



## Fortnightly Friday Note

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January

### ETi (Education and Training Inspectorate) Inspection

As you may already know an inspection of our school took place on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Due to the on-going industrial action by teachers, which is happening across N.Ireland at present, this resulted in a partial inspection lasting one day and covering safeguarding, school governance and our School Development Plan. Positive findings were made in each of these areas and details of where to find the relevant report will be forwarded when it is released.

### Uberheroes Workshop 2

The mental health charity Hope 4 Life NI were back in P7 this week with their second comic to help the children explore the importance of resilience, friendships and to pass on important drugs education messages. If you would like to find out more please visit their website [www.uberheroes.co.uk](http://www.uberheroes.co.uk)

### Cross Country Round 3 at Donard Park

On Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 15 hardy souls made the short trip to Donard Park for the third and final instalment of the County Down Primary Schools XC Championships. Underfoot conditions were wet and mucky but the weather was unseasonably calm and mild. First up was our girls' team who ran strongly and consistently to finish 8<sup>th</sup> team out of 16 overall. Top finisher was Holly Colhoun in 23<sup>rd</sup>. Holly has improved steadily and impressively throughout the series. Our other finishers were Robyn Bonner (29<sup>th</sup>), Colleen Allister (50<sup>th</sup>), Jana Poblath (55<sup>th</sup>), Maria Cassidy (58<sup>th</sup>), Katelynn McClelland (62<sup>nd</sup>), Olivia Susay-Quinn (67<sup>th</sup>) and Anna Lucia Barbour (68<sup>th</sup>). A special mention also to Sadhbh O'Hara, who came down as reserve and performed the duty of official photographer. Next up was the boys' team who again worked hard to finish 12<sup>th</sup> out of 17 teams. Aaron McClelland has been another young runner who has progressed steadily throughout the series. He again ran strongly to finish 23<sup>rd</sup> (out of 115 finishers). Aaron was gamely supported by Ben Young, having his best run yet in 60<sup>th</sup>, Charlie Easton (65<sup>th</sup>), Aodhan Bardon (69<sup>th</sup>), Conor O'Hare (80<sup>th</sup>), Xavier Rooney (95<sup>th</sup>) and Daniel O'Neill (101<sup>st</sup>). A special mention to Oliver Corrigan, who has been an extremely consistent performer over the last two years, but unfortunately missed his final race due to illness. Oliver declared that Donard Park was his favourite venue, as shown by his 25<sup>th</sup> place finish last year.

Make a note in your diaries for Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March when we will make our annual trip to the 'Rollercoaster Races' at Downpatrick Racecourse. This is open to all P3-P7 children, and for the princely sum of £1 you can savour a race, a medal, a roll and a bowl of soup. Surely the best day out in County Down!

*Thanks to our cross country coach, Mr Rodgers, for the above report!*

### Shared Education Work for P3 and P4

Over the last few weeks P3 and P4 have been linking up with the P3s and P4s from our Shared Education partner school, St. Mary's, for a number of outdoor workshops. During January P3 have been working with the Forestry Service at Tollymore exploring woodland habitats and finding out about local wildlife while P4 have visited Murlough Beach to learn about man-made and natural materials found on the beach. They were supported in this by facilitators from the Field Studies Council.

*'I learned about plants, trees and much more. How we hear birds but do not see them. How squirrels hibernate. We buried seeds and found them.'* James P3.

*'I learned that squirrels buried their food so in the winter they could dig it up. We hid acorns and then we went up the hill and found them.'* Noah P3.



### **Parents Council**

Our Parents Council Committee met earlier in January and have been busy planning their next fundraising events. Discos are planned for before half-term and an art exhibition of our pupils' work is also in the pipeline. The PCC are putting together their next newsletter where details can be found.

### **Request for Toys**

From Easter to Halloween each year we run a 'Summer Playground Initiative' each lunchtime when the children are able to play with a wide range of games, play with toys, dress up and do art activities. This year our classroom assistants have devised a 'Winter Playground Initiative' with different games and activities but they would really appreciate any action figures, dolls, My Little Ponies etc. Any of these or similar toys which you no longer need would be really appreciated.

### **Parent Information Talks - Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January**

Many thanks to everyone who was able to come along to the online safety workshop on the 9<sup>th</sup> January. A sincere thanks as well to David Heaney (Mrs Heaney's son) who delivered a great information session on parental controls on phones, laptops etc. The NSPCC left a number of online safety leaflets and information about talking with your child about sensitive issues and we have sent these home today with the children.

### **World Cancer Day February 4<sup>th</sup>**

The Cancer Research UK Newcastle & Mourne Local Committee have approached the school asking if anyone would like to support their fundraising day on February 4<sup>th</sup> by buying a Unity Band during the following week. We will keep these in school if anyone would like to make a donation.



### **P7 Tollymore Workshop**

P7s were back at Tollymore NOC last Thursday for their second workshop of the year. The focus of this session was on learning about 'Leave No Trace' principles. The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics is a national organisation that protects the outdoors by teaching and inspiring people to enjoy it responsibly. The P7s really enjoyed themselves and you can find out more about 'Leave No Trace' principles at <https://lnt.org/about>

### **Reception Assembly**

Well done to our Reception class who not only attended our whole school assembly on Thursday but actually took it! With proud mums, dads and other carers in attendance the children sang and said their speaking parts with great skill. Congratulations to all the children!

### **Up and Coming Events**

Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	Parents Council Committee (9-10am)
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Bun Sale in aid of Actionaid
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	P7s at 'Bee Safe' Safety Day (Castlewellan)
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Safer Internet Day
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	School Assembly led by P2s (P2 parents welcome)
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	PCC Discos
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> to Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb (inclusive)	Mid-term Break
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	P4 Shared Education trip
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	P7s to Tollymore - session 3
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	P3 Shared Education (Tollymore Forest)
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Service of Commitment and First Confession (2pm)
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	P6 Library Visit
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Daisy Lodge Assembly