



Weekly Update



Wednesday 7th February 2024

School Value Awards - Determination



On Tuesday we celebrated our School Value for Determination in Assembly. The teachers had written many examples of how a child in their class had shown great determination during the month of January. Well done everyone!

Congratulations to: **Year 1** – James and Ollie; **Year 2** – Leo and Eimile; **Year 3** – Selina and Sophie; **Year 4** – Summer and Sophie; **Year 5** – Tom and Lucas; **Year 6** – Tom and Jake; **Year 7** – Poppy.

Morning Drop Off



Our early morning drop off is helping to reduce the volume of traffic outside school in the mornings and we are pleased that 40-50 children are using the service each morning. We would ask that the only cars driving into the school grounds are those using Breakfast Club as the school grounds is becoming increasingly busier in the mornings. Many thanks for your continued support and understanding.

Key Dates for Your Diary

5th – 9th Feb

8th February

9th February

12th – 16th Feb

19th February

20th February

20th February

22nd February

Parent Interview Week – school closes at 2.00pm

Ulster Table Tennis Tournament in Banbridge

Chinese New Year Celebrations – uniform to be worn

Half-term Holidays

School starts back – Term 2B

Year 7 Healthy Me

Year 6 Parents' Evening – SEAG Transfer Talk @ 6.30pm

Nursery Pink Day





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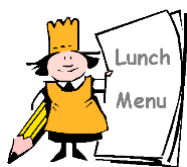


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Parent/Teacher Meetings

Just to remind parents that school will close at **2.00pm** for children in **Years 3, 4, 5 and 7**. Children in Nursery and Year 6 will finish at normal times. Please don't forget to book a slot with your child's class teacher to find out about their progress and to ask any questions you may have.

New School Dinner – Spring Term



A new school menu for after half-term holidays is available on the school website, in the Parents area.

Ulster Table Tennis Tournament



This week we will have two teams representing ISPS at the **Ulster Table Tennis Tournament** in Banbridge. They will look particularly smart in their new kit, thanks to Skerries Caravan Park. Thanks to Rosie and Will's dad, Robin, for the kind sponsorship and for his support in coaching the team.

Multi-cultural Day at ISPS



At ISPS we have many different cultures from all over the world. To celebrate this, Miss Connolly is organising an event that will allow our school families share their culture. We hope this will be an opportunity for everyone to find out more about our school family.

Punctuality at School

Children arriving at school on time is an important aspect of the school day. Lessons begin at 9.05am and we would ask parents that children arrive in school before this time. Children arriving after this will be marked as late. Many thanks for your continued support.

Ordering School Dinners

Just to remind parents that school dinners should be booked by **9.30am** on the morning of the booking. The early booking allows our school canteen to prepare the correct number of dinners, to reduce wastage. **Many thanks for your understanding and support with this matter.**



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ISPS Football Team – Doherty Cup 2024



Today our school football team played their part in an entertaining quarter-final match against Macosquin PS in the Doherty Cup. Both teams were excellent throughout and played the match with good sportsmanship. Despite a strong performance the score did not go our way and we wish Macosquin PS all the best for the semi-final.

Thanks to Mr Robinson and Mr Strong for their coaching and encouragement! Well done boys on a great team effort!

Holidays 2024 – 2025 School Year



The Irish Society's Primary School & Nursery Unit

HOLIDAYS 2024-2025

TERM 1 (AUTUMN)	Term starts Thursday 29th August 2024 (<i>finish at 12.00pm</i>)
Half-term	School closes Friday 25th October at 3.00pm Re-opens Monday 4th November
Christmas	School closes 12.00pm Friday 20th December
TERM 2 (SPRING)	School re-opens Monday 6th January 2025
Half-term	School closes Friday 7th February at 3.00pm and re-opens Monday 17th February
Holiday	Monday 17th March
Easter	School closes at 12.00pm on Friday 11th April
TERM 3 (SUMMER)	School re-opens Monday 28th April
Bank Holiday	Monday 5th May
Holiday	Monday 26th May
End of Year	Schools closes Monday 30th June at 12.00pm

Above are the holidays for the next school year, **2024 – 2025**. As one of our focuses this year and next is to improve school attendance, we would encourage parents to book family holidays during non-term time. We have set aside block weeks off which will help when booking time away. Thank you for your support with your child's attendance.



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Attendance Matters



Attendance Matters



GUESS WHO WON THE BEST ATTENDANCE FOR JANUARY.....Mrs Conway's and Miss Connolly's class AGAIN were the winners with over **99.8%** attendance for the month of **JANUARY!** Each class gets to have a visit from our School Mascots for the month.

Missed Days from School		
Attendance	Days lost	Lessons missed
95%	9 days	45 lessons
90%	19 days	100 lessons
85%	29 days	150 lessons
80%	38 days	200 lessons
75%	48 days	250 lessons
70%	57 days	290 lessons
65%	67 days	340 lessons

Online Safety Newsletter

Each month Miss Hamilton, our ICT coordinator, shares an 'Online Safety Newsletter' via Seesaw. This is also placed on the school website in the 'Parents Area'. **FEBRUARY's** newsletter focuses on 'PLAYSTATION', 'SNAPCHAT' and 'YOUTUBE'. Please take time to read the full document.

Healthy Eating

At our school we promote and encourage a healthy eating policy for our children. We would encourage parents to consider what is included in their child's snack each day.

Childhood is a time of rapid growth and development. Good nutrition during this time is important, as it impacts on children's general and oral health now and in the future.

Healthy Snack = Healthy Child





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Who to Speak to in School

Please take time to explain to your child/ren that as well as their teacher they can speak to any of our Child Protection Team. This picture is displayed in school noticeboards as a reminder.

If you are worried, need help or someone to talk to, speak to your teacher, Mrs McKendry, Mr Murdock or Mrs Evans



Mrs McKendry
Designated Teacher
for Child Protection



Mr Murdock
Deputy Designated Teacher
for Child Protection &
Principal



Mrs Evans
Deputy Designated Teacher
for Child Protection

Our school is NUT FREE

Please do not send foods to school containing any type of nuts (including Nutella products)



Thank you
for keeping our school safe!



Allergies



Please be mindful of nut and sesame allergies in school when preparing your child's snack and packed lunch. We have a several children with severe nut and sesame seeds allergies. Thanks.

IMPORTANT Safeguarding Message School Car Park

We would respectfully ask that parents **do not** enter the school grounds in their **cars**. In the interests of our children's safety, staff cars are the only ones permitted to be in the school car park. *The only exception is for those using Breakfast Club between 8.00am and 8.30am and HOP Club after 4.15pm collection.*

Due to the early morning drop off from 8.30am to 8.45am, the school gates will now open at