|  |
| --- |
| September 2019 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Fri 13th Sept | Year 5 Roald Dahl DayYear 7 Comicon Visit |  |
| Mon 16th Sept | Parent & Toddler Group 9.30 – 11.30, £2 per adult. |
| Mon 16th Sept | Year 6 & 7 After School Games begins |
| Tues 17th Sept | Friends Club Parent Reg Evening 6.30 – 7.30 |
| Thurs 19th Sept | Yr1 – 3 Chinese Language Lessons begin |
| Fri 20th Sept | Year 3 RNIB Visit |
| Fri 27th Sept | Exceptional Closure – School closed to pupils |
| Mon 30th Sept | 1st Stay & Play of this academic year, 1.30 – 2.30pm |

**Year 5 Roald Dahl Day**

Our Year 5 pupils are very excited about tomorrow’s Roald Dahl day which will see them celebrate their love of the famous author and his long list of weird and wonderful characters. Pupils will be coming to school dressed as their chosen character from a Roald Dahl novel…we can’t wait to meet our BFG’s, Twits, Willy Wonka’s, Champions of the World and many more!

**Year 7 Comicon Visit**

Ahead of Saturday’s Comicon event at Strule Arts Centre, our P7’s will have a visit from some Comic book illustrators’ tomorrow, who will share some hints and tips for drawing with our pupils and let our pupils have a go at creating some of their own pieces.

**Parent & Toddler – Spread the Word!**

A Parent & Toddler Group (‘Kids Club’) will commence in the school from Monday of next week 16th September. The group will meet in our Playgroup building and all are welcome with their toddlers at a great price of £2 per adult. Parent & Toddler begins at 9.30 and runs until 11.30 each Monday during term time – please share with anyone whom you know who might be interested.

**Stay & Play**

Our hugely successful ‘Stay & Play’ events for 2-4 year olds (including pupils due for Nursery & Year1), will resume again on Monday 30th September (from 1.30pm – 2.30pm) with our *Nursery Rhyme* themed event, followed by a second session on Monday 21st October *(Halloween theme).* New families are most welcome. Please keep an eye on our website and Facebook for further information and spread the word in our local community!

**Awards, Incentives & Assemblies**

Our Whole School Awards will be up and running from next week onwards and pupils will receive awards at our assemblies on Thursday mornings (Years 1 – 3) and Friday mornings (Year 4-7). Our focus for pupils to begin with will be identifying a ‘Pupil of the Week’ in each class. Teachers will let pupils know at the beginning of the week what it is that they are ‘looking out for’ each week…e.g. good behaviour, hard work, neat presentation and so on. We will also be recognising full attendance at the end of each month. Later this half term we will explore (with pupils and staff), core values for our school and these will also form part of our award system moving forward.

Each Friday morning at Assembly, pupils and staff will be joined by a member of the local clergy and we will also engage in prayer and song together.

**Sacramental Preparation**

In our Year 4 and 7 classrooms, preparations are underway for those pupils who will be receiving the sacraments of Penance, the Eucharist & Confirmation later in the year and parents in these classes

Since our move to our new site, we are now part of Cappagh Parish. Year 4 and 7 parents should by now have received a letter from school that requires a reply slip to be returned. Year 4 pupils have also been sent out details of the ‘Do This In Memory’ Programme organized by Cappagh Parish. If you have not received any of this information, please check your child’s schoolbag and/or contact the office to arrange for a copy to be sent home.

**Year 7 Transfer**

It’s that time of year again when for some of our Year 7’s, attention turns to Entrance Examinations that take place in November. Year 7 preparations (begun in Term 3 of Year 6) are underway to assist those pupils who have made the choice to sit exams in November.

**Breakfast Club**

Breakfast Club is available for pupils every morning from 8am until 8.30am. Our new cook Anne McNulty, with the support of Mrs Scullion, is on hand to provide a wide selection of delicious and nutritious breakfast goodies at a very reasonable price of £1, all served with a warm smile!

Perfect for those children who are getting dropped off early and an ideal way to start the day at school.

Remember! This service does not need to be booked, just pay on arrival.

**Arrival Times**

Parents – please be aware that we cannot provide supervision for pupils (unless they are attending Breakfast Club) until 8.30am each morning.

School begins at 8.45am and pupils arriving after this time should enter the school building via the main door only.

**Parent Pack**

We will shortly be distributing our Parent Pack with a range of important documentation and school information. Please complete the reply slip found within this pack and return it to your child’s teacher, along with the pupil data collection information, particularly important for keeping our contact details up to date and ensuring that we are aware of those pupils who are NOT permitted to have their photograph taken.

**Dinner Money**

We are delighted that our school dinners are proving very popular. To help things run smoothly in our canteen, we would kindly ask that if your child is taking dinner every day, that their dinner money for the week is paid in full on Monday.

For those who attend on a less regular basis, having the correct change of £2.60 helps our canteen staff immensely, as this allows pupils to pay and be served more swiftly, which of course means more time for eating and then play afterwards.

**Bus Travel & Parking**

Thank you to the parents of pupils who travel to and from school by us, for your patience and understanding, as we have been managing some early teething problems with the provision. We are confident that the routes and pick-ups are now confirmed, and we look forward to our pupils availing of a safe and punctual service throughout the year.

To ensure the safety of our pupils in the car park and to provide a safe area for pupils to get on and off the buses, we have designated the bay adjacent to Drumragh College and the bay just before this on the left as our Bus Parking. We would ask that these bays are left clear for buses as this helps the flow of traffic and allows our pupils to remain safely on the footpath as they walk to the bus.

**Dropping off and Collection**

Year 1 and 2 pupils should continue to be brought to the door of their ‘hub’ each morning and also be collected from there. Please be advised that as the school day lengthens for Year 1 pupils, they may well be outdoors in the early afternoon. If this is the case, when parents arrive, we would ask that parents wait near the gate at Nursery so that pupils can safely enter their ‘hub’ door before collection.

In the morning, Year 3- 7 pupils should make their way to the Assembly Hall via our two side gates (beside Nursery & to the left of the main entrance) where staff are on hand from 8.30am.

Year 3 pupils are now in school until 2.45pm each day except Friday. Collection will remain at the classroom door from 2.40pm to allow parents with siblings in other classes to make their way back around to the main car park for 2.45pm.

All other collection arrangements remain the same.

**After School Activities**

We are pleased to be able to offer a range of After School Activities again this year. These will commence next week and currently include…Multi Games Skills, Gymnastics, Basketball/Netball, Soccer and Be Fit For Fun. We are finalizing a few elements of the programme. Once finalised, information will go on the website and a paper copy will be sent home tomorrow. Where we have an interest that outweighs spaces, we will aim to split activities into different blocks so that all pupils will have an opportunity.

**Guitar Lessons**

We are aiming to also offer Guitar Lessons as an After-School activity. These lessons would be open to approx. 8-10 pupils of Yr 5 – 7 age and would come at a cost of between £3 and £5 per pupil, per session. Pupils would also need to have their own guitar. Please let your child’s teacher know if they are interested and we can make arrangements with the tutor.

**Chinese Language Lessons**

Our Year 1 -3 pupils will soon get the chance to learn a new language through upcoming Mandarin Chinese Language and Culture lessons through South West College. As an Integrated School, one of our key aims is to develop in our pupils an understanding and respect for different cultures and identities and these sessions with a qualified tutor will help our younger pupils to do this. Lessons will take place each Thursday for 20-30 mins. Our older pupils may also avail of this great opportunity later in the school year.

**Attendance & Punctuality**

We have already noticed a drop off in our attendance and in the punctuality of our pupils arriving at school. We would appeal to our parents to ensure that pupils only miss school when it is absolutely necessary, as irregular attendance is linked closely to educational underachievement.

Please note also that if a pupil arrives late for class, this means that they have missed a ‘session’ in the school day and counts as an absence.

Our Education Welfare Officer will look closely at the attendance of our pupils when visiting the school in the very near future.

**Social Media & School Communication**

Our school website is a wonderful resource for communicating with our parents and wider community and alongside our text message service, helps our school to provide important information to you our parents.

Facebook is also an excellent means of reaching many members of the school community. It is however very difficult for staff to respond to individual messages on Facebook and particularly during the normal school working day, this is not feasible at all as staff are teaching.

Should you have any queries about school, or need to discuss something that you have been informed of via Facebook, please go through the normal channels of contacting the school office, rather than requesting information via Facebook.

**Parents’ Council**

Our Parents’ Council are an absolutely vital element of our school community. The current Council members are meeting for their AGM on Tuesday evening of next week (17th Sept) here in the school at 7.30pm.

All new members are welcome and encouraged and this a wonderful opportunity for new parents in particular to get involved in the life of the school and get to know other parents too. Please come along and lend your support!

**Friends Club Registration Evening**

Immediately before our Parents’ Council (from 6.30 – 7.30pm) on Tuesday evening of next week there is a Registration Evening for parents who have not had an opportunity to register their child for our After School Club. Mrs O’Hagan and her colleagues will be on hand to assist parents with registration. Remember that as our After School Club is under the ‘umbrella’ of Social Services, we cannot accept pupils in the afternoons who have not been registered. Registration fee is £10 for the year.