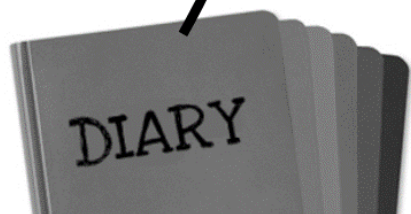




Welcome to the first edition of the Portstewart Newsletter, January 2020 edition. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year. I hope you will find our monthly newsletters a useful source of information and a way to enhance the communication between home and school.

Dates for your



Remember our school day starts **promptly at 8.55am in the Primary school.** All pupils should be in their class at **8.55am to begin lessons.** It is important that pupils arrive to school on time. Pupils should arrive to school through the **Queenora entrance.** Pupils can arrive from **8.30am** and be supervised in the assembly hall each day before school begins.

Our Nursery day begins at **8.45am.**



Important Diary Dates:

- 7th Jan - Term commences for both Primary and Nursery pupils
 - Stepping Stones commence as an afterschool provider
 - Nursery and Primary admissions online portal opens at 12 noon
- 8th Jan - Primary 7 classes commence swimming lessons
- 9th Jan - Parent workshop for help with admission for Primary and Nursery places for September 2020 (1-3pm in ICT suite)
 - Football friendly match at 1.30pm
 - Holy Communion preparation classes commence
- 10th Jan - Judo recommences as an afterschool club
- 13th Jan - Spanish lessons recommence
 - College College representative come to give a talk to P7
 - Into Film P7 morning film sessions (13th – 15th Jan)
- 15th Jan - P1 and P2 Shared Education Art morning at St Colum's Primary
- 16th Jan - Doherty Football Cup
 - Ambulance to visit Primary 1 class for an educational talk
- 17th Jan - Hockey Blitz
- 20th Jan - Last day for entry into the Portstewart Speech and Drama Festival (entry fee are priced at £3.00 for each class/poem)
- 21st Jan - Parent afternoon workshop for Nursery on supporting your child and talk from the Health Visitor (more detail to follow)
- 22nd Jan - Cross Country competition for pupils through to NI final
- 25th Jan - P7 Results of AQE/GL assessments issued
- 27th Jan - 31st Jan Primary 7 Post-Primary Transfer Interviews
- 27th Jan - 31st Jan STEM week in school
- 28th Jan - Road Safety competition for P7 representatives in Coleraine
- 29th Jan - P1 and P2 Shared Education Art morning at St Colum's Primary
- 30th Jan - Applications close for Nursery and Primary admissions for Sept 2020 intake at 12 noon
- 31st Jan - Science Day in school



Online Application Portal

for

Nursery and Primary 1 admission for

places in September 2020 opens on
Tuesday 7th January 2020 at 12 noon and
must be completed by 12 noon on
Thursday 30th January 2020.



(Please ensure you provide your child's first preference school with their birth certificate and other supporting documents by **Friday 7th February at 12 noon**)

We will be holding an **admissions application workshop for any parent wanting help with the online application procedure. The drop-in workshop will take place on Thursday 9th January 2020 from 1pm to 3pm in our ICT suite.**

Please note that it is not an automatic process for Nursery pupils to transfer into Primary 1. All Nursery pupils must apply for a Primary 1 place using the application procedure. Should any parent need any further assistance with the application process please contact school.

Post-Primary Open Nights

Open Nights for Primary 6 and 7:

| | |
|---|---|
| Ballymoney High School | Mon 6th January at 7.00 p.m. |
| Coleraine College | Thurs 16 th January at 6.45 p.m. |
| Coleraine Grammar School (Lodge Road Campus) | Wed 8 th Jan at 6.30p.m. – 9.30 p.m. for P6 pupils Thurs 9 th Jan at 6.30 p.m. – 9.30 p.m. for P7 |
| Dalriada School | Sat 11 th January P7 pupils 9.15 a.m. – 11.00 a.m. P6 pupils 10.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. |
| Dominican College | Wed 8 th January at 6.30 p.m. Thurs 9 th January at 9.30 a.m. |
| Dunluce School | Tues 14 th January at 7.30 p.m. |
| Limavady Grammar School | P6 pupils Thurs 16 th January at 7.30 p.m. P7 pupils Surnames A-H Thurs 16 th Jan at 6.30 p.m. P7 pupils Surnames I-M Thurs 16 th Jan at 6.50 p.m. P7 pupils Surnames N-Z Thurs 16 th Jan at 7.10 p.m. |
| Limavady High School | P7 pupils on Wed 8 th January at 7.00 p.m. P7 pupils on Thurs 9 th January at 7.00 p.m. |
| Loreto College | Sat 11 th January at 9.30 a.m. – 1.30 p.m. |
| North Coast Integrated College | Monday 27 th January at 7.00 p.m. |
| Our Lady of Lourdes, Ballymoney | Thurs 9 th January at 7.00 p.m. |

If you have a child in Primary 6 or Primary 7 please plan to attend the Open Nights in our local post-primary schools.

On Saturday 25th January the results of the AQE/GL assessments will be issued. All P7 parents, regardless of whether your child sat the tests or not, will then have the opportunity to attend a meeting in school to discuss your child's progress and to complete the Transfer form indicating your preferences for secondary schools. More information will follow in due course.

**P6 and
P7 focus**

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

School holidays for the rest of the academic year:

SPRING TERM

FEBRUARY HALF TERM

- Friday 14th – Tuesday 18th February 2020
- Monday 16th March 2020 – School Development Day
- Tuesday 17th March 2020 – Half day for St Patrick's Day

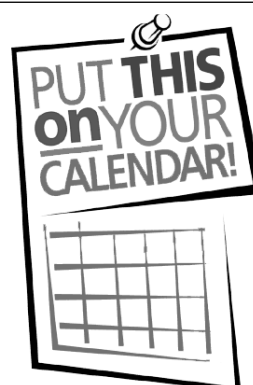
EASTER

- School closes 12.00 noon on Friday 3rd April 2020
- Monday 6th – Friday 17th April 2020
- **School Re-opens on Monday 20th April 2020**

SUMMER TERM

- May Day - Friday 8th May 2020 (VE Day)
- Spring Bank Holiday Friday 22nd May – Tuesday 26th May 2020
- *(Staff Development Days on Friday 22nd May and Tuesday 26th May 2020)
- **School Closes on Tuesday 30th June 2020**

Please note these dates are subject to change, but are correct at the time of printing





Breakfast Club

The results of the questionnaire to parents on Breakfast Club provision indicated that a very small number of parents wish to avail of the service. However, there was not sufficient interest to run the Breakfast Club. From January 2020 we will not have a Breakfast Club in school. However, I will seek to re-establish a Breakfast Club either on a part-time or full-time basis later in the academic year using our vetted volunteers.



Stepping Stones – Afterschool provider

Stepping Stones have agreed to provide Afterschool provision for our pupils from **Tuesday 7th January 2020 on our school premises.** **Stepping Stones can only provide afterschool provision for primary aged pupils not nursery pupils unfortunately.** We as a school have met with Stepping Stones and have ensured that the **pricing structure will remain the same** to at least the end of this academic year. The payment structure will remain at £3.75 per hour, £8.75 from 3pm-6pm and £11.25 from 2pm-6pm. Stepping Stones will also accept Childcare vouchers as payment.

For any parent looking their children to join the afterschool club on our school premises with Stepping Stones, please feel free to get in contact with Stepping Stones directly to enquire about availability and they will do their best to help you, however this will be dependent on spaces available. Stepping Stones telephone number is (028)70833200.

Community News



Portstewart Library

Temporary Service every Tuesday

from Tuesday 14 January

Warren Pavilion, Old Coach Road, Portstewart

Mobile Library every Tuesday 1:30pm - 4:00pm

In addition library activities will run in the Pavilion

every Tuesday 10:00am - 4:00pm

with a small book collection available

Connect with reading
www.librariesni.org.uk

If you require further information please contact

Coleraine Library:
t: 028 7034 2561 or
www.librariesni.org.uk



You can borrow and return your books at any Libraries NI library or mobile library.

Head lice

May we remind you of the importance of regular screening of your child's hair to prevent the spread of head lice. Please note that head lice are transmitted by direct, head-to-head contact. You can receive advice about head lice treatment from your local pharmacist.

Shared Education News

Our Primary 1 and 2 classes Shared Education programme has got underway with St Colum's Primary School. Pupils have already met together for a fantastic play session to get to know each other. Pupils will be meeting again in January to participate in Art sessions.

Our Primary 5 classes Shared Education programme has been focusing on preparing for the Peace Proms in the SSE arena in Belfast on Sunday 1st March 2020.

Our Primary 6 and Primary 7 Shared Education programmes are in the process of being planned and will begin this term.



Data Collection Forms

It has come to my attention that a number of the Data Collection forms we hold for our pupils have some incorrect pupil details on them, either old phone numbers, postal addresses, email addresses etc. I will be reissuing out a new Data Collection form for all pupils in Primary 2 to Primary 7 to ensure we hold the correct details for your child. I will be also looking to update our records for pupils who are eldest and only in the family, so that multiple notes are not sent home to the one family. I appreciate your help and support in this matter.



Message from Mrs Taylor

Many thanks everyone for warmly welcoming me to Portstewart Primary School and Nursery Unit. I have really enjoyed my first half term and am looking forward to Term 2. If I can be of any help or assistance to you, please call in or make an appointment to see me.

JANUARY 2020 - SCHOOL DINNER MENU

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|------------------------------------|--|--|---|--|--|
| Week beginning 6th January | School development day | Chicken Curry with Boiled Rice, Naan Bread & Carrot Sticks Or Cottage Pie, Cabbage, Carrots & Gravy Chocolate Brownie with Fresh Fruit | Steak and Vegetable Casserole, Garden Peas, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Or BBQ Chicken Panini, Salad & Coleslaw Sponge topped with Fruit & Custard | Roast Pork, Stuffing, Baton Carrots, Broccoli, Mashed & Oven Baked Dry Roast Potatoes & Gravy Fresh Fruit & Ice-cream | Salmon Fish Cakes, Baked Beans Or Mushy Peas & Mashed Potatoes Or Peppered Chicken & Pasta) & served with sweetcorn and crusty Bread Fresh Fruit & Yoghurt |
| Week beginning 13th January | Fish Fingers & Beans Or Homemade French-bread Pizza, Salad, Sweetcorn, Chips Or Baked Potato Fresh Fruit & Yoghurt | Chicken Curry with Boiled Rice, Garden Peas & Naan Bread Or Filled Baked Potato & Side Salad Fruit Jelly & Ice-cream | Pasta Bolognaise, Carrot Batons & Crusty Bread Or Chicken Goujon Wrap & Tossed Salad Yoghurt & Fruit | Roast Chicken, Stuffing, Cabbage, Diced Carrots, Mashed & Oven Baked Dry Roast Potatoes & Gravy Fresh Fruit & Yoghurt | Steak Burger in Bap, Salad, Coleslaw & Homemade Spiced Cubed Potatoes Or Chicken Pasta Bake, Salad & Wheaten Bread Chocolate & Pear Sponge & Chocolate Sauce |
| Week beginning 20th January | Sausages, Garden Peas & Chips/Baked Potatoes Or Lasagne, Sweetcorn & Tossed Salad Melon Wedges & Yoghurt | Chicken Curry with Boiled Rice, Carrot Sticks & Naan Bread Or Hot Filled Baguette (BBQ) Chicken Salad & Coleslaw) Chocolate Cookie, Milk & Fresh Fruit | Savoury Mince, Fresh Carrots & Mashed Potato Chilli Chicken (& White Sauce) Penne Pasta, Sweetcorn & Crusty Bread Apple Sponge & Custard | Roast Chicken, Stuffing, Carrot & Parsnip, Mashed & Oven Baked Dry Roast Potatoes & Gravy Milk Pudding & Fruit | Oven Baked Breaded Whiting, Baked Beans, Sweetcorn & Mashed Potatoes Or Beef in Black Bean Sauce & Noodles with Stir-fry Vegetables & Crusty Bread Fresh Fruit & Yoghurt |
| Week beginning 27th January | Hot Chilli Chicken Wrap Or Steak Burger in Bap, Salad Sweetcorn, Chips Or Mashed Potatoes Fresh Fruit & Yoghurt | Chicken Curry with Boiled Rice, Baton Carrots & Naan Bread Or Black Bean Chicken Noodles with Stir-fry Vegetables & Naan Bread Fruit Sponge & Custard | Fish Fingers, Beans, Mushy Peas & Mashed Potatoes Or BBQ Chicken Baguette & Salad Fresh Fruit & Yoghurt | Roast Pork, Diced Turnip, Cauliflower, Mashed & Oven Baked Dry Roast Potatoes & Gravy Biscuit & Frozen Yoghurt | Pasta Bolognaise Or Cheese & Tomato Pizza, Tossed Salad, Coleslaw, Diced Potatoes/ Wheaten Bread Fresh Fruit & Yoghurt |

Bread, salad, fruit, yoghurt, milk and water are available daily. Menu is also subject to deliveries.