



Cool News

October 2023

Diary Dates

Harvest Service

Our Primary School Harvest Service will be held on Wednesday 18th October at 9.30 a.m. All of our classes from Yr 1-7 will be participating in this service and all of our friends and family are invited to attend.

As part of our harvest celebrations, we will be collecting items for the Omagh foodbank. Donations may be left in school 16th —20th October. Food donations should be items which are non-perishable and have a long shelf life.

Health and Safety

To avoid risk of injury, the Health and Safety policy of our school is that pupils with pierced ears should only wear stud earrings to school. The only other jewellery permitted are watches.

Parent Teacher Meetings

School will close at **12.45 p.m.** on **Tuesday 24th October** and **Thursday 26th October** to facilitate Parent Teacher meetings. These meetings will be held in the school hall between **1.15—3.15 p.m.** and will be drop-in sessions. To help with organisation:

- Surnames beginning **I-Z**: drop-in session **Tuesday 24th October**
- Surnames beginning **A-H**: drop-in session **Thursday 26th October**

If your drop-in session does not suit, please contact either your child's class teacher or the school office to arrange an alternative appointment.

18th Oct: Harvest Service @ 9.30 a.m.

24th & 26th Oct: Parent Teacher Meetings: School closes @ 12.45 p.m.

30th Oct - 3rd Nov: (inclusive) School Closed: half-term

11th Nov: SEAG Transfer Test

13th - 17th Nov: Anti-Bullying Week

25th Nov: SEAG Transfer Test

1st Dec: Drop-in Day

6th Dec: PTA Movies & Munchies: 3-5 p.m.

8th Dec: Nursery Open Morning

7th Dec: Nursery Christmas Performance

14th Dec: School Christmas Performances @ 10 a.m. & 7 p.m. School closes at 1.15 p.m.

20th Dec: School closes at 12 noon: No school dinners

21st Dec - 3rd Jan: (inclusive): School closed: Christmas holidays

Time to Read Programme

Our school has joined the Time to Read programme. This programme is designed to help improve literacy skills of pupils by delivering one-to-one paired reading sessions with pupils. We are seeking for some volunteers to help us with the programme and who would be able to come into school for one hour per week to deliver the reading sessions. Training and support will be provided. If you are interested, please contact the school office.



The Responsible Business Network Northern Ireland

Time to Read

MAKE WORDS COME TO LIFE

www.bitcni.org.uk/timetoread

Dream Space Ambassador Programme

We are very pleased to have been accepted onto the Microsoft Dream Space Ambassador Programme.

This programme will involve our Dream Space Ambassadors receiving training in digital technology which will enable them to support and train other members of our school community. The training sessions for Ambassadors will be delivered online by the Dream Space team during the school day and will explore a variety of topics related to STEM education including coding and eSafety. All of our Yr 6 pupils were invited to apply to become a Dream Space Ambassador and we now have a successful team of Ambassadors ready to start their training—congratulations to all!



Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club continues to operate Monday—Friday from 8 a.m. at a cost of £2.50 per pupil. This is a drop-off service with no prior booking required. Pupils are provided with a selection of cereal, toast and a drink before engaging in a range of activities. Currently, Mrs Clements supervises the Club Monday—Wednesday while Mrs Paula Anderson supervises on Thursdays and Fridays.

The Club is held in Classroom 2 and can be accessed via the outside classroom doors at the front of the school.

Cool Kids Club

Our Cool Kids Club will be available for all Yr 1 and 2 pupils from Monday 2nd October. This Club is supervised by Mrs Clements from 2.15—3.15 p.m. each day, at a cost of £3 per day. Pupils enjoy a snack before engaging in a range of indoor and outdoor activities. Money for Cool Kids should be paid on a Monday morning and staff should be informed of the days that you wish to use the Club.

After-School Clubs

A range of after-school clubs are currently on offer in school:

- **Tuesday: 3.15—4.15 p.m.**
 - * Transfer Club
 - * Sports Club with AB Coaching (Yr 3-5)
- **Wednesday: 3.15—4.15 p.m.**
 - * Coding and Minecraft with Glow Group (Yr 3 & 4)
- **Thursday: 3.15—4.15 p.m.**
 - * Sports Club with AB Coaching (Yr 6&7)



Spaces are still available at all of our clubs. If you would like to book a space for your child, please contact the school office.

Drop-in Day

On Friday 1st December we are planning to hold a Drop-in Day. On this day, anybody interested in visiting and learning more about our school is invited to drop in to pay us a visit. Visitors may be prospective parents, current parents, governors or friends of our school.

To help with organisation, current parents will be asked to book a time slot in advance of the day. This information will be shared at a later date on our online learning platforms—SeeSaw (Yr 1-4) and Google Classroom (Yr 5-7).

Spaces Available

Spaces are still available in our Nursery Unit. If you, or someone that you know, is interested in securing a space, please contact the school office.

Textile Recycling

Our textile recycling bin is located on the left hand side of the school building. This bin accepts all donations of used clothing, shoes, sheets etc. Our school receives a payment for these donations so please do support us in this way if you can.

Safer Schools NI

Safer Schools NI is an app and portal that parents can access and which provides online safety advice.

Notifications and alerts are sent which provide prompts and warnings for parents about online trends and threats, information about fake news and advice on social media and gaming platforms. To access this app:



**SAFER
SCHOOLS NI**

- download it from your app provider
- Create an account by selecting parent/carer > register here
- Select Cooley PS and NU
- Type in entry code

Entry codes are available on the school online learning platforms: SeeSaw (Yr 1-4) and Google Classroom (Yr 5-7).

Easyfundraising

When you are shopping online, please consider registering on the easyfundraising website and selecting our school as your cause. Once registered, access your favourite shopping websites via the portal and once you complete your purchase our school will receive a donation at no extra cost to you or to the school. The websites that you use and the purchases that you make remain confidential and are not disclosed to anyone in school.

Group Support

There are times throughout the school year when pupils may require additional support in some areas of learning that are occurring in the classroom. This could be one off support for a particular concept, ie addition, or support that is provided over a number of weeks to develop a particular skill, ie listening skills.

When possible, we intend to group these pupils together and provide this support either from a teacher or a Classroom Assistant. At present we have an additional teacher in school one day per week, Mrs Rebecca Long, who will be assisting us with this. If you have any queries about the group sessions that your child may or has been involved in, please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's class teacher.

School Council and Eco Committee

At the beginning of September we held elections for our School Council and Eco Committee. Congratulations to all of our pupils who were successful in being elected, we are looking forward to hearing their ideas and seeing their plans in action!



Home Learning

Please remember to log into your child's SeeSaw (Yr 1-4), Class DoJo (Yr 5-7) and Google Classroom (Yr 5-7) accounts. All sign in information has been sent home by the class teachers. If you have any difficulty accessing these platforms please get in touch with the class teacher.

PTA

Many thanks to all who attended our recent PTA AGM and meeting. Elections were held and the following are the officer bearers for this year:

- Chairperson: Mrs Leigh Lyons
- Secretary: Mrs Nicola Lyons
- Treasurer: Mrs Elaine Black
- Assistant Treasurer: Mrs Julie Anderson

During the meeting that followed, the PTA agreed to mainly focus their fundraising activities on raising funds for further ActivPanels for our school. The next PTA events are:

- Fashion Show: Wednesday 15th November at 7 p.m.
- Movies and Munchies: Wednesday 6th December, 3—5 p.m.

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