. All you have to do is register with [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://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.

### Shannagh-more Residential

Please find enclosed a parental consent form for the Shannagh-more Trip. Please complete and return to school by **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> Sept.**

### School Closures

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

School term 1 starts	Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> September
Exceptional closure	6-10-17
Half term / Hallowe'en	30-10-17 to 1-11-17 Back to school 2-11-17
Christmas	23-12-17 to 4-01-18 Back to school Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan
Half Term / Exceptional closure	15-02-18 - 19-02-18 Back to school Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Holiday	19-03-18 - 20-03-18 Back to school Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> March
Easter	29-03-18 – 06-04-18 Back to school Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> April
May Day	07-05-18 - 11-05-18 Off school the full week!
Bank Holiday	28-05-18