



## Gortin Primary School

Plumbridge Road, Gortin, BT79 8QB

Tel. no: 028 8164 8268 Fax no: 028 8164 7032

Email: [info@gortinps.omagh.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@gortinps.omagh.ni.sch.uk)

Principal: Mrs J Wallace



21 January 2019

Dear Parent

### **PATHS (Promoting Alternative Thinking Skills)**

Paths is a universally evidence based programme designed by Barnardos and delivered to your children weekly which aims to teach children improved thinking skills, mental health responsible decision making and behaviour as well as helping children achieve academic success and was introduced to our school three years ago. It continues to be a big focus in our school and this week we are celebrating **National Compliment Day on Thursday 24 January**. Giving and receiving compliments is one area we are trying to develop and is something we do for all the pupils in our class as they become pupil of the day in their turn (see form sent home for you to add your compliments and return to school). It's a great way of raising everyone's self-esteem and validating someone's hard work and contribution to our school community. Please support us in this.

### **Fun Run Meeting**

We will have our first fun run meeting in Gortin P.S. next Tuesday 29 January @ 7.00 pm. We would appreciate a good turn-out of parents to help commence organisation for our biggest annual fundraiser. We really need a representative from every family to come forward to support us. Key to the success of our Fun Run will be sponsorship and a committee will be set up to work on this immediately so we can get our fliers and posters out there and give sponsors as much publicity as possible by entering their name on our fliers, posters and in the press. We would also really appreciate if you could let us know of anyone we or you could approach for sponsorship. All sponsorship would be appreciated as we endeavour to make our fundraising as productive as possible and we have huge overheads to cover before we start to make money for our charity and the school. Please come along tomorrow night and show your support as we work together to make the day a great success.

### **Smartie Box Collection**

We will be doing our annual Smartie Box collection to raise funds so please start collecting. The children will be given a box of Smarties as we go off for midterm break on Friday 15 February and when eaten they are asked to collect 20 pence pieces in the box. When this is full the children are asked to bring these back into school clearly marked with their name where they will receive a small token for their efforts. We would like these all returned by the end of March if possible. This can be a very good fund raiser and the PTA would really appreciate your support in this.

### **Students Council**

The children have elected two representatives from each year group in Y4-Y7 for this terms Students Council. Elected members are Chairperson: Stephen McIlwaine, Secretary: Olivia McCrea, Treasurer: Leah Campbell, Vice Treasurer: Kerry McConnell, Committee members: Kyle McFarland, Jessica McCrea, Archie Armstrong and Amber Baxter. They are keen to continue their monthly fun homework so that will take place this Thursday night. Suggestions also included a fund raiser of a bake night /cake sale next day in school before Easter.

### **UNICEF**

Our annual UNICEF non-uniform day will be held on **Friday 15 February** as we go off for midterm when children may give a donation, minimum £1.00 and wear their own clothes. This year's focus is on protecting children in emergencies, delivering life-saving food, medicine and clean water in 3<sup>rd</sup> World countries.

### **World Book Day**

World Book Day is **Thursday 7 March**. This year in Literacy we have been putting a particular focus on poetry and rhyme so the children will be participating in a variety of poetry/rhyme appreciation. There will be a poetry writing competition and we hope to have a special guest to share the love of poetry. Children will be asked to bring their favourite poem/poetry book to share in school.

### **Paired Reading Programme**

Paired reading will commence for all Y3- Y5 on Monday 4 February for 6 weeks ceasing on Friday 22 March (mid-term week not counted). This is a very worthwhile programme proven to increase children's reading and comprehension skills and the more you put into it the more your children will get out of it. **A short information session will be held on Friday 1 February at 2.30 pm for parents on how to participate in the programme and gain best results.** (See attendance slip for parents in your child's bag). Information booklets will also be sent home. Please ensure good records are maintained throughout. Children will be tested before and after to monitor progress Only those who have fully participated and completed their records will receive a certificate in recognition of their achievement.

### **Parent Interviews**

Will take place Monday 11 & Wednesday 13 February and because of the high demand only 10 minutes can be allocated and times will commence at 2 pm on Monday & Wednesday. Allocated times will go out to parents next Monday. Contact school if you don't receive yours. Year 7 have been allocated a transfer meeting for the 29 January.

### **Travel Arrangements**

If your child's travel home arrangements should change for any reason we would appreciate notification on the day or a phone call to remind staff. For all outside school appointments and changes in travel arrangements home please ensure that phone calls are followed up with a signed letter for attention and for our SIMS attendance records.

### **Forward Planning**

Monday 18, Tuesday 19 & Wednesday 20 February.....Mid Term Break

Yours sincerely

*Iris Wallace*

**Principal**