



Gortin Primary School

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Principal: Mrs J Wallace



19 December 2018

Dear Parent

Staffing

Congratulations to Mrs Allen and her husband on the arrival of their baby daughter, Lottie last Friday 7 December. Both are keeping well and we hope they will pay a visit to school in the new year as the children are very excited to meet the new arrival.

Choir Competition

Y4 – Y7 participated in the Annual Newtownstewart Development Association Choir Competition in Newtownstewart Model P.S, on Tuesday 4 December at 1.30 pm. They were very worthy runners up and we could not have been prouder of how they all performed as a choir. They also received a trophy and £50 for the school. Thank you to parents, who supported their children to learn words, turned them out so well on the day and came along to support the choir. A special word of thanks to Mrs O'Hare who worked with them at Musical Pathways time. To Mr Brian McDevitt who accompanied them on the piano and of course to Mrs Allison who conducted them. Our choir sang beautifully and received many positive comments from the judges.

Also well done to Alex burton, Olivia McCrea, Betha Rickford and Sam Hempton in Year 6/7 who participated in the above associations cross community school Quiz. Betha Rickford was in the team which came first while Sam Hempton was in the team that came second.

Thanks to Mrs Rachel Crawford who transported them and supported them at the quiz.

Christmas Performance

There was a huge turnout for our school Carol Service and Infant Nativity on Monday night. As usual the children in Y1-Y7 performed wonderfully. A big thank you to all our parents for coming along and providing items for our hamper. A special word of thanks to our PTA who organised the tea and refreshments afterwards. A total of £410.00 was raised between the door, raffle and the sale of DVD's which will go towards the cost of Musical Pathways in our school and Performing Licence.

DVD's will be given out by tomorrow.

School Christmas Craft Fair

Thank you to the PTA for organising and running such a wonderful family and community event in school. A grand total of £1339.20 was raised for school funds with a bit more due in from tickets sold and we are delighted with the community support that we received. The children thoroughly enjoyed the event and I received many positive comments from visitors to the school. Thank you to all our parents for all your contributions. A great team effort everyone!

A special mention to Mrs Heather McFarland and Mrs Lisa Glass who baked a mammoth amount for our home bake stall and to Mrs Jean Crawford who baked all the scones for the teas.

Open Day

We had a very successful Open day and lots of interest for enrolment next September. See enrolment arrangements in our reminders

Christmas Parties

These are taking place today from 1.15 – 2.05pm for Y1-3 and from 2.05 – 3.05pm for Y4-7 and we are hoping for a special visitor to arrive.

Stay Safe

The EA have launched a 'Stay Safe at Christmas' campaign to try and avoid needless accidents around Christmas time and into the New Year when we have such dark mornings and evenings. We will be talking to the children in school and we ask your support to reinforce this at home about keeping seatbelts on in the bus at all times until the bus has stopped completely, dismounting and waiting at the side of the road until the bus has gone and they have a clear view before trying to cross the road or going to a waiting vehicle. Similarly, children who walk must take extra care to stay on the footpath, make sure they can be seen and only cross when they have a clear view, using the green cross code.

ECO Schools

As part of our ECO schools programme we are collecting used postage stamps & AA, AAA & 9v batteries so please keep your Christmas stamps & batteries and send them in to school in January.

Cedar Foundation for Disabled Children – Thinking of Others

We have new Christmas stickers available at 50p per sheet if anyone would like to purchase. They make a card or present look that bit more attractive & support children with disabilities.

Christmas Presents

PTA has agreed to recognise the good work of the non-teaching staff i.e. Secretary, Caretaker, Cleaner, Cook, classroom assistants throughout the year with a collective gift from parents through the PTA funds. Many thanks to them, a well-deserved recognition, as all our staff often go above and beyond their job descriptions.

Last Day of Term – Friday 21 December

School will be closing this Friday at 11 am. There will be no dinner and buses will be available for this run. Children do not need to wear uniform on the last day of term and are asked to come in Christmas jumpers.

Our Christmas Jumper Day last Friday raised £110.00 for the very worthy cause of Children in Need who it is very important to remember at this time of year. Thank you for your generosity.

School Facebook Page

Please remember to like our school Facebook page 'Gortin Primary School' and share to keep all in the wider community aware of all the good work done in our school.

Ulster Scots

After school Chanter will resume on Tuesday 8 January & Dance on Wednesday 9 January.

Special Thanks

- Mrs Heather & Mr Raymond McFarland who decorated the tree with lights at the school entrance. Again to Heather for extra hours spent in school to ensure the good care and cleanliness of our school, especially before and after events held in our school.
- PTA for all their fund raising efforts this year. A great deal of the success of our school is down to them.

Reminders

Year 1 application for school in September 2019 must be completed online by logging in to www.eani.org.uk and choosing Admissions, Transport or Free meals and clothing and follow the instructions. This opens from Wednesday 2 January 2019 up until 12pm on Thursday 31 January 2019. Please tell others.

School reopens Friday 4 January 2019.

May I take this opportunity on behalf of myself and staff to wish you & your family a very Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Thank you for all your support throughout 2018 and looking forward to working together again in 2019

Yours sincerely
Iris Wallace
Principal