22 October 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian,



**REMINDER**

**We are a nut free and strawberry free school (includes strawberry flavoured foods)**

**SAFEGUARDING TEAM**

**Designated Teacher**: Mrs. Bell **Principal and Deputy Designated Teacher**: Miss. Loudan

**Designated Governor**: Mrs. Armstrong **Chairperson of the Board of Governors**: Mrs. Acheson

Dear Parent/Guardian,



**SCHOOL COUNCIL**

Following the visit from the Northern Ireland Assembly Education Service, pupils in Years 4-7 set about creating their own manifestos. They thought about what was important to them, what they might like to do and the qualities they thought they could bring to the role as a School Council representative. Those who wanted to ‘stand for election,’ read their manifestos and their peers decided who they wanted to vote for. Some of these manifestos can be seen and heard on our website, via video recordings. Well done to not only those who were voted onto the Council, but to everyone who took part in the process - Ballytrea now has its first ever School Council. Their first meeting will take place after half-term, when they will establish roles and responsibilities and consider how they might use the pupil voice to good effect in Ballytrea.

**PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS (P1 – P7)**

Parent interviews take place Monday 22nd – Friday 26th October and all pupils leave at 1:45 pm to facilitate these. Buses are available and we ask that parents are prompt in their collection of children to ensure interview times run according to expected allocations. Please ensure that you inform school if arrangements need to change during this week – safety is paramount!

**TRI COUNTY FOOTBALL**

Well done to the boys and girls in Primary 6 and 7 who attended the Tri County tournament in Cookstown Leisure Centre. The pupils were competitive and exercised good sportsmanship, making parents and Ballytrea really proud!

**AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

Cookery Club is proving a huge success this term as is our new-look Golf Club. Netball and Board Games Club will be reviewed in light of smaller numbers but we’ll keep you informed of any proposed changes.

**SCHOOL WEBSITE**

Thankyou to all of you who have downloaded the Schools NI app already. Our website is where we display photographs and videos of your child’s activities, events that are happening and it’s where news is posted. Once you download the app, the school is able to send you reminders of upcoming events such as Parent Interviews as well as quick notification about unexpected events to give you as much time as possible to make arrangements. As we approach the winter months when weather can cause disruptions, this will be a vital means of communication with parents, so can I please encourage those of you who have not yet downloaded the app, to please do so and to check the website regularly during such times. If anyone requires any support in downloading the app, please do not hesitate to contact us as we’re happy to help.

**PARENT SUPPORT GROUP ENTER THE BELFAST MARATHON!**

Our Parent Support Group is planning to enter a relay team in the Belfast marathon on 5th May 2019 to raise vital funds for the education of our pupils. Their support is invaluable to the opportunities that we offer and the resources that we provide, so can I urge you to support them by either joining them in this or supporting through sponsorship nearer the time or maybe even attendance at the event to cheer them on. Please contact school or the Parent support Group for further details.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

We do our best to inform you of dates in advance, but some dates are provisional and may be open to change. Similarly, weather can disrupt travel etc, but we will do our best to keep you up to date via our website, a brief note home or in our next Newsletter, whichever is most appropriate in relation to the timing of events. Extra dates may be added in due course also.

* 22-26 October Parent Interviews (Pupils leave early)
* 26 October Harvest Assembly for pupils with Mrs. Wilson
* 30 October End of Term Dress Up Day (£1 donation)
* **31 October – 2 November Half-Term Holidays**
* **5 November Staff Training (school closed to pupils)**
* 9 November Flu Injections (FORMS MUST BE RETURNED)
* 19 November P5,6,7 Parkanaur visit with St. Malachy’s Drummullan
* 30 November Non-uniform day (£1 donation)
* 4 December ***Provisional)*** P5,6,7 visit to Omagh Folk Park – all day
* 5 December ***(Provisional)*** NI Water Assembly presentation
* 6 December Clubs finish
* 13 December Swimming finishes
* 21 December School finishes @12 noon Non-uniform day (£1 donation)

Remember to stay safe over the Half-Term break

Yours faithfully

V. Loudan (Acting Principal)