



Fortnightly Friday Note
Friday 9th February

World Book Day

World Book Day will soon be here again! This is a celebration of authors, illustrators, books and of course **READING!** On 1st March, children of all ages will come together to celebrate reading. As usual, your child will bring home a £1 book token to spend in bookshops where they can pick one of ten exclusive books or get £1 off any book or audio book. On 1st March, your child can also dress up as their favourite book character at school. Children will watch a broadcast in school called, 'The Biggest Book Show on Earth,' which features seven of our favourite authors and illustrators bringing their stories to life. For World Book Day, we have also agreed to take part in a fundraising initiative called 'Read On' to raise money for Daisy Lodge, a local children's therapeutic short break centre for children with cancer. Details to follow at a later date.

Action Aid

You may have read an article in the *Mourne Observer* this week about our fundraising for Action Aid last week. Thanks to the generosity of everyone who either brought in and/or bought buns the school raised £312-14 for Action Aid, the charity which allows us to sponsor a child in Afghanistan. Thank you!

Recent Assemblies

A huge well done to P2, Mrs Heaney and everyone who helped with the P2 assembly yesterday. The P2s, with the help of face paint, transformed themselves into polar bears, snow leopards, tigers and frogs to tell everyone about the dangers facing many of our most beautiful animals around the world. This was a lovely assembly with great singing, super artwork and plenty of interesting facts.

Last week we ran another assembly to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day. This is obviously a difficult subject to explain to the children so we used the life story of Renie Inow, who as a child in 1939 was brought to England on the Kindertransport (a programme helping Jewish children to escape from Germany at the beginning of WW2). We used her story to explain how Jewish people were persecuted during the war. The Primary 7 children then wrote postcards to Renie, who currently lives in London, as part of a special project run by the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust. If you would like to find out more about Renie and the Trust please go to www.hmd.org.uk.



Renie Inow in 2017

One of the P7s wrote, 'Dear Renie, I know everything you have been through but I am just here to say hello and to ask how you are doing? I love learning about World War 2 but I understand how terrible the war must have been.'



Family Support NI Website

I received details from the Department of Health about a new website www.familysupportni.gov.uk which provides information on all types of Family Support services, including registered childcare, throughout Northern Ireland. Please visit the website or pick up one of the flyers in the foyer of the school if you need further information.

Parent Audit Findings

At the end of last year many parents completed a questionnaire to help us explore key areas of life in school. The findings of these are already influencing new areas of work within the school and I have attached an A5 leaflet explaining all the findings. A very sincere thanks to one of our mums (who is a graphic designer), Mrs Williamson, who designed the lovely colourful leaflet.

Clubs

Please can all parents who send their child(ren) to any after-school clubs please ensure that both the permission slip and any payment are sent to school, if you have not done so already. A few children have been turning up for clubs but we have not received permission for them to be in school after normal finishing times. Thank you.

Language Lessons

It has been great to have some new language classes going on in school over the last few weeks. Firstly, one of our classroom assistants, Mrs Nicole James, has been running French and Japanese classes as an after-schools club and in P7, one of our parents who also teachers at Shimna, Mrs Susay, has been teaching German to this class. Many thanks to both for developing this important area of learning.

Parents Council Committee

As well as today's disco, our super PCC, have been beginning to plan for the Summer Fete as well as planning a children's art exhibition for before Easter. Their next meeting is at 6-30pm at school on Tuesday 20th February and as ever they would really like to welcome any new volunteers.

Up and Coming Events

Monday 12 th February	Mid-term Break
to Friday 16 th February (inclusive)	P4 Shared Education trip
Wednesday 21 st February	P7s to Tollymore - session 3
Thursday 22 nd February	'Bring it On' talks on science and technology for P6/P7
Friday 23 rd February	P3 Shared Education (Tollymore Forest)
Tuesday 27 th February	Service of Commitment and First Confession P3 (2pm)
Wednesday 28 th February	P7 Assembly (P7 parents/carers welcome)
Thursday 1 st March	P6 Library Visit
Wednesday 7 th March	Daisy Lodge 'Read On' Assembly
Thursday 8 th March	P6 Library Visit
Wednesday 14 th March	
Friday 16 th and	
Monday 19 th March	School closed (St Patrick's weekend)
Wednesday 21 st March	Service of Commitment for First Holy Communion (10am)
Thursday 22 nd March	P7s to Tollymore - session 4
Friday 23 rd March	Food and Fitness session for P5/P6 (note to follow)
Tuesday 27 th March	School finishes at 12noon for Easter holidays (re-open Monday 9 th April)