



Loanends Primary School

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NOVEMBER UPDATE 2021

1 November 2021

Dear Parent

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

- **P1 and 2 Literacy Evening. Tuesday 2 November at 7:15pm (P1). Thursday 11 November at 7:15pm (P2.)** This will be a very useful evening for parents to understand our approach to the teaching of phonics and reading. Hopefully you will go home knowing how you can support your son or daughter at this important stage of their Literacy development.
- **Flu Vaccinations- Thursday 4 November.** All permission slips should now have been returned to school for passing on to the school nurse. Thank you.
- **Kindness Day-Friday 12 November**-this is a fundraising day in conjunction with the NI Children's Hospice. Miss McComb is planning a "rainbow day." More details to follow.
- **Car Park Safety: ONLY PARENTS WHO HAVE PRIOR APPROVAL FROM THE SCHOOL ARE PERMITTED TO USE THE STAFF CAR PARK.** The staff car park should not be routinely used by parents. 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. It would be most helpful, if you could 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.
- **Parental Access to Playgrounds:** Please do not enter the playgrounds unless you have been given permission to do so to assist an upset or unsure pupil to their classroom door. It would also be my preference that parents wear masks if accompanying pupils into the school grounds.
- **School Money App: Using the 'Pay by Credit' function**

Please note that if you have 'credit' in your School Money account, this amount isn't automatically used until you assign it to a payment. This is done by selecting "pay by credit" when at the payment stage of a transaction.

It has become apparent that more parents are not booking online for dinner and breaks in a timely manner. In order to help the school cook and office with the daily numbers, could we encourage you please to try to book dinners and breaks in a weekly/monthly pattern. We appreciate there are occasions when you may need to call on the day, but please try to do so by 9.30 am.

- **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 in a written note, which will be held on file should there be any queries by the Education Welfare Officer. You should have received a tear off slip with the Annual Update so that you can provide a written explanation for the reason for absence. These are also available from our website (www.loanendsps.com), under Parents/Forms.

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 kept on our internal computer system and these are also being examined by the EWO.

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>.

- **Lost Property:** Already our lost property box is overflowing! The box will be left at the main front doors next week if you wish to call by and check for missing items. Please ensure all your child’s items are labelled clearly.
- **Open Day:** Unfortunately, we will not be able to host an Open Day in the usual format. Similar to last year, it would be out intention, with the help of Mrs May, to create a video to share with prospective parents. We are currently taking the names of children who will be starting school in September 2022. If you, or anyone known to you, would like to enrol a child in Loanends Primary, please give the details to Mrs Bowman or myself, encourage them to visit our website and view the digital prospectus, or to get in touch with the school.
- **Poppy Appeal:** This year we hope to support the Annual Poppy Appeal as before via the ‘online shop between 3 and 10 November. A Seesaw message will be sent tomorrow with details and photos of items available for purchase.
- **NI 100 years.** The Department of Education has provided a tree to plant in the school grounds to mark the Centenary of NI. A sub-committee of the Board of Governors has been working to put together a historical programme for Friday 26 November. Whilst details have not yet been finalised, we want to give you time to have a think about what children would have worn to school in 1921. It would be our plan that all pupils would come to school dressed appropriately for the day, complete with their piece box! It is envisaged that the tree planting will take place at 1:30pm with a special guest in attendance. Please note this date; I will send out exact arrangements to you as soon as possible.
- **December Dates: Advance Notice-P3 and 4 Performances** will be held (all being well) on the mornings of **Thursday 9 and Friday 10 December**. For everyone’s safety, P3 parents will be invited to attend on 9 and P4 parents on Friday 10. We will also need to limit capacity in the hall to maintain social distancing.
- **Head Lice:** Very occasionally parents report incidences of head lice; parents need to check children for lice on a regular basis. Research indicates that one in five children will have head lice at any one time. Responsibility to manage head lice lies with the parent and in an effort to help all parents do this, I would refer you to www.onceaweektakeapeek.co.uk. This will help dispel some of the myths and enable you to be proactive in treating head lice should they occur. Advice can also be obtained from the Pharmacist.
- Please do not send **nuts or food items containing nuts** into school. We have a few children who have nut allergies. Please be mindful of this and other dietary needs if sending in any food items or treats into school. Thank you!
- Congratulations to Ami Kincaid who won first prize in the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council: “Design a Thank You Card/Poster for a Key Worker” Competition, P1-3 category. Ami wins a £50 Abbey Centre Voucher for herself and an iPad for the school. Well done Ami and Mrs Lilley, who entered the class for the competition, last school term.

Yours sincerely

Linda Armour

Principal