



# Weekly Update



Wednesday 20th March 2024

## Easter Time



As we come to the end of a busy second term, we would like to wish you all a relaxing and peaceful Easter holidays. On behalf of staff, I would like to say thank you for your continued support at school. *We look forward to seeing you all again on Monday 8th April,*  
Mr C A Murdock

## Easter Holidays Early School Finish - Friday 22nd March

School will finish for Easter holidays on Friday 22nd March. To facilitate an early finish at **12.00pm** on **Friday 22nd March**, children may be collected from their classrooms from **11.00am** onwards. The afternoon class from the Nursery are invited to join the morning class on that day. Please let Mrs Evans know if you are planning to come to Nursery.

## Dance-A-Thon and PFA Cheque



This week our amazing PFA presented a cheque for **£9,200.00** to school following a number of fundraising initiatives. This money will be used to fund the purchase of new reading books for guided reading and Accelerated Reader as well as the installation of stage curtains for our Assembly Hall.

We were overwhelmed with the level of support for our Dance-A-Thon, raising £6,638.82. Thanks to everyone for their generous support, we are grateful to parents and our PFA.

Special mention goes to **Sarah** who raised **£270.00**; **Keegan** who raised **£150.00** and **Frankie** who raised **£101.00**

## Key Dates for Your Diary

- 19th March** Year 7 London Trip – *Tuesday to Thursday*
- 22nd March** School Closes at 12.00pm
- 24th March – 8th April** Easter Holidays
- 8th April** School returns following Easter Holidays
- 9th April** Roots of Empathy Baby Visit
- 11th April** Nursery Yellow Day
- 11th April** P4 – P7 PFA Family Quiz Night
- 18th April** Farm Visit for Foundation Stage





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## London Trip 2024



This week our P7 children headed off to London for our annual trip. They left early on Tuesday morning and have had a fun-filled packed day with a visit to Windsor Castle followed by a special trip to the Harry Potter Studio. Here they learned about the 'Art of Foley' making their own effectives for scenes from the movies. This was followed by a tour of the studios, finishing off with some shopping therapy! Day2 and Day 3 are also full of busyness with a visit to the London Eye, the Lion King Show and the Science Museum. *Thanks to Mrs McKendry for organising a fantastic trip and to Mrs Friel and Mrs Shaw for being part of a great team!*

## Multicultural Day 2024



Last Wednesday saw a special day in our school calendar with our very first Multicultural Day. We were so very proud of the diversity in our school and how our school family supported this event to allow us to celebrate the day. We had food from different countries and special dances in the afternoon. A special thanks goes to our school family and to Miss Connolly for organising the event. We will definitely be an annual event!



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Upcoming PFA Events – Dates for your Diary!



**Many for thanks for your support towards our Dance-A-Thon, the children clearly had a great time! Could any outstanding monies please be left into school by Friday 15th March.**

Next up is a Family Quiz Night on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April** for those families with children in P4-7 – more details to follow soon!

Lastly there is an Outdoor Movie Night planned for **Friday 14th June** from 5.30pm until 7.30pm. This will be a great way to end the school year!

**Thanks to our wonderful PFA for putting together these events!**

## ISPS's Got Science!



Our children took part in ISPS's Got Science Event as part of British Science Week.

We had volcanoes, lava lamps, battery heat experiments and a few coke and minto explosions as well as Professor Adam!

Thanks to Miss Murdoch for organising the day and for those families who took time to prepare experiments!



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**Holidays 2024 – 2025 School Year**



The Irish Society's Primary School & Nursery Unit

## HOLIDAYS 2024-2025

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

### Safer Schools App NI

For more information, find us at [saferschoolsni.co.uk](http://saferschoolsni.co.uk)



To download, search for Safer Schools NI

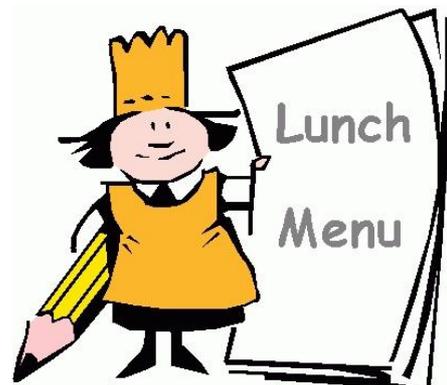


Safer Schools NI is a partnership between the Department of Education and INEQE Safeguarding Group.



### Changes to Dinner Menu

Please note the following changes on the menu: **Tuesday 19th March**  
Bacon, beans and mashed potatoes; biscuit  
**Thursday 21st March**  
Chicken Goujons and chips; choc ice.



We are encouraging parents/carers to download the **Safer Schools NI** App. It contains information on how to keep children safe online. Please contact school if you have any concerns regarding online and keeping your child safe at home.



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## Attendance Matters



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## Every Day Counts....

**GUESS WHO WON THE BEST ATTENDANCE FOR JANUARY.....Miss Shiel's (100%), Mrs McKendry's class (98.2%) were the winners FEBRUARY! 100% - WOW!**  
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'. **MARCH's** newsletter focuses on 'FORNITE BATTLE ROYALE', 'INSTAGRAM' and 'GOOGLE'. 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**