



EBRINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

December 2021 Newsletter



Christmas Week in school

From Monday 13 December-Friday 17 December 2021, we are planning to have a Christmas Week in school. During the week, we are planning a number of Christmas events/ activities that we can safely manage in school. **Throughout the week, pupils will not have to come to school in their uniform, rather they can come in more Christmas themed clothing (Christmas jumpers, etc.).**

Christmas dinner will be served on Thursday 9 December. Thank you to all those who took the time to express interest through the Microsoft Forms-we had almost 360 pupils identified in wanting a Christmas dinner that day.

****IMPORTANT NOTICE****

Dinner still needs to be booked and paid for through the SchoolMoney app closer to the time.

****IMPORTANT NOTICE****

On Friday 10 December, school will close a little earlier than usual, at 1:15pm. This is to allow staff to come together, in some form, and enjoy a very well-deserved 'socially-distanced' Christmas lunch together.

THERE IS NO AFTER SCHOOL PROVISION ON THIS DAY

Staff Gifts

Just as we had last year, as a staff, we have met and discussed the giving of Christmas gifts by pupils. Whilst we, as staff, really appreciate your gifts at Christmas, we would again this year like you instead to consider to either contribute to a local charity, perhaps donate to a local foodbank or shoebox appeal, or to give a little extra to a deserving family member in what has been a very challenging year for many.



Supporting our Local Foodbanks

Thank you to all who have supported our local food bank 'Foyle Foodbank Appeal' during the past week. We are extremely grateful for your continued support and generosity. Our P7 pupils have been busy gathering and organising the food items. Foyle Foodbank will be collecting items early next week, Monday or Tuesday.



Christmas Cards

I am aware a number of parents have been asking teachers lately about Christmas cards being sent home. As I am sure you are well aware, we have looked to minimise the amount of paper being sent from school to home and vice versa, with so much now going online via the remote classrooms. **In the current climate, we feel it would not be appropriate for classes to be sending masses of cards within school to homes.** We hope parents and pupils understand our reasons for this, and we hope that those who wish to send cards to friends can do so by another means.

School Enrolment: REMINDER

Information on the procedures for school admissions in September 2022 should be available on the EA website eani.org.uk/parents/admissions mid-December 2021 for Pre-school/Primary 1 places and for post-primary places (Year 8 entry). This means parents making the application directly to EA, without involvement of school, for Nursery and Year 1. School has recently updated criteria and sent back to EA for Nursery and Year 1 admissions.

The dates given for the application process for primary and nursery schools currently is that it will go live on the EA website on the 10 January 2022, with a closing date for applications on 28 January 2022. Post-primary applications are also online this year, rather than the traditional forms that were completed. Exact dates have yet to be given for this, but it should be during January/ February 2022.

School Flu Vaccine 'Mop-Up':

The school health team have confirmed they will be visiting school again in January 2022 to give the nasal flu vaccine to any pupils who have returned the brown envelope to school with the required information, but missed the appointment on 22nd November.

Covid-19

As I am sure you have heard on the news, schools are currently under extreme pressures with staffing issues due to positive cases and isolation of both teachers and classroom assistants. This has led to some classes/schools throughout Northern Ireland having to close and move to remote learning, as there are no substitute teachers or classroom assistants available. I DO NOT want this to be the case in Ebrington PS & NU.

In school, we are continuing to manage, as effectively as possible, the spread of Covid-19 within our school community. We need your continued support to allow us to do this.



Please remember, if your child has been in contact with someone who has tested positive, you SHOULD NOT send them to school until having a PCR test. If a child is waiting on a PCR test result, they should NOT ATTEND SCHOOL until confirmed negative. If you have any doubt, please contact school.

If positive and required to self-isolate, please ensure to do this for the required 10-day period. **Even if you are tested during this time, and present with a negative result, you are still required to self-isolate for the period of time identified at the start.**

Any adults entering the school building MUST wear a mask, unless you carry proof of exemption.

I have noticed a few parents coming to do pick-ups/ drop off in both the primary school and nursery unit now entering the building without a mask. **Please do your bit to ensure the safety of our school community.**

School/ Foyle HUB Catering Christmas decoration competition

Mr Allen, principal of Foyle College, took great pleasure in judging our Christmas tree decorations for the Foyle HUB competition. He was overwhelmed by the standard of the decorations again this year and wanted to pass on congratulations to all who took part. After much deliberation, he selected the following decorations as winners:

Foundation Stage: Anniyah Kennedy, P2

Key Stage One: Grace Glackin, P4

Key Stage Two: Isabella Ortega, P7

Well done! Each pupil received a voucher to spend in Foyleside Shopping Centre



****REMINDER** Christmas in school**

Staff have been meeting about Christmas activities for pupils, and how they can best be managed this year. Obviously, we still have certain restrictions in place within schools so we are unable to offer all the normal activities. However, we are making strides to manage some

Nursery Key Dates

Christmas dinner for the Nursery pupils on Thursday 9 December.

A special Christmas '**Big Bedtime Read**' will take place in the school hall on **Thursday 9th December @ 6:15pm**. Save the date and Nursery will supply more details closer to the time.

A Nursery '**Christmas Rhyme Time**' will be held in the school hall on **Tuesday 14th December. Nursery 1 @ 9:15am and Nursery 2 @ 10:15am**. Please note, there will be restricted numbers per child for this event-**TWO ADULTS PER CHILD ONLY. THOSE ENTERING THE BUILDING MUST WEAR A MASK FOR THE DURATION. SEATS WILL BE PLACED IN PAIRS IN THE HALL, SOCIALLY DISTANCED, AND SHOULD NOT BE MOVED. PLEASE SANITISE HANDS ON ENTRY**

School Key Dates

Week beginning Monday 6th December-'The Christmas Story' filming throughout school.

Christmas dinner for the Primary School pupils on **Thursday 9th December**.

Friday 10th December-Christmas dinner for staff. To help us facilitate all staff coming together in the school hall, **we will close school for pupils @ 1:15pm on this day. There will be no after school provision.** I would like to thank parents for their support in this.

Week beginning Monday 13th December-Christmas Week in school. Pupils will not have to come to school in their uniform, rather they can come in more Christmas themed clothing (Christmas jumpers, etc.)

Each evening, from the start of the Christmas week through until the end of term, each class will take their part in sharing the virtual Christmas Story with our school community.

On Thursday 16th December, we hope to have a special Christmas visitor arrive!

Term ends on Tuesday 21st December @ 12 noon.

School re-opens to pupils on Wednesday 5 January 2022

