

FUNDING BOOSTS FOR COOLEY!



Cooley PS and Nursery Unit are delighted to have been successful in securing funding recently for a number of projects which will enhance the learning process for pupils in various ways.

We have been informed that Accelerated Reading is a venture that we can move forward with over the next few months as we have secured £5300 in funding from Groundwork NI. This is a programme for pupils in Years 3 - 7 which will greatly enthuse the children and benefit their literacy skills. This funding will cover the cost of the programme for the next 3 years and allow us to purchase additional reading material. More details will follow in due course.

On the eco learning front, we are pleased to have gained funding to erect a polytunnel for our school grounds as well as outdoor benches and picnic tables. Hopefully the polytunnel will be in place in the not too distant future. This will allow the school community to experience growing and planting first hand. The help and advice of any green fingered family members would be much appreciated. If you have any old plastic plant pots or surplus gardening equipment please get in touch. Thank you. This was funded by Energia Tyrone 3 windfarms Community Benefit Fund.

On another positive note we are now the proud owners of two heavy duty gazebos which can be used in future outdoor school activities when "normality" returns. These were funded through a DAERA Micro grant.

The school and nursery received £600 through Dalradian to supplement outdoor play and PE equipment. We have been able to purchase items such as balancing beams, a mud kitchen and other various fun equipment.

Thanks to Power NI "Helping Hands" our nursery unit has been able to acquire an outdoor storage unit for trikes and bikes. This is now in place and used by all in nursery.



Also in the nursery grounds you may have noticed a new wooden playhouse - this was due to funding received from Slieve Divena Windfarm. The boys and girls in nursery are having great fun in their new play facility. A large colourful story-telling chair is now in place. A big thank you to one of our parents, Mr Lee Anderson for working hard and skilfully in finishing off the area around the playhouse and strike store.

I would also like to pay tribute to Mrs Dawn Cuthbertson for her diligence and hard work in spearheading the securing of the funding received.



World Book Day

Cooley marked World Book Day by challenging pupils to find an unusual place to read a favourite book. Our pupils did not disappoint and came up with a wide variety of locations. Overall winners were Florence Patterson (Nursery), Camryn Barker (P2), Amelia Devlin (P4), Adam Monteith (P6) and Blathnaid McNally (P7). Well done to all who entered, all your entries were fabulous!



Year 1 Gift

All our Year 1 pupils received a "Time to Read" pack from the Education Authority's Library Service in partnership with Book Trust NI. The pack contained a book "The Runaway Pea" with tips and advice for parents on how to make the most of the book and get children excited by reading.



COVID 19 SYMPTOMS

- A new or continuous cough
- High temperature
- Loss of taste or smell



Sustrans Active Travel Programme

Success came to the school with the receipt of a bronze award under the Sustrans School Mark excellence in active school travel.



Also on the Sustrans front, Year 3 pupil Leyla Lyons brought success to the school by being announced as the overall area winner in a poster competition. Her poster has now been made into a banner to display on our school fencing. Congratulations to Leyla with her active travel message.



DROP OFF & COLLECTION TIMES

Thank you for your assistance at these key times of the school and nursery day. I would appeal to you to use parking spaces at the front and side of the school when these are available please and keep the bus lane free during morning drop off and end of primary school day collection. Parents collecting children by car at home time should move right to the end of the right-hand side lane to allow other parents in vehicles to access the school grounds. We would appreciate your co-operation in this matter. So far we are content with arrival and departure arrangements without having to stagger them. We don't envisage changing this because it is working well. Thank you so much for your support in this and please ensure your child washes their hands as soon as they get home.

DIARY DATES

| | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Bright & Beautiful Day | Friday 26 th March |
| Last Day of Spring Term | Friday 26 th March |
| The nursery will close at 11 am and the primary school at 12.30 pm (after lunch). | |
| Summer Term begins | Monday 12 th April |
| School Photographs | Tuesday 20 th April |
| Bank Holiday | Monday 3 rd May |
| School Development Day | Monday 24 th May |
| School and Nursery closed | |
| Bank Holiday | Monday 31 st May |
| Last day of term | Wednesday 30 th June |
| The nursery will close at 11 am and the primary school at 12.30 pm (after lunch). | |

From the Principal's Desk

It was wonderful to see and hear our nursery, P1, 2 & 3 pupils on their return to school last week after lockdown. Pupils and staff were delighted to be together again in the classroom setting and there were lots of smiles all round.



We are so looking forward to having our children from year 4-7 return on Monday. Our pupils have managed really well and I sincerely thank you as parents for all the support you have given to your children in home learning. I know many of you have been juggling work and family commitments as well as home schooling your children. Thank you.

I assure you we will all welcome the pupils back and support them in every way in the weeks and months ahead. We have all come a long way in remote learning so well done to everyone!

I would also like to thank all the teachers and non-teaching staff for their valuable role and hard work as we navigated our way through another lockdown.

Health & Well-Being

All schools in NI were happy to have received funding from DE to purchase health and well-being resources for their setting. A wide variety of outdoor resources have been bought for each bubble to use during break and lunch times including balls, hoops, cones, quoits, basketball hoops and a large wheeled storage container. This equipment will certainly be put to good use by our pupils. Nursery pupils also got a range of equipment including this outdoor musical centre.



Safety Measures in Cooley

You may have noticed that higher school gates are now in place to ensure the safety of our pupils both in nursery and in the primary playground. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation the school and nursery building now has hand sanitising stations at every entrance for use by those entering as well as new signage at the main school entrance and nursery entrance.

We encourage parents and visitors to wear masks while in the school grounds and to maintain 2m social distancing where at all possible.



DEFIBRILLATOR

Cooley has a defibrillator available for public use.

It is located in the foyer of the main primary school.



ACTION MENTAL HEALTH

Action Mental Health said a big thank you to Cooley for supporting the charity in our Elfie Day event. Cooley raised £110 which will support the lives of those living with mental ill-health and promoting resilience and well-being to future generations.



**FACE MASKS
SHOULD BE WORN
AND SOCIAL
DISTANCING
ADHERED TO
WHILST ON THE
SCHOOL GROUNDS**



THANK YOU

Our Bubbles



Each classroom setting is operating as a bubble. Each bubble has its own entrance door and arrangements for exit, and a set of toilets each. These bubbles stay together in their own zone in the playground during break and lunch. There are also staggered break times and slots for bubbles to eat in the dining hall. Again, pupils stay in their own bubble while eating lunch. Our nursery unit as a whole is operating as a bubble.

HAND HYGIENE

Regular hand washing is continuing first thing on arrival at school/nursery, before eating and also before leaving school/nursery. There may be other occasions when hands are washed, and hand sanitiser used at other times. Please check your child has adequate travel size hand sanitiser and pocket tissues in school.

GREENFINGERS

A big thank you must go to Miss McLaren who has been very busy in our school grounds during lockdown. She has been weeding and tidying the flower beds at the front of the school. Thank you very much Miss McLaren.



School Textbooks and Reading Books

If you have any school reading books, library books, dictionaries or other textbooks from "lockdown" or previous times we would greatly appreciate it if these could be returned to school asap. Quite a number of books were "lost" last lockdown and our stocks are running low. Thank you.

EASTER LUNCH

The school cook will be offering a special lunch on Friday 26th March for anyone wishing to have it. On the menu will be sausage and chips, followed by a chocolate brownie.

If you do not normally have school dinner, but would like to have this one, please send £2.60 per child in a named envelope on Monday 22nd March.