



Edendork Primary School
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DUNGANNON
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5th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to welcome you and your child/children to the start of the 2023/2024 school year at Edendork Primary School and I want to give a very special welcome to our P.1 children who I have no doubt will spend seven very happy years with us at Edendork. I would 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. The school jersey continues to be available on <https://rolo-sports.com/products/edendork-ps-school-jersey-1> 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 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 me.

Please note, as teachers are teaching from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (this includes infant teachers), they do not be regularly checking Class Dojo during their teaching hours. If you have an urgent message which needs to be given to your child/class teacher during the school day, please contact the school office on 02887740534.

As six children (one in P.2, two in P.3, two in P.4 and one in P.5) 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 P4 with a sesame seed allergy and a child in P.6 with a strawberry allergy.

Thank you to all our parents who completed the online audit which was presented in June. Information derived from this will inform our plans for whole school improvement. Areas highlighted for improvement through the whole school audit included developing the range of after school activities we offer and the importance of promoting healthy eating and healthy lifestyles including physical activity/sport/PE. There is also a growing concern of children and adults having too much screen time. As a result of this, the theme we are developing and promoting throughout Edendork P.S. this year is **'Healthy Eating and Healthy Lifestyles.'** We really need your help as parents/carers to promote this and any ideas or support you can give us will be very much appreciated.

One aspect of **'Healthy Eating and Healthy Lifestyles'** which we will strive to promote and implement is the Edendork P.S. "Healthy Break" policy. As you are aware, this **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. This year, we intend to have regular 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. We also intend to provide every child with a healthy break snack in the second term and Simply Fruit have pledged sponsorship for a healthy eating day.

A Breakfast Club has already commenced from 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 or alternatively, £1 daily can be given directly to Sadie. 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) & Susan Mc Givern	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.4, P.5 & P.6		3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Fitness though Dance	Aoibhinn Quinn	P.2 & P.3	Every Tuesday commencing 19 th September to Dec. 12 th <i>*Excluding 10th October</i>	2 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
		P.4 - P.7	Every Tuesday commencing 11 th September to Dec. 5 th <i>*Excluding 10th October</i>	3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Gaelic Football	Mr Barkey	P5 & P6	Every Wednesday commencing Wed. 13 th Sept.	3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Martial Arts	David Lambert	P.2 – P7	Every Thursday for 8 weeks commencing from Thursday 8 th September	3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Arts & Crafts 'Claytastic'	Roisin Brady	P.2 & P3	Two 5 week blocks commencing from Thurs 28 th Sept. – 26 th Oct. & Thurs. 9 th Nov. – 7 th Dec.	2 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
		P.4 – P7		3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
<p>With the exception of Gaelic Football, Martial Arts & Claytastic, all the above afterschool activities cost £3 per child and should be booked by MIDNIGHT the night before via Schoolmoney.</p> <p>Further details of Martial Arts, including cost, is available through contacting coach David Lambert phone: 07511174602 martialfitnessni@gmail.com Booking your child a place and payments are made directly to David.</p> <p>Further details of 'Claytastic', including cost, is available through contacting facilitator Roisin Brady 07771595563 claytastickids@gmail.com Booking your child a place and payments are made directly to Roisin.</p> <p><i>It is intended that P.7 children will receive additional support for grammar school entrance tests every Wednesday from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. week commencing 18th September.</i></p>				

On Friday 15th at 11:15 a.m. our parents and carers are invited to a whole school Mass to celebrate the beginning of the school year in St. Malachy's Edendork. In addition to this, parents/carers and grandparents are invited to attend monthly assemblies led by your child/children class(es) on the following dates:

Date	Key Stage	Class
20 th October	2	P.5 Mrs Mc Ateer
24 th November	1	P.2 Mrs Bowe
15 th December	1	P.3 Christmas Play Mrs Quinn & Mrs Lowe
26 th January	1	P.4 Mrs Toye
1 st March	2	P4/P5 Mr Barkey
22 nd March	2	All P.6 Mrs Forker & Mrs Dunne
26 th April	1	P.1/P.2 Mrs. Mc Crory/Mrs Conlan
24 th May	1	P.1 Mrs Toner/Mrs Conlan
21 st June	2	All P.7 (Mrs Dunne & Mrs Shields)

Please note the P1 Nativity Play has been scheduled to take place at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday 12th December with the P.5, P.6 & P.7 Carol Service taking place in St. Malachy's Church Edendork on Monday 11th December at 2:15 p.m. Should the above dates change, I will notify you as soon as possible.

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. Reason given can then be recorded by the teacher on SIMS before/after the absent school day. 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, i.e. before 2 p.m. (P.1 – P.3) or before 3 p.m. (P.4 to P.7) please message your child's teacher on Class Dojo before the school day. If after 9:00 a.m., please phone the school office. The child **must** be collected by the parent/guardian/adult who should phone the school office when they are outside the school gate ready to collect the child and then **report to Reception to sign and register reason** for the child missing part of the school day.
- 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. As you can appreciate, it can be very daunting for children, particularly young children in P.1 and P.2 seeing a number of adults they don't know outside their classroom.
- Throughout the school year, children in Edendork participate in many activities, which are photographed and published in newspapers, the school website, school facebook page, 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 2023/2024 school year, thank you.

Yours Sincerely

A. Mc Alinden
Principal