



October 2018 Newsletter

Please keep a copy of this newsletter close at hand so that you can refer to it as/when you need to.

Dates for your diary!

Fri 5th Oct	Harvest Assembly (Year 1/2/3 Parents)
Fri 19th Oct	Choir Knowhead Church
Mon 29th Oct – Fri 2nd Nov	School Closed (Half Term)
Tues 5th Nov	Tempest Photographer
Tues 5th Nov	School Nurse – flu jabs
Sat 10th/24th Nov 1st Dec	AQE Test (Year 7 only)
Sat 17th Nov	GL Test (Year 7 only)
Tues 20th Nov	Foyle Film Festival -
Wed 21st Nov	Yes Project (Y6/7)
Fri 23rd Nov	Feet First Families
Mon 10th Dec	Visit to Millennium Forum
Tue 11th/Wed 12th Dec	School Performance (Provisional Date)
Fri 21st Dec	Last Day of Term (Half Day)
Mon 7th Jan	New Term Begins

Uniform

A huge thank you to all the parents – your children are coming to school looking very smart in their lovely uniforms. We are hoping to make a big effort to keep up this great work this year. When Culmore Primary School pupils look neat and tidy they are creating a fantastic impression to the rest of the community. Keep up the great work – remember pupils should be wearing plain black patent/black suede/black leather (or leather look) shoes. **(No trainers, sports shoes or shoes with coloured/white patterns).**

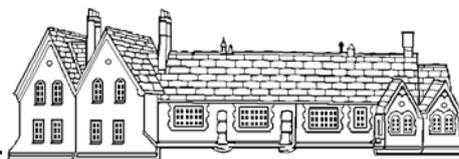
Choir Uniform

On formal occasions, when the pupils are representing their school in the community eg. Carol Services etc.. they will wear:

- Grey trousers/skirt
- White long sleeved shirt and tie (ties can be purchased from all uniform retailers – elastic ties are available)
- Plain black shoes

Pupils in choir must have this choir uniform in order to take part in choir events.





Attendance

Last year our overall attendance was 95%, **lower** than the national average. It would be brilliant if we could raise those statistics so that they are **higher** than the national average by the end of June. Of course your child should not attend school if they have a vomiting or diarrhoea bug – Public Health Agency advice states that they should remain off school for 48hrs from the last bout of sickness. If, however, your child has a cold or cough – which is very common at this time of year – they are still permitted to come to school as long as they are well enough.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

Parent/Teacher meetings will take place during the **week beginning Monday 22nd October**. To accommodate this, **all pupils will go home at 2pm that week**. Your child's teacher will be in touch with a date, and time, for the meeting. **All clubs will be suspended for that week.**

Recorder Lessons

Mr McDermott continues to provide recorder tuition. Pupils need to supply their own recorder. If your child would like to participate, please let your child's teacher know. Lessons take place each Thursday afternoon.

School Council

The excitement is already building as the election of our School Council has taken place again this year. This is a fabulous opportunity for the children to “have a voice” within our school. They get opportunities to discuss issues relating to them and to improve our school. There will be representatives from various year groups – they are currently in the process of electing a Chairperson. The Council will meet regularly.

Top Table

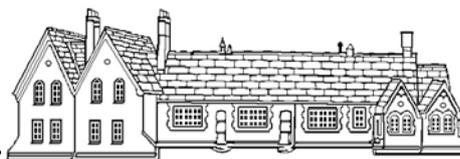
It is very important to us that the children have the opportunity to talk with friends and “catch up” in a more relaxed manner at lunchtimes. We understand the need for children to get the opportunity to “down tools” in this way but we also urge pupils to remember that they should still show good manners and positive behaviour while they are eating their lunch.

As an incentive we have arranged for the pupils to join Mrs McMenamain at the Top Table for lunch at the end of the week. Any pupil, from each year group, seen throughout the week showing lovely manners and behaving nicely will be noted by the lunchtime supervisors. These names will then be announced during assembly. This is no ordinary table – it is set in a quiet room and it is adorned with a table-cloth, fancy glasses, battery operated candles, a special treat for dessert and there is even music playing in the background. All sounds amazing doesn't it?!!!!

Most pupils like to feel special and like the fact that they are getting this attention for displaying positive behaviour rather than negative behaviour. The names of the pupils seated at the Top Table each week will be published on the School website.



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Hallowe'en Celebrations

We will celebrate Hallowe'en this year on Friday 26th October. Pupils may come to school dressed in their Hallowe'en costumes. (We request a donation of £1.00 per pupil for this non-uniform day please). Pupils will take part in Hallowe'en craft activities and a classroom party. They may bring a small party bag with them. Please be mindful of younger pupils in the school when helping your child to dress up on this day – no gruesome make-up or masks please! We hope to have a fang-tastic day!!!

Operation Christmas Child

Many parents and pupils have supported this charity over the years – it is such a lovely way of helping someone less fortunate than us over the Christmas season. A leaflet will be sent home to each family – this explains how a shoebox is filled with small gifts which will change the life of a child at Christmas time – the leaflet highlights a website address where you can see the children receiving the gifts. It is possible to buy the shoeboxes from school – these are at a cost of 40p but do not need to be wrapped up. More information will follow soon.

Mobile Devices

Pupils are no longer permitted to bring a mobile device into school as their Golden Time toy. We have discussed this at length, as a staff, and feel that it is in the best interests of the pupils' safety and well-being that they bring in small toys/books/games instead. Not only does this encourage discussion and positive social interaction among the pupils but it also means that any kind of potential cyber-bullying or negative interaction will be avoided completely within school.

It is imperative that parents are aware of their child's behaviour online – remember Facebook, Snapchat etc.. is limited to children of 13yrs and over. If your child has access to a mobile phone, PC or laptop it is your responsibility to monitor their behaviour – every child has the right to feel safe! Please refer to our E-Safety Policy, on our school website, for more information.

If your child needs to have access to a mobile phone when the school day is finished, they must bring a written note explaining that this is necessary and they must give their phone to the class teacher at the beginning of the school day – this will be kept in a safe place until home time when the child can then collect their phone again. We thank you, in advance, for your co-operation on these matters.

