

St Colman's Primary School
and
All Saints' Nursery Unit
(Annaclone)
Annaclone
Banbridge,
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BT32 5LS

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October Update Newsletter

Please take time to read our October newsletter as there are important dates and information for all parents to be aware of between now and the Halloween break.

School Safeguarding Team 2017/2018

Chairperson: Mr K O'Neill; Designated Teacher: Mrs E McCann; Deputy Designated Teachers: Mrs C Burns, Mrs C Gribben/Mrs A Hanna.

Updated RSE policy will soon be able to be downloaded from school website.

New Building

Our P3 and P4 classes are now well settled into our new classrooms. Looking at them now it is amazing to think that work only started on them in mid-February. Later in the year we will be looking to organise a special date in the school calendar for a blessing of the new rooms.

Beginning of Year Mass

The school mass has been postponed from its advertised date Friday 6 October. We wish Canon Kearney all the very best and a speedy recovery.

2018/19 New P1/NU Parental Information Meeting

The above will take place in the school on Thursday 23rd November at 1900 in the new P4 room.

Shared Education

Our partnership with Fairhill PS continues again this year and your children will soon be engaging in their cross-community learning partnerships. This year we will see the formation of a new school council P3-P7.

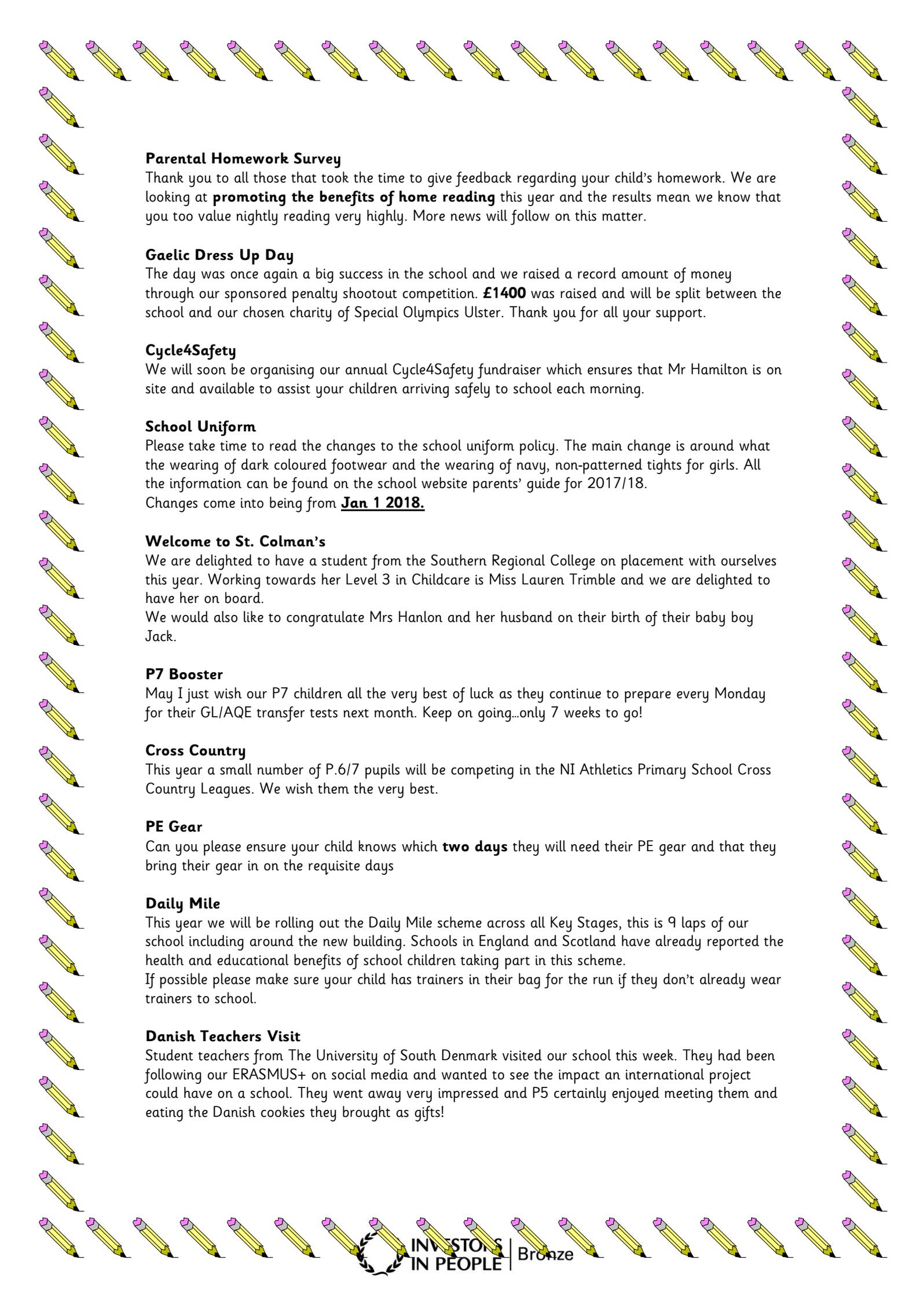
School House Captains

Congratulations to our elected House Captains and Vice-captains from P7. The prefects have made an exemplary start to the school year and their conduct is being well modelled by the younger children. The captains for 2017/2018 are: **Anna McKay** (Ulster); **Conor McNeill** (Munster); **Amy McAvoy** (Leinster) and **Eve Welsh** (Connaught).

Leaderboard (Oct 4 2017) 1st. Connaught 22 coins; 2nd Leinster 21 coins; 3rd Ulster 20 coins; 4th Munster 17 coins.

IXL Maths September Winners – Monthly Prize Winners had their photo taken and put in our Hall of Fame.

Primary 1 – Jarlath Morgan & Anna McGrath
Primary 2 – Fiachra MacMurchaidh & Bethan Martin
Primary 3 – Alec Groves & Anna Wallace
Primary 4 – Oliver Faulkner & Sarah Heenan
Primary 5 – Lauren O'Hare & Roise NicMhurchaidh
Primary 6 – Emmet Ervine & Amy Kearns
Primary 7 – Conor McNeill & Maggie Mallon



Parental Homework Survey

Thank you to all those that took the time to give feedback regarding your child's homework. We are looking at **promoting the benefits of home reading** this year and the results mean we know that you too value nightly reading very highly. More news will follow on this matter.

Gaelic Dress Up Day

The day was once again a big success in the school and we raised a record amount of money through our sponsored penalty shootout competition. **£1400** was raised and will be split between the school and our chosen charity of Special Olympics Ulster. Thank you for all your support.

Cycle4Safety

We will soon be organising our annual Cycle4Safety fundraiser which ensures that Mr Hamilton is on site and available to assist your children arriving safely to school each morning.

School Uniform

Please take time to read the changes to the school uniform policy. The main change is around what the wearing of dark coloured footwear and the wearing of navy, non-patterned tights for girls. All the information can be found on the school website parents' guide for 2017/18. Changes come into being from **Jan 1 2018**.

Welcome to St. Colman's

We are delighted to have a student from the Southern Regional College on placement with ourselves this year. Working towards her Level 3 in Childcare is Miss Lauren Trimble and we are delighted to have her on board.

We would also like to congratulate Mrs Hanlon and her husband on their birth of their baby boy Jack.

P7 Booster

May I just wish our P7 children all the very best of luck as they continue to prepare every Monday for their GL/AQE transfer tests next month. Keep on going...only 7 weeks to go!

Cross Country

This year a small number of P.6/7 pupils will be competing in the NI Athletics Primary School Cross Country Leagues. We wish them the very best.

PE Gear

Can you please ensure your child knows which **two days** they will need their PE gear and that they bring their gear in on the requisite days

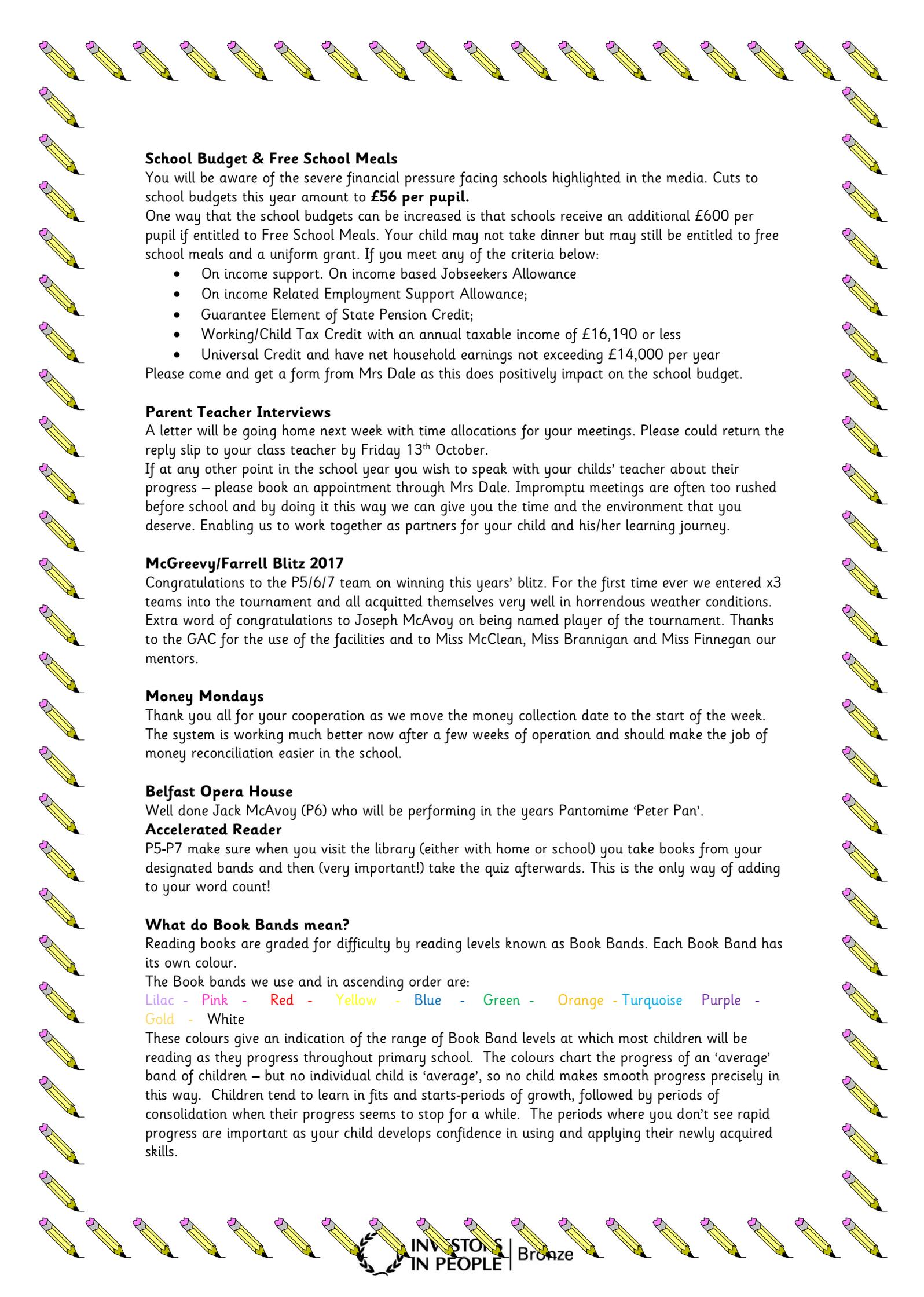
Daily Mile

This year we will be rolling out the Daily Mile scheme across all Key Stages, this is 9 laps of our school including around the new building. Schools in England and Scotland have already reported the health and educational benefits of school children taking part in this scheme.

If possible please make sure your child has trainers in their bag for the run if they don't already wear trainers to school.

Danish Teachers Visit

Student teachers from The University of South Denmark visited our school this week. They had been following our ERASMUS+ on social media and wanted to see the impact an international project could have on a school. They went away very impressed and P5 certainly enjoyed meeting them and eating the Danish cookies they brought as gifts!



School Budget & Free School Meals

You will be aware of the severe financial pressure facing schools highlighted in the media. Cuts to school budgets this year amount to **£56 per pupil**.

One way that the school budgets can be increased is that schools receive an additional £600 per pupil if entitled to Free School Meals. Your child may not take dinner but may still be entitled to free school meals and a uniform grant. If you meet any of the criteria below:

- On income support. On income based Jobseekers Allowance
- On income Related Employment Support Allowance;
- Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit;
- Working/Child Tax Credit with an annual taxable income of £16,190 or less
- Universal Credit and have net household earnings not exceeding £14,000 per year

Please come and get a form from Mrs Dale as this does positively impact on the school budget.

Parent Teacher Interviews

A letter will be going home next week with time allocations for your meetings. Please could return the reply slip to your class teacher by Friday 13th October.

If at any other point in the school year you wish to speak with your child's teacher about their progress – please book an appointment through Mrs Dale. Impromptu meetings are often too rushed before school and by doing it this way we can give you the time and the environment that you deserve. Enabling us to work together as partners for your child and his/her learning journey.

McGreevy/Farrell Blitz 2017

Congratulations to the P5/6/7 team on winning this year's blitz. For the first time ever we entered x3 teams into the tournament and all acquitted themselves very well in horrendous weather conditions. Extra word of congratulations to Joseph McAvoy on being named player of the tournament. Thanks to the GAC for the use of the facilities and to Miss McClean, Miss Brannigan and Miss Finnegan our mentors.

Money Mondays

Thank you all for your cooperation as we move the money collection date to the start of the week. The system is working much better now after a few weeks of operation and should make the job of money reconciliation easier in the school.

Belfast Opera House

Well done Jack McAvoy (P6) who will be performing in the year's Pantomime 'Peter Pan'.

Accelerated Reader

P5-P7 make sure when you visit the library (either with home or school) you take books from your designated bands and then (very important!) take the quiz afterwards. This is the only way of adding to your word count!

What do Book Bands mean?

Reading books are graded for difficulty by reading levels known as Book Bands. Each Book Band has its own colour.

The Book bands we use and in ascending order are:

Lilac - Pink - Red - Yellow - Blue - Green - Orange - Turquoise Purple - Gold - White

These colours give an indication of the range of Book Band levels at which most children will be reading as they progress throughout primary school. The colours chart the progress of an 'average' band of children – but no individual child is 'average', so no child makes smooth progress precisely in this way. Children tend to learn in fits and starts-periods of growth, followed by periods of consolidation when their progress seems to stop for a while. The periods where you don't see rapid progress are important as your child develops confidence in using and applying their newly acquired skills.

Year Group Topics 2017/2018

	Term 1a	Term 1b	Term 2a	Term 2b	Term 3
Primary 1	Nursery Rhymes & Ourselves	Light & Dark	Toys	Spring	Holidays
Primary 2	Discovering Me	Space	Clothes	Birds	Where I Live
Primary 3	Animals	My Place and Yours	Winter	Bread	Pirates
Primary 4	Rescue At Sea	Weather	What A Waste	Castles	Minibeasts
Primary 5	Our School	Electricity	Birds	Food	Egyptians
Primary 6	Northern Ireland	Christmas Around The World	Extreme Weather	Trees and Plants	Recycling
Primary 7	Water	Titanic	Victorians	Bridges, Transition & Leadership skills.	

Breakfast Club

Dear Parents and Carers,

From the beginning of the November 2016, the charges per child, per day for the Breakfast Club will be as follows:

Single child: £1.00

Two or more children from the same family: £2.00

ASC/EASC – Wrap Around Care for your child

ASC - Fee £2.00/day for each child. (NURSERY – P3 1.45pm – 2.35pm)

EASC (NURSERY – P7 2.35pm- 6pm) - Fee £8 per session (2.35pm up to 6pm)/£5 per ½ session (2.35pm up to 4pm.)

• **Bright clothing** should be worn if commuting to school on foot by all pedestrians. Parents dropping children off early for breakfast club can you please escort them inside the school grounds and through to the side gate.

- **Please note that the school are unable to accept the old £1 coin from Monday 15th October.**



Finally – on behalf of all the children and staff may I wish the very best of luck to Annaclone GAC in Sunday’s County Final.

Mr K O’Neill
Principal

Calendar October

monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday
2 P7 Booster	3 P3 Stay late	4 P3 Stay late P7 Library	5 P3 Stay late P6 Swimming P5 Assembly	6 IXL Assembly GAC Art Competition
9 P7 Booster	10	11 P6 Library	12 P4 Assembly P6 Swimming	13
16 P7 Booster	17	18	19 P7 Swimming P1 Assembly	20
23 P7 Booster	24	25 Halloween Dress Up	26 Parent Teacher Meetings School Closed for Children	27 School Closed for Children
30 School Closed for Children	31 School Closed for Children	1	2 P7 Swimming	3