

 Killylea Primary School

*Small School… BIG Opportunities!*

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**AUTUMN UPDATE Nov 2022**

**MARY’S MEALS:**

A total of £157 was raised from the Bun Sale which helps us on our way to our target of £750. Our school council are organising a **Toy and Book Sale** for **Wednesday 30th November**. Toys will be sold at £1 each and books 50p [please do not send in expensive toys!]. Toy and book donations should be sent in on Monday 28th November.

We are also collecting **OLD or FOREIGN coins** for Mary’s Meals and old broken pieces of **gold jewellery** [odd earrings etc].

Roisin, the local representative, has been working with our pupils to record a song for Mary’s Meals, which will be used to promote the charity’s work and appeals. Look out for a tv appeal nearer Christmas and you might see us on it!

You may just be thinking of Christmas…again, this year, if you wish, staff would like donations, in lieu of gifts, to go to Mary’s Meals – suggested donation of £1-£2 [payable on Parent Pay in December].

Our **Christmas Jumper/party day** on **Tuesday 20th December** will be non-uniform with a voluntary fee of £1 towards Mary’s Meals.

**NATIVITY:**

Rehearsals have begun for our Nativity production which will take place on **Thursday 15th December at 2pm in St Mark’s Church Hall. [All pupils will stay to 3pm on that day].** Normally, this event would take place in the evening, but due to Action Short of Strike, all school business must be completed by 4pm. We apologise if this does not suit you but will share video clips via class apps.

**PTA**

Our first event this year, our Quiz Night, last Friday, was a great night’s craic and £300 was raised for PTA funds. Congratulations to the winning team “Fellowshall Red Devils” and to the winner of the hamper, Elsa Warnock.

**PRIMARY ONE ADMISSIONS 2023**

We are offering, prospective parents and pupils, appointments to tour the school on **Thursday 8th and Tuesday 13th December** from 3.15pm. Please ring the school office to arrange. Pupils will also have opportunities later next year to visit the school, once places are confirmed.

If you know of any families around Killylea, who might be interested in sending their child to KPS in the future, please encourage them to make contact with us, so we can keep in contact with them. This also helps us, as an over- subscribed school, plan for our future needs.

**LIBRARY VAN**

Unfortunately, the library van is off the road awaiting repairs. Please return any library books to school**.**

**HEALTHY, HAPPY MINDS PROJECT**

We have funds in school to provide play/art-based counselling to our pupils. We would like to offer support if your child suffers from any anxiety at home or if you have any concerns about their mental health and wellbeing. Please contact Mrs Lowry, to discuss in confidence.

**SWIMMING LESSONS**

P4/5 will commence a 5-week block of swimming lessons from **Tuesday 10th January 2023**. **Your child will need goggles. It** is also very helpful if your child begins practising now, how to dry themselves after a shower and managing their wet hair and clothes etc. We have a quick turnaround time at the pool before the next group is in! There is a £3 weekly charge payable via Parent Pay, towards the cost of lessons and the bus [subsidised by school]. Lessons are free to those on Free School Meals.

P6/7 lessons will begin after half-term on 21 February.

**HOCKEY:**

We are delighted to welcome Christine Russell back to school in the new year for P4-7 hockey, starting on Wednesday 11th January [P1-3 begin after Easter]. These lessons are FREE and are covered by our School Fund. Your child will need a mouthguard and shin guards. [Maybe Santa could bring some stocking fillers!]

**ANTI-BULLYING WEEK:**

To highlight Anti-Bullying week, we ask that pupils wear odd socks to school on Friday. Across the year we reinforce our anti-bullying message through assemblies, circle time and class activities. If at any time, you have any concerns regarding bullying, please talk to us, at the earliest opportunity, so we can nip any behaviour before it escalates.

**KEY-WORKER AWARDS**

We are looking forward to attending the Gala Night for the Families First Keyworker Awards at Titanic on Saturday evening. Whatever the outcome, we are very proud of the role of our school in supporting our whole community during Covid-19.