



# **TOBERMORE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER**

**Issue No. 5**

**November/December 2020**

## **Calendar for January and February**

Please take note of the dates below:

- 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – School opens for beginning of Term 2
- 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – Transfer Club  
→ 3:00pm – 4:00pm
- 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – PSNI Stranger Danger Talk
- 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – Transfer Club  
→ 3:00pm – 4:00pm
- 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – Transfer Club  
→ 3:00pm – 4:00pm
- 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – Chester's Challenge
- 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – Transfer Club  
→ 3:00pm – 4:00pm
- 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – Transfer Club  
→ 3:00pm – 4:00pm
- 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021 – Board of Governors' Meeting @ 7:00pm
- 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021 – Chester's Challenge
- 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – Transfer Club  
→ 3:00pm – 4:00pm
- 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – Transfer Club  
→ 3:00pm – 4:00pm
- 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – Chester's Challenge
- 30<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – GL Entrance Examination
- 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021 – PTA Meeting @ 6:30pm
- 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021 – Shared Education for Year 5, 6 and 7
- 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021 – PTA Meeting @ 6:30pm
- 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021 – School Closed for Half Term
- 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021 – School Closed for Half Term
- 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021 – School Closed for Half Term
- 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021 – Shared Education for Year 5, 6 and 7
- 25<sup>st</sup> February 2021 – Board of Governors' Meeting @ 7:00pm

**All dates are subject to change**

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach our Christmas holidays, can I first of all thank you all for your continued support during Term 1. The situation that we find ourselves in is a very unusual one, but the wonderful community spirit of our school has come together to provide a safe and caring environment for our pupils and staff.

Over this term the children have worked extremely hard and as a staff we are so proud of how they have adapted to the new regime in school and achieved a lot of success. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff who have been amazing going above and beyond to provide stimulating and fun lessons, as well as everything else they faced this year in Tobermore Primary School. Additionally,

Please enjoy your break and take care over the next few weeks. I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. We look forward to welcoming you all back on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

Mr Cheevers

## **Free School Meals and Uniform Entitlement**

If you feel that your child/children are entitled to Free School Meals or a Uniform Allowance, please contact Mrs Robb in the school office or use the link below.

<https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-school-uniform-allowance>

## **Absent notes**

If your child is absent from school for any reason, please can you complete an 'Absent Form' and return it to your child's teacher. These can be downloaded from the website or a copy can be collected from your child's teacher. Attendance is a key part of school life; therefore, it is very important to attend school as good attendance is crucial in raising standards in education and ensuring that every child can have full access to the school curriculum and reach their full potential.

## **Child Protection/Safeguarding**

Please remember that if you have any concerns about your own child or another child outside school, you should share these concerns with **Mrs Smyth** (Designated Teacher for Child Protection and Safeguarding), **Mrs Speers** (Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection and Safeguarding) or **Mr Cheevers**.

## **Pupil of the Month Awards and Other Certificates**

Pupil have received their November and December Pupil of the Month Awards. Additionally, we have also handed out certificates for children who have been performing well in Studyladder and Accelerated Reading. All the staff are so proud of all our pupils who have achieved success by gaining any of these certificates. Well done!

## **Blended Learning**

A huge well done to all our children using SeeSaw and Microsoft Teams to complete their work at home. Due to the restrictions in place and advice from EA, we are trying to reduce the amount of resources coming into the school from homes, so the introduction and implementation of these learning platforms in Tobermore Primary School is vital to ensure children are completing their work at home and parents are aware of what is being taught in school.

If there are any issues accessing either of these platforms, it is vital that you contact your child's teacher as soon as possible, in order for login details and passwords to be provided or support offered on how to access either Teams or SeeSaw.

## **Breakfast Club**

From Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021, the cost of Breakfast Club will increase to **80 pence** per day to cover the increased cost of food.

## **Our Christmas Elf Cookie**

The children have had so much fun with our Christmas Elf Cookie this year. He has got up to quite a bit of mischief and kept everyone entertained over the past few weeks. Hopefully he makes it back to Santa and tells him about all the wonderful children in Tobermore Primary School. Hopefully we will see him next year for more fun.



### Shared Education

Teaching staff have been working closely with St Columba's Primary School in order to create a new programme for our Shared Education partnership. Hopefully we will be able to start these activities in at the end of Term 2 and continue these throughout Term 3. The focus for our programme this year is 'Health and Wellbeing.'

### Christmas Play

The Christmas performances have been uploaded to the school website for Year 1 – Year 4 and Teams/Home Learning page for Year 5 – Year 7. The children and staff have worked extremely hard preparing the small plays, songs and poems. We hope you enjoy the children's performances, even though it is in a slightly unfamiliar format.

A huge thank you to parents for prepping children's lines and getting costumes organised. Also a massive thank you to all the staff in Tobermore Primary School for locating plays and working with the children to prepare them for their final performances. Additionally, well done to our wonderful children for working so hard to learn their lines and perform so brilliantly without an audience.

Please ensure that you use these performances for viewing in your own homes and **please do not upload any videos to any social media.**

### Journey to Santa

Well done to all the children who took part in our Journey to Santa activity organised by Sustrans. Also, thank you to Mrs Hawthorne for organising the event in school.

### PTA

A huge thank you to our PTA for providing £150 to buy resources for Christmas crafts. The children really enjoyed being creative and completing lots of festive art. The PTA also organised the personalised calendars for 2021-22. There were 94 calendars sold, which generated £352.50 for PTA funds. Thank you so much for your support.

The PTA are now registered with Easy Fundraising, which means you can help our PTA for FREE. Over 4,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! All you need to do is sign up and remember to use easyfundraising whenever you shop online. It's easy and completely FREE! These donations really mount up, so please sign up to support us at

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/tobermoreprimarypta/?utm\\_campaign=raisemore&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=en-n1](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/tobermoreprimarypta/?utm_campaign=raisemore&utm_medium=email&utm_content=en-n1)

Here is the link for website <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/tobermoreprimarypta/>

### School Uniform

The school is very proud of its children; it is proud to see them in school uniform and insists that all children wear it every day. **All pupils are permitted to wear plain navy trousers only.** Your child will not be allowed to wear tracksuit bottoms with logos on them.

***\*\* Please also ensure that all parts of school uniform are labelled with your child's name \*\****

Boys	Girls	PE Kit
A blue polo-shirt A navy sweatshirt with crest Navy trousers	A blue polo-shirt A navy sweat shirt with crest Navy trousers, a navy skirt or pinafore White or navy socks	A blue polo-shirt Navy (unlabelled) tracksuit bottoms or navy (unlabelled) shorts  <b>Tracksuit Bottoms and shorts can only be worn on P.E. days</b>

**PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOUR CHILD HAS A WARM/WATERPROOF COAT WITH THEM AT ALL TIMES.**

If for any reason that your child is unable to wear full school uniform or PE uniform to school, a note must be given to your child's teacher with an explanation.

### Engage Programme

When we return in January, Miss Mullan will be heading our Engage Programme funded by the EA. This will help support groups of children in Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 with Numeracy and Literacy. If your child is involved in this programme, you will receive a letter when we return to school in January notifying you of the arrangements.

### School Dinners

Please remember to check the website for our January Dinner Menu

### School Website and Facebook

Please keep up to date with any new information and news over the holiday period via our online platforms, our school website and Facebook page.



## **COVID 19 Information**

We are working in line with Department of Education guidelines. We have risk assessments in place and have worked hard to ensure our school is as safe as possible.

Here are some important things to remember:

- Please inform school immediately if you have a confirmed COVID case in your family.
- If you or your child has been tested and you are awaiting a result, please do not send your child to school.
- If your child is unwell, please do not send your child into school. It would be beneficial if you could check your own child's temperature before coming to school.
- If we have a confirmed case of COVID in our school community, we will follow the steps given to us by the Education Authority and will consult with the PHA for advice individual to each circumstance.
- Due to this, it therefore may be last minute that you are contacted to keep your child at home depending on when we are informed of a positive case.
- It is important to stress that we have been instructed to NOT reveal the identity of the individual with a positive test. We will inform all of the school community of the steps we are taking but the name of the individual(s) will not be released in line with protocols given to us.
- If a class needs to self-isolate, then remote learning will be available. If a teacher is unwell a substitute teacher or Mr Cheevers, in the first instance will take over the remote learning for the class. It is therefore important that you know your child's login details for remote learning.
- If you have any questions about our contingency plans or COVID response plans, please contact Mr Cheevers directly by ringing the school or via email ([icheevers766@c2kni.net](mailto:icheevers766@c2kni.net)).