



10/11/23

Week Two
Dinner menu
From 13th Nov

CIPS Weekly Bulletin

Welcome Back

We hope that everyone enjoyed the half-term break and is looking forward to the next couple of months. The children have settled back into their school routines, despite the boiler issues at the start of the week. We all hope that this is the last of the issues with the boilers and we can all look forward to an enjoyable and productive run up to the festive holidays.



Action Short of Strike

As stated in bulletins in October, three unions, GMB, Unison and NIPSA, which represents the vast majority of our non-teaching and canteen staff, are currently on Action Short of Strike. This included a proposed strike day on Thursday 16th November. As stated by text yesterday, this day of strike action has now been confirmed. Therefore, having assessed the risk, it is not possible to open the school to pupils that day on grounds of health & safety, adequate supervisions during

breaks, provision of lunches and also on grounds of making the site secure.

Therefore, school will be closed to all pupils on Thursday 16th November 2023.

Our non-teaching education staff are essential and vital to the running of our schools. Indeed, our schools simply would not be able to function without them and this is illustrated through the decision to close. However, staff should be respected in their decision to strike. Strike action is very unusual and taking the step of strike action is not something that any member of the school staff takes lightly. Those on strike will have thought long and hard about their decision and will also lose pay for the period that they are on strike.

Teachers have been instructed to provide work on this day and individual year groups will deliver this either through Seesaw or as a hardcopy, depending on what they feel is the most suitable and appropriate way to complete it. Please ensure all work is returned to the class teacher via Seesaw (if delivered on Seesaw) or directly to the teacher, if work was provided by hard copy.

All the staff, teaching and non-teaching, are invaluable to the learning, development and safeguarding of your children and I, along with the Board of Governors, feel strongly that they should be paid fairly for the essential and very challenging jobs that they do. A job that is done with enthusiasm, diligence and vigour. However, I do also recognise that strikes have an impact on children and parents and for this I am sorry for the inconvenience.

B Fletcher

Anti-bullying Week

Anti-bullying Week is from **13th November-17th November** and the theme for the week is 'Make a noise about bullying'. Our pupils will be reminded that if they are aware that bullying is going on they must speak out. On **Friday 17th November** we will have an Anti-bullying Assembly. Pupils may come with a wacky hairstyle and wear school uniform on Friday to celebrate their differences.



Easton Avenue

Despite numerous appeals for parents not to use Easton Avenue for their vehicles, some parents continue to ignore this or because they are late, take the chance to park here. Either way, there is never an excuse to drive into this avenue. Yesterday, an incident occurred where a child's scooter was crushed by a parent driving out of this private road. This could easily have been a child and instead of sending a note out to parents, we could have faced a tragedy and the death of a child. We have passed information to the PSNI but would urge all parents to observe the simple rule of-



NO PARKING, NO DROPPING OFF & NO PICKING UP FROM EASTON AVENUE, IN ANY VEHICLE!

Your urgent co-operation with this matter is essential. If parents continue to ignore this appeal, the gates at Easton Avenue will be shut.

Spread the Word!



Don't forget to spread the word that our school will hold its Open Day on **Wednesday 6th December from 5:00pm to 7:00pm.**

Please inform anyone who is considering us for Nursery or Primary One for September 2024.

Applications will open in **January 2024** and parents of prospective pupils can obtain further information at the Open Day.

Admissions criteria will shortly be published by the Education

Authority. To facilitate staff and children returning for this event, **school will close early for all children on Wednesday 6th December. Nursery children will leave at 12noon and all other children (p1-p7) will leave at 1pm.**

There will also be no after-school clubs that day or school bus.

Breakfast Club remains unaffected.



Patrol Person

As you know, there has been no patrolperson since school started back. We understand that this is very frustrating for parents and have been actively liaising with the Education Authority on your behalf. EA have agreed to train a member of our staff and we hope to have Mr McAlistar in place early next week. In the meantime, parents are reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure that their children arrive at school safely. So, if you have any concerns about your child crossing the road by themselves, we advise that you walk them to school. We will inform you as soon as a patrolperson is in place.

Armistice Day



Saturday 11th November is the anniversary of the end of World War One. Teachers may have discussed WW1 with their children and I know that our Primary Seven classes have also been learning all about this dark period in world history. It is important that we discuss and mark this event and mark the sacrifices made by both sides of our community. Please take time to tell your children about members of your family who fought in WW1 or who were affected by it. These personal stories are in danger of being forgotten forever and it is important that history is brought to life in the classrooms of our schools but also at home. As we do every year, we marked this solemn commemoration with a minute of reflection today. When we see what is happening in Ukraine and the Middle East, we must remember that war fills many cemeteries and hospitals and brings tragedy to many. This is something that we all know too well from our own recent past.



And Finally.....

For many of our Primary Seven pupils, Saturday marks the beginning of test season in relation to the transfer test. This year is particularly poignant in that it is the first year of the joint transfer test SEAGS. We wish all our children sitting this the test on Saturday, no matter where they are doing it, all the very best of luck. We are so proud of all the hard work that you have put into this.



For those taking part in the Class Fundraising Christmas card project.

The order cards are going home this week, some children may have already received them. Please remember to check school bags.

The deadline for ordering cards or any other product is Friday 17th November. No orders will be accepted after this date.

The PTFA and the school appreciate your continued support in raising funds for the school that will directly benefit the children.



Reminders

Taking Photographs

We all love to take photographs of our children, particularly when it is a special day like the first day of school, fancy dress or a birthday. We would actively encourage you to do this as these are memories that you will look fondly upon in later years. However, if you do this on school property, then please be conscious that other children may be in these photographs. This creates a child protection issue for the school as you may not have permission to take a photograph of another parent's child. The simplest and easiest way to avoid this is to ensure that other children are not in the frame of the photo and if they are, crop it or delete it. Thank you for your co-operation on this.



Morning Gate

The gate at the front playground will close at 9am each morning. Please ensure that your children arrive punctually so that they may go into school with their friends. However, if a child does arrive at school after the gate is shut at 9am, they must now use the main entrance to the school. Parents are reminded that all lateness should be explained to the school through a note or by completing the book at the front office. Unfortunately, office staff may not be in a position to walk children to their room, and this should be explained to your child before they arrive at school late, as well as the door that they need to use. Pupils who are late should walk independently to their own classrooms. The school continues to monitor punctuality and where frequent lateness is identified, the school will liaise with both the parent and Education Welfare Service to try and ensure that this is addressed for the benefit of the education of the child.

Free Fruit Friday

Free Fruit Friday has been very successful and will continue after half-term.

P4 17th November

P5 24th November

P6 1st December

P7 8th December

P3 15th December

P4 Wednesday, 20th December



P.E Lessons

WE would just like to remind pupils that platform style trainers are not suitable for P.E. lessons.