



Edendork Primary School
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DUNGANNON
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1st September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to welcome you and your child/children to the start of the 2022/2023 school year at Edendork Primary School, I want to give a very special welcome to our P.1 children, to Daisy (P2), Sadie (P.3), Ciarán (P3) and Cormac (P.6). I would again like to take this opportunity to compliment you on the excellent effort you continue to make to ensure your child/children are in full school uniform. This indicates your commitment and support for whole school policies and procedures and as a school we are blessed to have such supportive parents. Please ensure items of clothing, water bottles and lunch boxes are clearly labelled with your child's name. We still have a significant number of preloved school crested jumpers and coats/jackets in the school if you wish to avail of them for your child/children at no cost to you.

The beginning of any new school year can be a daunting experience for some children, particularly those just starting school, those who have a new class teacher, or when an older sibling has transferred to post primary school. If you feel your child is experiencing any undue anxieties, please do not hesitate to contact the school by telephone or message your child's teacher via Class Dojo. An appointment can be made with either your child's class teacher or myself.

As four children (one in P.2, two in P.3, one in P.4 and one in P.7) at Edendork P.S. have a severe nut allergy, **NO NUT PRODUCTS** are allowed on the school premises – this includes snack and lunch times. In addition to this, we would ask parents to be mindful of a child in P3 with a sesame seed allergy and a child in P.5 with a strawberry allergy.

Our "Healthy Break" policy **encourages our children to have a piece of fruit, a sandwich, yoghurt, water etc. for their break-time snack as opposed to crisps, sweets, cereal bars or other high sugar products.** This also extends to incorporating healthy eating at lunch time including what our children take to school as a packed lunch. Lunch box audits (highlighting and awarding a healthy lunch box), work on data handling related to healthy eating, Science topics/research on what is healthy and what is not healthy are topics your child will be engaged in.

A Breakfast Club has already commenced from today 1st September. This is subsidised by DENI Extended Schools Initiative and operated by Mrs Sadie Casey (classroom assistant) in the dining room. This enables children to buy a breakfast including cereal, juice and toast for £1 a day. Breakfast is provided daily from 8:15 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. It should be prebooked before midnight the previous evening via Schoolmoney. In the interests of health and safety, **no child other than those paying for breakfast, and therefore supervised, should be in school prior to 8:30 a.m.**

Planned After School Activities for First Term

Activity	Facilitator		Year group	When	Time
Outdoor play, tabletop games, Film Friday	Sadie Casey (Classroom assistant)		P.2 & P.3	Mon – Fri commencing 1 st September	2 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Tennis	Andrew Keeman		P.2 & P.3	Every Monday commencing 5 th September	2 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
			P.5 & P.6		3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Street Dance	Suzy Mc Givern		P.2 & P.3	Every Tuesday commencing 6 th September	2 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
			P.6 & P.7		3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Martial Arts	David Lambert		P.4	Every Thursday for 8 weeks commencing from Thursday 8 th September	3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

All the above afterschool activities cost £3 per child and should be booked by Midnight the night before via Schoolmoney.

It is intended that P.7 children will receive additional support for grammar school entrance tests week commencing 19th September. Further information will be presented via teacher Class Dojo.

At this stage of the school year, I would like to remind all parents of procedures in place with regards to your child/children's attendance at school and to ensure their protection and safety.

- **No child**, with the exception of children attending and paying for breakfast, **should be on the school premises** (inside and outside of the building) **before 8:30 a.m.** as supervision prior to this time CANNOT be guaranteed. While I recognise the pressures on parents in the morning rush, and have tried to accommodate this by providing a supervised breakfast club, I would urge you to ensure your child's safety, welfare and comfort by adhering to this rule. If you are experiencing any problems in relation to your child having to be dropped off at school early, please contact me as soon as possible.
- When a child has been absent from school, a message must be sent to the school to the class teacher via Class Dojo explaining his/her absence. Alternatively, a phone call can be made to the school. Children's attendance, including reasons for absence are audited by DENI and EWO.
- School officially commences at 9:00 a.m. for all pupils attending Edendork. Daily class registers finish at 9:15 a.m. Any child who comes to school after this time is recorded as late on the SIMS register unless the school has previously been made aware of an appointment/event to be attended/family emergency.
- If a child is to leave school early, please message your child's teacher on Class Dojo. The child **must** be collected by the parent/guardian/adult and should phone the school office when they are outside the school gate ready to collect the child.
- If a parent/childminder is late collecting a child from school, please contact the secretary's office.
- In the interests of child protection, there should be no loitering of any adults in the school grounds including the corridor, classrooms and mobiles. When children are on the school premises, all visitors to the school, including parents, **MUST** report to the secretary's office.
- Throughout the school year, children in Edendork participate in many activities, which are photographed and published in newspapers, the internet, magazines, etc. If you do not wish your child to be photographed for any form of publication, please contact me as soon as possible.

- I would like to remind you again of the agreed Edendork P.S. Road Safety Policy (*also available from the school website*) which states: *“By blocking entrances, including neighbours’ driveways, the health and safety of others, including children, is being put at risk.”*

Please inform child minders, grandparents and/or other adults who may be collecting your child/children of school policy and urge them not to block neighbours or school entrances. Blocking of a neighbour’s entrance and parking on their private property, causes a significant high level of distress.

- As car parking space outside the school is very limited, there should be no long term car parking during home times. Some parents/grandparents/child minders may prefer to come up to 15 minutes later to collect their children as opposed to contributing to the congestion outside the school and/or the potential blocking of entrances. This is facilitated by the school as we prefer you to park in the appropriate allocated area as opposed to unnecessary distress being caused.

In anticipation of your continued support for the 2022/2023 school year, thank you.

Yours Sincerely

A. McAlinden
Principal