

Parent Information Sheet

Friday 23rd March 2018

House Points for LISTENING, RESPECT & MANNERS this week are...

Eagles - 59 points Hawks - 46 points Owls - 37 points Falcons - 31 points

Mrs Millar will be counting up the points for this term and we can reveal which House is in the lead after the Easter holidays!!

SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 12 NOON ON TUESDAY 27TH MARCH FOR THE EASTER HOLIDAYS

Assembly

On Thursday we had a really lovely assembly led by our P5s. This year they have been involved in the Roots of Empathy project and at our assembly they took the opportunity to tell their fellow pupils and their parents, who had been invited to come along, all about it. The project is facilitated by one of our parents, Caron Edgar who works with the class over 28 weeks. Together they explore the development of a newborn baby and through the activities and discussions learn more about their own needs and feelings. To do this the children have been visited at regular intervals by baby Ava and her mum Annie. They have had the opportunity to hold Ava, weigh Ava, measure AVA and see how she has developed week by week. Not surprisingly she is adored by all the P5 class and it was really moving to hear them read aloud the lovely wishes they have for Ava in the future. A huge thank you to Caron, Annie and Ava without whom this project would not take place, and well done P5s for a super assembly!

KS3 Visitors

Over the last month we have had the benefit of two post primary literacy specialists in school working along with our staff and pupils, one from Sullivan Upper and one from Lagan College. This opportunity has been invaluable in forging links with our post primary colleagues but also in extending our knowledge of the expectations placed upon our pupils as they move into Key Stage 3. The visiting teachers observed our staff teaching, met with key staff, worked with small groups of children and taught lessons alongside our own teachers. We were very reassured to know through the feedback that the teachers gave us that our approach to literacy is very much in line with what they would be expecting of pupils coming in to Year 8 and that the standards that we are striving for are sufficiently high.

Hockey Tournament

"On Tuesday we went to Regent House to play at a hockey tournament, we played many good schools including Ballyholme, Holywood, Sullivan Prep and many more. We had lots of help from parents, teachers and Frankie the hockey coach. It was a good day and we had lots of fun!"

By Anna and Jamie P7

Football Match

"On Tuesday we went to Kilmaine to play a football match. Kilmaine are a very strong team but so were we and we both did very well and tried our best. Unfortunately the pitch wasn't that good but we played a good match. Our goalkeeper was really good and saved a lot. Big thanks to Mr Spillane and Mrs Todd for coaching and taking us to kilmaine. Altogether it was a really good day out and all played our best.."

By Rudi and Charlie P7

P6s Return from Ganaway!

This afternoon Mrs McChesney, Mrs Brown, Miss Barbour, Mrs White and the P6s returned from their action packed residential at Ganaway, the BB Activity Centre just outside Millisle. The reports back would indicate that they had a great time. Despite the changeable weather conditions they managed to complete a wide range of outdoor activities and got to enjoy the nearby beach. Hopefully after all that fresh air and activity both the children and staff will sleep well tonight!

P4s meet their Hazelwood friends

This week our P4s began their cross community work with Hazelwood Integrated Primary School in North Belfast. The project with Hazelwood involves all our children in P4 to P7. The P5 project kicked off last week

with our P5s visiting St. Colmcille's together and this week it was the turn of the P4s. The children from Hazelwood travelled to Glencraig for the day to take part in a number of planned activities as well as enjoying the all-important break and lunch when friendships are really forged! The children had a great day and as anticipated the younger children showed no hesitation in making friends that they will meet up with in the new term when our P4s travel across the lough to Hazelwood.

"Yesterday the P4s from Hazelwood IPS came to visit us. We made buddies and had lots of fun. We learnt about each other. We can't wait to go to their school in April and see them again."

Harriet & Benjamin W P4

PTA Easter Quiz and Raffle

Some of you may have noticed the gorgeous Fortnum and Mason hamper displayed in reception this week. It is full of lovely treats to enjoy over the Easter break. It is up for grabs if you enter our Parent's Easter Quiz. Quiz sheets went home in school bags this week, entry is £1 and sheets should be returned by **Monday 26th March** at the latest.

(Apparently the quiz is tricky enough but please don't be put off. We always encourage the children to have a go and we would ask the same of you! If you're not in you can't win, and with such a beautiful prize for only £1.00 you'd be mad not to give it a go!!)

We are also holding an Easter raffle in school for the children next week, entry is 50p and there are lots of lovely easter themed prizes to be won.

Farewell ...

Today we bid farewell to three great student teachers who have been with us over the last eight weeks. For two of the students the next time that they will be in a classroom will be in a paid capacity as they finish their degrees in May. All three students have fully immersed themselves in the life of our school and have been eager to learn from our own staff and develop their skills as young teachers. We see the mentoring of the next generation of teachers as an important part of our job and hope that their experience here will have been a valuable and enjoyable one. We have certainly enjoyed their company over the last few weeks and wish Miss McCready, Miss McEwan and Mr Rae well in their futures.

Parent Workshop - Date for your diary

Next term we are hosting a parent workshop facilitated by Action Mental Health. The workshop follows on from sessions that the AMH team took this year with our children and our staff. The workshops are designed to raise awareness and understanding of what it is to have good mental health as well as good physical health. The workshop will explore some steps that we can take to look after our mental health and build resilience for ourselves and our children. The invitation will be open to parents from Holywood PS who are our Shared Education Partner School. The workshop is to be held here on **Wednesday 25th April from 6.30 - 9.30pm**.

Easter Holidays

School will open again on Tuesday 10th April at the usual time.

After a busy term I would just like to say a massive thank you to the staff for their continuing hard work, to the parents for their continuing support and of course the children for giving us a reason for doing what we do. I hope you all have a great Easter break and look forward to seeing you all again in April.



