



Loanends Primary School

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OCTOBER UPDATE 2023

28 September 2023

Dear Parent

I should be grateful if you could please note the following:

- **From Monday 2 October**, P1 parents are asked to leave their son or daughter at the side gate. A number of brave P1s are already making their own way round to the P1 classroom. That's just fantastic! For safety, no other parents should be in the playgrounds. Also, a reminder that from 2 October school will finish for P1s at 2:00pm.
- **The Scholastic Book Fair** will be in school from Wednesday 4th October until Wednesday 11th October. There is an invitation to you as parents to come and view the books at 2pm and 3pm. Payment can be cash or cheque (made payable to the school). Alternatively, you can pay online at:

<https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay/1248316>

Please note this link does not become live until 4 October. We will send a preview of books available at the Book Fair on Monday 2 October via Seesaw. I will check the online payments daily and send the purchased books home with your son or daughter. (Please send in a note of the book purchased online) All books purchased at the Scholastic Book Fair mean free books for our school and we have really benefited from this over the years. Thanks in advance for your support of this annual event.

Opening times for the Book Fair will be:

Wednesday 4 th October	2pm for P1-3 parents, 3pm for P4-7 parents
Thursday 5 th October	2pm for P1-3 Parents, 3pm for P4-7 parents
Friday 6 th October	2pm P1-7 parents
Monday 9 th October	2pm for P1,2 parents, 3pm for P3-7 parents
Tuesday 10 th October	2pm for P1-2parents, 3pm for P3-7 parents

- **Voluntary Fund:** The Governors are very grateful to the number of parents who have contributed to the voluntary fund so far. This is an opportunity to invest directly in your child's education. We will continue to receive contributions until **Monday 9 October**.
- **Parent/Teacher Consultations:** **Just a reminder that school will close for all pupils at 2:00pm each day, week commencing 23 October.** We would ask you to book Parent/Teacher consultations through the school website. You can choose the date and time of your interview with your child's teacher and whether you would prefer a face-to face meeting or a telephone call. Please book one 15-minute time slot per pupil. The time slots will run from Monday 23 October to Thursday 26 October from 2pm until 4.15pm. **Primary 2 parents will also be able to book slots on Friday 27 October from 2.15pm-3.30pm.** The Website providers are hoping to make this booking system live **the week commencing Monday 2 October**. We will communicate to you via Seesaw when this happens, and you can begin to book your time slots.
- Just a reminder also that there will be no after school activities that week. I would ask that parents of children who use the school bus to advise the driver if they intend collecting children themselves.
- **The Harvest Assembly** will be held in school at **9:30 am on Friday 27 October** and will be led by the P1 and P2 pupils. The Rev David Morrison will be our guest speaker. This will be a short assembly and parents are invited to attend.

- **School Closures:** School will be closed for half term for pupils from **Monday 30 October to Friday 3 November** (dates inclusive). School will close at the normal time of 2:00pm on Friday 27 October and reopen on Monday 6 November.
- Loanends Church has kindly offered the use of their hall for parents who do pickups both at 2:00pm and 3:00pm. The hall will be open each day at 2:00pm to allow parents to wait with younger pupils, complete homework etc
- We have registered for the '**Cash for Clobber**' scheme run by Cookstown Textiles in conjunction with Eco Schools NI. The programme aims to teach school children the environmental and social benefits of recycling while helping those less fortunate and raising significant valuable funds for the school. The school gets 40p for every Kilogram and at the end of the school year, the organisation with the most 'clobber' wins an extra £1500. If you have any old clothes, bedding, curtains, shoes, or handbags, you can put them into either one of the 50 'Cash for Clobber' bags available via the office, or alternatively you can put them in a sturdy bin bag. Please leave items into school at your own convenience and we will arrange for them to be collected. Please note, no duvets, pillows or soiled items should be included. Thank you in advance!
- **Jujitsu has resumed in the school Assembly Hall**

Tuesdays 6:00-7:00pm

Beginners up to and including Orange Belts

Tuesdays 7:00-8:15pm

Green Belts and above

Contact Sensei Lorraine Gault to make enquiries and book your place at Templepatrick and Loanends Jujitsu Facebook page or send an email to Lorraine.gault@btinternet.com.

- **Car Park Safety:** ONLY PARENTS WHO HAVE PRIOR APPROVAL FROM THE SCHOOL ARE PERMITTED TO USE THE STAFF CAR PARK. It is frustrating that a few parents or those collecting children continue to flout the rules so please do not be offended if we give you a reminder and ask you to move your car!
- **20 MPH Zone:** Please remember! There is a 20 mph speed limit outside the school when the lights are flashing.
- **Protocols:** You are already familiar with the protocols of referring FS/KST1 matters to Mrs Watson and KST2 queries to Mr Hyde. Of course, your concern or query should always, in the first instance, be addressed to the class teacher, followed by the Key Stage Coordinator if further discussion needs to be had. We would emphasise that you give some indication of the nature of your query to the Secretary, so that the appropriate member of staff can prioritise responses. Any SEN enquiries should be directed to Mrs Hegarty and Child Protection Matters to Mrs Watson.
- **Contacting staff:** Parents and carers are asked not to contact staff regarding school/pupil matters on their personal mobile phones or through Seesaw. Staff have been advised not to reply. All enquiries or information should be done through the school office.
- **Absences:** Please ensure that you provide a reason for your child's absence. Whilst telephone calls to school are helpful and appreciated, I would stress the importance of sending written confirmation. **This can now be done on the school website. Reporting pupil absence is in the home page. Please complete the quick and easy online form; the school office receives an email with the form attached. Easy!**

Attendance is checked monthly in school. We are obliged to refer those pupils falling below 85% (unless they have had a prolonged illness) to the Education Welfare Officer. Also, a record of "lates" is digitally recorded on the School Management System Database.

I would encourage you, as mentioned on the Annual Update to check out DENI: Miss School: Miss Out." <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/consultations/miss-school-miss-out-strategy-improving-pupil-attendance>.

The most recent DENI Circular states: *"Missing school (either face-to-face or virtual learning at home) at any time is detrimental to a child's education therefore family holidays or other appointments e.g. doctor or dentist should be arranged, where possible, outside school hours. Schools must discourage holidays during term time as this can have a significant impact on pupils' learning. Family holidays taken during term time, which have not been agreed, will be categorised as an unauthorised absence."*

- **Timekeeping:** Most parents have been excellent in adhering to the allocated times. Thank you for that! Just a reminder though, that it is important that parents do not drop pupils off early. Should you arrive early, please wait with your child until it is time to enter school. There is a window of 15 minutes for everyone to get into

school for a prompt start at 9:00am. Gates will be locked at this time so please make every effort to get pupils in on time. Could I also stress that pupils need to be collected on time as teachers and Classroom Assistants have other duties at the end of the day.

- **PE Kits:** Thank you to everyone who has purchased our new PE kit and to Mrs Hamilton (one of our parents) for organising and processing the delivery of the order. Some P3 and P4 parents have purchased blue hoodies but our intention has always been that blue hoodies are a perk of being in KS2. The hoodies will not routinely be made available for P3 and P4 but for those who have purchased them, they can continue to enjoy wearing them for PE outdoors but are not part of the school daily uniform. The P.E. uniform shop will close on 29 September and reopen probably at the beginning of Term 2. Please remember that kits will be delivered directly to the school and parents shouldn't collect them from the supplier.
- **School Photographer-** The photographer will be in school on **Monday 6 November** to take photos of school families, individuals and P1 and P7 whole class photos. Please note that we will assume that permission has been granted unless you contact the office to opt out.
- **Open Morning-Wednesday 15 November.** In Loanends Primary School we take a pride in caring for each child and giving them the best possible start to their education. We are currently taking the names of children who will be starting school in September 2024. If you, or anyone known to you, would like to enrol a child in Loanends Primary, please give the details to Mrs Bowman, Mrs McComb or myself and encourage them to attend the Open Morning or to get in touch with the school.

There will hopefully be three sessions which should be booked via the online booking system on the school website www.loanendsps.com. 10:45am, 11:00am and 11:15am. It is anticipated that a tour of the school will take about 30 minutes.

- **The Board of Governors Annual Report 2022-2023** is now available. Please contact the school office should you wish to have a copy.
- **December Dates: Advance Notice-P3 and 4 Performance** will be held (all being well) on the mornings of **Wednesday 13 and Thursday 14 December**. More details in due course.
- Please do not send **nuts or food items containing nuts** into school. We have a child who has a severe nut allergy. Please be mindful of this and other dietary needs if sending birthday cakes into school. Thank you!
- Many parents will be aware that this year's show is Annie which will be performed by KS2 pupils in February. Loanends has a reputation for quality shows and as always, we want to give both actors and audience the best possible experience. For the past number of years, we have muddled through by borrowing sound equipment from local churches and post-primary schools and we have been very grateful. However, this often causes difficulties and frustration and can be disappointing if a pupil with a smaller part cannot be heard. It would be our aspiration to enlist the support of a professional sound team to assist us this year. One of the ways we hope to raise funds is through advertising on the monthly updates, the KS1 Nativity programme and the main programme for the Annie show. Suggested costs would be as follows:
 1. £10 per month on the Update (advertiser to choose the number of months)
 2. £5 for advertising the Nativity programme.
 3. £10 for advertising in the Annie programme

If you would be interested in this, please contact the school office.

Yours sincerely

Linda Armour

Principal