



Gortin Primary School

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Website: www.school-sites.org/gortinps Principal: Mrs Iris Wallace



11 September 2017

Dear Parent

Welcome back to everyone and a special welcome to our new pupils and their families. The settling in period for Year 1 has worked very well so far. Remember Y1 to be lifted at 1.00pm this week and then 2.05 thereafter unless staying in the afterschool club, Money to be paid weekly in advance of their staying and days the children will be staying stated clearly on yellow money pouch.

Money Pouches

Please ensure that all monies arrive in school on a **Monday only** in yellow money pouch! Available in school at £3.00.

School Uniform

Please ensure that all of your child's uniform is clearly marked with their name including P.E. slippers and shoes. The school coats look very smart. Please put your child's name in the pocket label and add a key ring on the zip to help identify and avoid confusion in the cloakroom area.

Homework's

Getting back into a routine with nightly homework's is a challenge for all but please remember the purpose of homework is to practise and extend learning beyond the boundaries of school and encourage lifelong learning. Homework will reflect what they are learning in school and parental involvement in this process is vital. Make sure they know what they have to do then let them do it only helping where necessary. For Y1/2 children please supervise and sign each night, children in Y3-Y7 check that all their work has been given the time needed. Check over written homework and discuss errors to improve understanding and sign Then test spelling and number facts by asking them to write it down. Reading should be a nightly activity with parental/adult support. Full Home Learning policy on our website www.gortinps.com. Parents Home School Link will be with Parents by the end of this week for September/October

PTA (Parent /Teacher Association) Parents Information Night

Meeting in school on Monday 25 September at 7.00 pm. PTA will meet from 7.00-7.45pm followed by a short welcome for all parents from 7.45 – 8.00 pm. This will be followed by a workshop from 8.00-8.20 for parents of children in Mrs Dixon's class, then a workshop from 8.20-8.40 in Mrs Allen's room and a workshop in Mrs Wallace's room from 8.40 – 9.00 pm. This workshop will explore what will be covered this year and how parents can support their child's learning. Tea/coffee will be available in the staff room for parents waiting for their workshop to begin.

A good turnout would be appreciated by all families and everyone is very welcome to join as we plan for events for the year ahead. We're always looking for new ideas of ways to raise money to keep our school well equipped for teaching and learning as school budgets continue to be cut.

Sports Coach

Mr John Molloy from IFA will be coaching Y1-Y7 on a Tuesday afternoon in school time. This will cease at Halloween as funding has been cut. Mr Nigel Boyd will continue to coach Y3-Y7 on a Wednesday 11- 12.30 pm.

Musical Pathways to Learning

These structured series of lessons help children in Y1-Y7 develop pitch, rhythm and improve social, intellectual and emotional development very much in line with N.I. Curriculum recommendations. Unfortunately, this is not funded by WELB and schools must meet the cost if they wish to retain these lessons themselves. Mrs Helen O'Hare will provide these lessons plus work with our Y4-7 Senior school choir. It was agreed that parents would pay £5 per term per child and money raised at our Christmas play would fund the rest. These lessons will commence this Wednesday 13 September.

Healthy Lunch Boxes

We are a health promoting school and wish to continue the healthy lunch box challenge as they make a valuable contribution to your child's future health and ability to concentrate in class. Find attached ideas to plan for a healthy lunchbox and ensure your child's nutritional needs are met. We would ask that only one sweet treat is included in the box and only sugar free drinks are sent and a variety of fresh fruit and vegetable included most days. We will do spot checks to encourage the children to be aware of the importance of eating healthily.

Sperrins / Killeter Walking Festival Saturday 16 September 6pm

Annie Mullin from the above organising committee will be giving a talk to Y3-7 this Friday 15 September from 10.30-11 am on Bats and Moths to promote the Bats and Moth walk which will be taking place as part of the above festival. They would like to encourage parents and children to take part in this event.

Hope North West Healthy Living Programme

Mr Bobby Keyes from the above initiative will be taking a 4/5-week programme with Year 5/6/7 on a Tuesday morning covering essential skills for leading a healthy life. These will include the importance of a healthy lifestyle and the dangers of smoking, drugs and alcohol and how to make informed decisions and stand up to peer pressure.

Smiles Programme

We are hoping to continue our smiles programme initiative in school. Children to bring in 1 tube of toothpaste and a slim handled toothbrush (labelled with child's name) to be used and kept in school. Children will brush their teeth daily. If you do not wish your child to participate in this, please let us know as soon as possible.

Baseline Assessment

Year 1 parents will be invited into school starting week beginning Monday 18 September to meet with Mrs Dixon to share information about their child's development to date and to plan for their child's needs. (Separate letter in your child's bag this week).

Photos

Donny McGale photographer has been in school today. Proofs will be sent home with your child/ren. No obligation to buy any of the photos

After School Activity

We have secured funding from the Ulster Scots Agency and will be holding a class on a Wednesday afternoon for Scottish Dancing from 2-4pm. The Y1-Y3 will receive dance classes for anyone who can stay from 2-3 pm then Y4-7 may stay from 3-4pm. We also have a tutor to teach the chanter to anyone who would like to learn in Y4-Y7 on a Thursday afternoon from 3.05-4.05. The children must bring their own chanter and reed which may be borrowed from your local Pipe Band or the school could order you one for £25. There would be no other cost for the classes as it is fully funded for the year. If your child is interested, please fill in the permission slip and request to order the chanter if applicable so we can gauge numbers and get these classes up and going as soon as possible.

Parent Texting Service

We use our parent texting service to inform parents at short notice e.g. school closure due to adverse weather etc. so **TO ENSURE THAT EVERYONE CAN RECEIVE A TEXT, A TEST TEXT WILL BE SENT OUT ON WEDNESDAY AT 12 NOON. PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS TEXT BY RETURNING THE ATTACHED REPLY SLIP ASAP!**
Please also ensure that you have returned data form with your child's information.

Policies

Child Protection/Anti-Bullying/ Complaints policies are available on our website but if you require a copy please contact school. Medication Needs policy is attached for your attention. ***Please sign and return slip to confirm that you have read it & return medication reply slip.***

Scholastic Book Club

Please find Book club magazine in your child's bag with some great offers for books to read with/to your children. Orders should be returned in an envelope for Mrs Dixons attention by this Friday 15 September.

Forward Planning

PTA / Parents Information NightMonday 25 September @ 7.00pm

Staff Development Day (school closed)Monday 2 October

Harvest Service in school.....Friday 13 October @ 1.15pm

Yours sincerely

Iris Wallace
Principal

Permission Slips

Policy Reply Slip

I have read the Medication Needs attached. I have read Child Protection, Bullying & Complaints policies on line.

I enclose the Medication Needs reply.

Signed:.....Parent PRINT:.....

.....

IMPORTANT Test Text 2 Parents

I acknowledge that I received a test text from Gortin P.S. on Wednesday 13 September 2017
Please tick appropriate: Yes () No ()

My Mobile no. is:

Signed:.....Parent PRINT:.....

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Musical Pathways

I enclose £5 each for my child/children.....to participate in the Musical Pathways programme.

Signed:.....Parent PRINT:.....

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Ulster Scots Dance/Chanter Class

I would like my child/ren.....to avail of the Ulster Scots afterschool activity programme.

Wednesday dance tuition ()

Thursday chanter tuition ()

I wish to buy chanter @ £25.00 enclosed. ()

Signed:.....parent PRINT:.....