



Loanends Primary School

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OCTOBER UPDATE 2022

3 October 2022

Dear Parent

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

- **Parent/Teacher Consultations: Just a reminder that school will close for all pupils at 2:00pm each day, week commencing 24 October.** We will be trialling booking 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 24 October to Thursday 27 October from 2pm until 3.45pm. Primary 2 parents will also be able to book slots on Friday 28 October from 2.00pm-3.45pm. The Website providers are hoping to make this booking system live **the week commencing Monday 3 October**. We will communicate to you via Seesaw when this happens, and you can begin to book your time slots. We would like to thank you in advance for your patience in assisting us in trialling this new system and we are hoping that we won't have too many teething problems.

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 Stephen if they intend collecting children themselves.

- **The Scholastic Book Fair** will be in school from Wednesday 5th October until Wednesday 12th October. This year we are getting 'back to normal' after COVID 19 restrictions with 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/1193358>.

Please note this link does not become live until 5th October. We will send a preview of books available at the Book Fair on Monday 3rd October via Seesaw. I will check the online payments daily and send the purchased books home with your son or daughter. All books purchased at the Scholastic Book Fair mean free books for our school and we have really benefitted from this over the years. Thanks in advance for your support of this annual event.

Opening times for the Book Fair will be:

Wednesday 5th October	2pm for P1-3 parents, 3pm for P4-7 parents
Thursday 6th October	2pm for P1-3 Parents, 3pm for P4-7 parents
Friday 7th October	2pm P1-7 parents
Monday 10th October	2pm for P1,2 parents, 3pm for P3-7 parents
Tuesday 11th October	2pm for P1-2parents, 3pm for P3-7 parents

- **The Harvest Assembly** will be held in school at **9:30 am on Friday 28 October** and will be led by the P3 and P4 pupils. The Rev Stephen McNie 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 31 October to Friday 4 November** (dates inclusive). School will close at the normal time of 2:00pm on Friday 28 October and reopens on Monday 7 November.
- At LPS 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!

- **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 10 October**.

- **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.

- **From Monday 3 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. I would just remind you about social distancing as this area of the school is likely to get busy. Also, a reminder that from 3 October school will finish for P1s 2:00pm.
- **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. 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.
- **Contacting staff:** Parents 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 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 to download from our school website under PARENTS tab and 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 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>.

- **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:** We are hoping to update the school PE kit later this term. In the meantime, if you do not have a Loanends Primary School T-shirt, please send your child with a plain dark T-shirt and dark bottoms. Blue hoodies may be worn by senior pupils for outdoor PE and games sessions but are not part of the school daily uniform.

- **Lost Property:** Already our lost property box is growing! 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 Morning-Thursday 10 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 2023. 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 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 2021/2022** is now available. Please contact the school office should you require a copy.
- **December Dates: Advance Notice-P1 and 2 Performance** will be held (all being well) on the mornings of **Thursday 8 and Friday 9 December**. More details in due course.
- **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 birthday cakes into school. Thank you!

Yours sincerely

Linda Armour

Principal