



Gortin Primary School

“Working together to achieve our Best”

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Principal: Mrs J Wallace

23 September 2019

Dear Parent

PTA/ Parent Workshops Reminder Monday 23 September

Our PTA meeting tonight begins at 7.00pm and I would appeal to all parents to come along as no one will be expected to attend every meeting and we do keep meetings to a minimum with usually only two or three planned events for the whole year. With cuts to school budgets fundraising has never been more important. **SEE LETTER FROM PTA COMMITTEE IN YOUR CHILD'S BAG!**

At 7.45pm after a welcome from myself our school psychologist Donna will deliver a 30-minute session on supporting your child's learning. Then our workshops for parents in the classrooms will commence with Mrs Dixons workshop for P1/2 at 8.20pm. Mrs Allen's workshop for Y3/4 will commence at 8.40 pm and Y5/6/7 workshop in my room at 9 pm. If you are waiting for a workshop to commence tea/coffee will be available while you wait in the dining hall.

MacMillan Coffee Morning – Saturday 28 September - 10.30 am – 12.30pm

Please come and tell others about the children's coffee morning in our main hall this Saturday to support this worthwhile cause which the children have chosen. The Year 7 and Students Council will be helping out. They have planned a play area for younger children to play while mums, dads, grans, aunties etc. can enjoy a cuppa. No homework on Wednesday night to allow for baking with parents for our coffee morning. **The student's council would like each family to provide 2 dozen home baked tray bakes or 2 cakes to help them to run this event successfully.**

Please leave in school on Thursday morning or Saturday morning as school will be closed next Friday. Many thanks are due to Mrs Jean Crawford who has very kindly agreed to bake the scones for the event. Mrs Emma King Macmillan Specialist Palliative Care Team Manager will visit school on Tuesday 29 October to share with the children the magnificent work and support of the Macmillan nurses. The student's council have also requested that the proceeds of the Harvest service be added to this collection.

Students Council

Newly elected class representatives for this terms students' council (Y4-Y7) are Chair Person: Isabelle Burton, Secretary: Emma Orr, Treasurer: Mia Whelan, Vice Treasurer: Poppy Rickford, Committee: Logan Cooke, Ruby Crawford, Nathan Warnock, Logan Orr, Noah Lucas and Lily Campbell

The children have requested a Hallowe'en fancy dress party with judging and games. They wish a fun homework in the month to continue and the first one will be this Wednesday 25 September. These homework's are to include activities like art, physical activity, making and baking and relaxed homework around holidays. Other requests include a Christmas Disco with games, tuck shop, waffles and face painting week beginning 9 December, to do a mile a day or regular running and have a movie afternoon once or twice per term. All of which we will be looking at closely!

Blythswood Shoebox Appeal

We hope to support this charity once again to help the people from Eastern Europe who do not receive gifts at Christmas time and for whom everyday items such as soap, facecloth, toothbrush and toothpaste are such a luxury and can bring such joy.

The boxes will be lifted in school on Friday 8 November which gives families over Halloween to organise these. Even one per family could make a real difference, (Teenage boys & the Elderly are the boxes least filled). Leaflets will be sent out shortly and a speaker from the organisation will talk to the children in school assembly. Please remember socks

Musical Pathways to Learning

These structured series of lessons help children in Y1-Y7 develop pitch, rhythm and improve social, intellectual and emotional development and are very much in line with N.I. Curriculum recommendations. Mrs Helen Cassidy will provide these lessons plus work with our Y4-7 Senior school choir. It has been agreed that parents would pay £5 per term per child and money raised at our Christmas play would fund the rest. These lessons have already commenced and if not already done so please forward £5/child.

Times for music have changed therefore Y3 will go home at 2.05 pm as usual on a Friday

Sports Coach

We have secured a sports coach Stuart Hassard on a Monday morning for Y3-7. This commenced this week. Mr Jonathon Lervy has very kindly agreed to take a badminton club after school on a Wednesday 3.05 – 4.05pm commencing 1 October for 6 weeks and we would ask for £1 per week/ £6 in total to partially cover the costs and the PTA would pay the remainder. Please complete permission form in your child's bag and return by Tuesday 1 October. Aerial gymnastics will then commence on Thursdays from 7 November for 5 weeks.

Parking at School

Could I please remind parents that they must not park on the roundabout at 9.00 am/3.05 pm as this prevents the buses from gaining access to pick up the children and exiting safely on time. Thank you in anticipation of your co-operation in this matter.

Shared Education – Ice breaker Activities

Y4/5 will be attending the Owenkillew Community Centre with St. Patricks and St. Peters pupils to take part in a variety of activities on Tuesday 1 October. This will mark the beginning of this year's programme which is fully funded.

Clothing Collection

We wish to continue to collect this year and would ask parents, friends and families to bring any unwanted clothes, sheets, curtains, shoes etc. into our recycling bin at the school entrance at their convenience. Please let others know as all money raised helps towards providing school equipment which we would not otherwise be able to afford. Our last collection raised £287.20 and was a great boost to our fund raising.

Board of Governors Annual Report 2018/19

The above full report on our school for last year is being completed and will be passed by Board of Governors in October for approval. If you would like to have a copy please return reply slip in your child's bag.

Nasal Flu Spray

Permission forms have been sent out for the above school's programme please return to school. This programme will be taking place in school on Monday 2 December this year. Reminders later.

Pantomime – Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs – Y1-7

We have secured seats at the Millennium Forum for the above performance on Thursday 19 December @ 11 am. Seats are £10.00 and transport will be subsidised by PTA funds. Cost to parents is **£12.00** per child. Please return reply slip & money by Monday 7 October 2019 so we can confirm numbers.

School Facebook Page

Please remember to like our school Facebook page 'Gortin Primary School' to keep in touch with messages, photos & information.

Forward Planning

- Staff Development Day – (School Closed).....Friday 27 September & Monday 30 September
- Harvest Service.....Friday 18 October 1.15pm
- Parent InterviewsMon & Tues 21 / 22 October
- Halloween.....Thursday 31 October & Friday 1 November
- Staff Development Day – (School Closed).....Monday 4 November
- Christmas Play Monday 16 December @ 7.30pm

Please ensure that all reply slips regarding policies/data etc. are returned to school as these need to be kept on file for audit purposes. Further medication forms have been sent out as we need annual replies for every child in the school to update our medical records.

A further letter will then be sent out for more details if you have returned that your child does have a particular medical need.

Yours sincerely

Iris Wallace

Principal