



08/09/23

Menu Week One
From Mon 11th

CIPS Weekly Bulletin

Holidays During Term Time

Increasingly, some parents are booking holidays outside of school vacation periods. Whilst the temptation to do so is there, it should be noted that this has a direct impact on the education of their children. Parents should also note that such holidays require a letter to make the teacher aware of this absence. In most cases, unless the circumstances are exceptional, this absence will be unauthorised and will be marked on the attendance register as such.

Work in advance of or during holidays will not be provided for unauthorised absences.

Picking Children Up Early

We would like to remind parents that it is important that appointments are booked outside of school times, to avoid children missing key learning. Increasingly, over the past couple of days, parents have arrived in the office lobby to pick children up from school early for an appointment. In some instances, no note had been provided and therefore, both the teacher and the child were unaware of this.



Of course, emergencies do happen and last-minute appointments are not always available from GP's. However, removing children from class on a regular basis will be both detrimental to their child and disruptive to the class and office staff.

Please ensure that all appointments, during school time, are kept to a minimum and that notes are provided in advance clearly stating the reason for the withdrawal.

In addition, parents are asked to complete the sign out sheet at the office.



Free School Meals Survey

A survey link was sent by text message today. I would ask that all parents complete this survey to ensure that our records are correct. The school receives extra money for every child registered for Free School Meals and this money helps to provide essential resources for classrooms. So if you are entitled to Free School Meals but have no intention of using this service, please still complete the survey and consider applying for Free School Meals. Not only do you then get access to free school meals and a uniform grant but the school also gets additional funding. A copy of the survey link has also been listed below. This survey will remain open until early next week so please complete it promptly.

<https://forms.office.com/e/YQHYQr9fq>



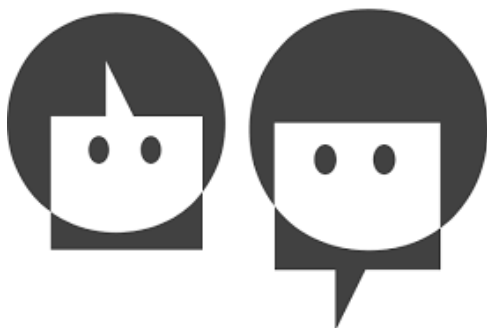
No Cycling on school property

We encourage our pupils to cycle or use scooters to come to school. However, please remember not to cycle or scoot on school grounds to avoid accidents.



After-School Clubs

Details of 2-3 Club have been made available on Seesaw to all classes apart from Primary 1. On Monday 11th September, P4-P7 classes will receive a sign-up letter home to sign up for After-School clubs. These should be completed quickly as the places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.



Parent Information Sessions

We are planning to hold Parent Information Sessions in the coming weeks.

Please plan to attend as it will be helpful for you to meet your child's teacher and learn about the work which will be covered this year. The information sessions will be as follows:

- P1 meeting Tues. 26th September 11.30am-12.00pm
- P2 meeting Wed. 27th September 1.30pm-2.00pm
- P3 meeting Tues. 26th September 1.30pm-2.00pm
- P4 meeting Tues. 26th September 9.00am-9.30am
- P5 meeting Thurs. 28th September 2.30pm-3.00pm
- P6 meeting Tues. 26th September 2.30pm-3.00pm
- P7 meeting Tues. 12th September 9.00am-9.30am

These sessions will be held in the assembly hall and tea and coffee will be available. We look forward to seeing you there!



Early Morning Sessions in the library

The computer suite will be open for pupils to engage in Accelerated Reading, Mathletics or Mathseeds from 18th September at 8.30pm. This was very popular with pupils last year and we hope this will continue.



Saturday Morning Gardening Club - Academic Year 2023 -2024 - Term 1

Month	Saturday dates	Theme/ long term plan
September	Session 1 – 9 th September	Sorting out strawberries – planting up runners (to take home in a few weeks.) weeding, sweeping patio area and outdoor Classroom. Cleaning polytunnel art activity – potato printing – make print into little creatures/ bugs
	Session 2 – 23 rd September	Blackberry picking – make dye with them. Plant rocket – getting your greens in autumn/winter. art activity – leaf print/rubbing – drying leaves for later
October	Session 3 – 14 th October	Plant bulb lasagne in large pots – to keep at school. Art activity – grass heads - to make into a ghouel for Halloween.
	Session 4 - 28 th October	Halloween party with traditional games and cooking. (apple and cinnamon)
November	Session 6 – 18 th November	Micro greens – getting your fresh greens in winter. Art activity – autumn sensory treasure hunt
December	Session 7 - 2 nd December	Taking care of the garden over the winter – frost protection, compost, mulch Art activity – dried leaves on jam jars
	session 8 - 16 th December	Christmas gathering – soup over the campfire Art activity – stars decorated with tissue paper/ old Christmas cards.

And Finally.....

We have been informed that our Development Proposal for increased Nursery provision will be published next week. Thank you to all of you who took the time to respond to the initial consultation as this was very useful.

The next phase of the proposal allows for a two month public consultation on the proposal. If you did not submit a response last time or wish to make another one, please feel free to do so as this will strengthen our case when a decision will hopefully be made shortly, after the two-month consultation period has come to an end.

Reminders

New Routines



The children have been settling into their new routines since Tuesday and should now know the door that they enter in the morning. From this week, with the exception of Primary One children, all other children should be entering the main playground gate on their own. Staff will be on hand to supervise and assist all children arriving into their classrooms safely. This is not only good child protection practice, it also helps children become more independent and self-sufficient. We ask all parents to adhere to this and thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Remember, gates will not open before 8.55am.

Dogs on school property

Please do not bring your dog onto school property – this is an Education Authority regulation.

Dogs, even on leads, cannot enter the playground or be inside the school gates or on the school paths. Even the cutest, gentle and most obedient dog can have a 'bad day' which could result in a child being scarred for life! Please work with the school to keep everyone safe.



Attendance

It is essential that our pupils attend school regularly and maintain a pattern of good attendance throughout their school career. Excellent attendance at school is important to allow a child or young person to fulfil their potential. Please take time to read the Attendance Matters guide, included with this bulletin, to find out how you may support your child meeting their potential.

If your child is absent, for any reason, from school then please complete an absence slip or send in a note to explain their absence. A set of absence slips will be sent home with each child next week. As stated in the A to Z Guide to the Year Ahead, we will be looking at ways to improve attendance and ask that parents work constructively with the school on this.



Punctuality



All of us can and will be late on the odd occasion and if this is the case, please send your child into the office lobby if the gate to the playground is closed. However, whilst we recognise that we can all be late on a rare occasion, we also know that there are families that are persistently late. I would ask that if you believe that you are one of these families, that you

make the necessary adjustments to your routines to ensure that you leave ample time to arrive and pick up punctually. As stated in the A to Z Guide to the Year Ahead, we will be looking at ways to improve punctuality and ask that parents work constructively with the school on this.

Respectful Behaviour

Please be respectful in how you interact with other parents when leaving their children at school. You are surrounded by children who should only witness respectful behaviour. The school reserves the right to exclude a person from school property if their behaviour is disrespectful of others.

Contact Information Reminder

You were provided with a Data Capture form on Wednesday 30th August. Please ensure that you complete and return this form on or before Monday 4th September. This information will ensure that your child's details are kept up to date on our computerised system. We will not be held responsible if you do not receive text messages as a result of not providing us with updated mobile phone numbers.



School Bus

As you are aware, Cliftonville Integrated operates a school bus. The bus is a safe and cost-effective way to get your child(ren) home from school. A note of the current route and stops is as follows:-



Bus stops:

Cliftonpark Avenue → Summer Street → Manor Street → Agnes Street → Shankill Road → Woodvale Road → Crumlin Road then onto part of Ballysillan Road and turning down onto the Oldpark Road

Please look at these and email into the school if you would use the bus if an additional stop was added. The cost of this bus is £1.05, paid directly to the bus driver by your child.

Parking on and around Cliftonville Road

Parents are reminded that Easton Avenue is a private road and only residents' vehicles are permitted to enter this street. Therefore, parents should park safely on Cliftonville Road and other side streets, ensuring that they are not blocking streets, parking on chevrons or blocking visibility for those crossing the road. We know that parking outside the school is problematic and sympathise with all parents but unless we all work together on this, a child could get hurt or worse.

Use the traffic lights and respect the markings!

