

# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Issue  
No.

1

05.09.2023

Designated Child Protection Teachers: Mrs McLaughlin & Mrs Wilson



Welcome back to all our pupils, parents and friends and a particular welcome to any new members of our school community. I would encourage you to become fully involved in the many occasions and events that will be organized later this year. The children have made a great start to what I am sure will be another exciting year at Stranmillis, bringing fresh challenges and successes for all our children.



This year we are again offering an extensive range of After School Clubs, across the school, led by school staff and external providers. An email with all the necessary information was sent last week. Please follow the instructions on how to enrol for the clubs and most importantly keep a note of the dates and times.

## Educational Trust Fund



Thank you to everyone who has donated to our Educational Trust Fund to date. We have had a superb response and greatly appreciate your support.

**This money is ring fenced to buy books and resources for outdoor learning which will supplement our new Outdoor Classroom. It allows us to augment our library resources with the most up to date titles, supplement guided reading resources and maximise the learning potential of our Outdoor Classroom.**

*Thank  
You*



# *Meet the Teacher*

You are invited to school next week to hear a little about what happens in your child's class.

The class teachers from your child's year group will hold a short meeting where they share information about some aspects of the curriculum appropriate to your child's year group.

Each meeting should last approximately 30 minutes and will be held in the school hall.

The meetings will take place at the following times:

Tuesday 12 September

P5 - 5:00 p.m.

P6 - 5:45 p.m.

P4 - 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday 13 September

P2 - 5:00 p.m.

P1 - 5:45 p.m.

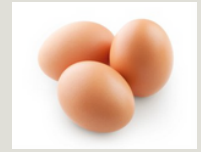
P3 - 6:30 p.m.



We hope very much that you will be able to come along.



## ALLERGENS



Several children at our school have an allergy to different types of nuts as well as to kiwi fruit and eggs. We want to create and maintain a safe and comfortable environment for these children.

We ask that your child does not bring to school, eggs, kiwi fruit, or any nuts or their derivatives. Any contact with these could cause an anaphylactic reaction in these pupils. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause but I am sure you will understand that the safety of our children is our prime concern.



Values are central to our ethos and learning at Stranmillis Primary School. We have chosen a value for each month and we hope that you will support us by talking about the value with your child.

We want the children to think about the choices they make and how by making the right choice we can all be successful.

### *Our Value for September is 'Good Manners'*

Teaching our children to use good manners is also one simple way to instill the values of kindness and respect.

During September we will focus on the foundation of good manners by encouraging our children to use polite language. Learning manners can take time to become a habit but will help children to be more confident in social situations as they get older.

#### *Our reflection points:*

- I am respectful and considerate of others.
- I am well-behaved and a pleasure to be around.
- I say please, thank you, excuse me, sorry and pardon.





## ***Communication Guidance for Parents and Guardians***

Rationale and summary:

Much of the communication between Stranmillis and parents/guardians is conducted via email and Seesaw. Please check emails and seesaw regularly as teachers, SLT and Mrs Wilson will use these to issue important information, documents, updates, reminders and work.

In order for both staff and parents/guardians to make the most effective use of the mediums we have produced the following guidance:

When using email or Seesaw to correspond with staff, parents/guardians are asked to be mindful of the following:

- Only use the school system provided email account or Seesaw for communications with staff.
- For all absences, please report these directly to the class teacher via email, letter or Seesaw.
- Please use for non-vital or non-urgent messages only. The staff member may not receive an email message by the end of the school day. For vital, last minute changes to collection times or urgent messages please use the telephone to contact the office.
- If required, you will receive a response within 48 hours. Please allow for longer if a situation requires time to gather information, consult with colleagues or requires a more in-depth response. Please be aware teachers will generally be unavailable to respond during class time.
- Children are not permitted to email teachers.
- Messages to staff should be consistent with professional practices for other correspondence. Staff may not respond to messages which use discourteous language.
- If you are forwarding an e-mail, make sure to remove any sensitive or private information. Ask the email's original sender if it is all right to forward the email prior to doing so.

There are also of course opportunities throughout the year when you are invited to meet with the teacher face to face and telephone calls can be arranged when necessary.



## Term Dates 2023 - 2024

### Autumn Term

29 August	School re-opens*
27 October	Exceptional Closure (Parental Consultations)
30 October	3 November Half-term holiday (incl.)
20 December	Term ends at 12 noon.

### Spring Term

4 January	School re-opens*
12-16 February	Half-term holiday (incl.)
15 March	Exceptional Closure (Parental Consultations)
18 March	St Patrick's Day Closure
26 March	Term ends at 12 noon.

### Summer Term

8 April	School re-opens
6 May	May Day Closure
27 May	Spring Bank Holiday
28 May	Exceptional Closure
28 June	Term ends at 12 noon.

☒ \*Indicates a normal school day



### Punctuality / Attendance

Class begins at 8:50 a.m. each morning. You may drop your child/children off from 8:40 a.m. and they go straight to class. Please ensure that he/she is in class ready to start work at 8:50 a.m. Your child may attend Breakfast Club from 8:00 a.m.

If your child is absent, please provide a **written explanation for the absence, to your child's class teacher**. This can be a letter, an email or a message on Seesaw. These have to be retained by schools for inspection by the Education Welfare Service.

*Holidays during term time are detrimental to children's education. The reasons are many and are widely known. Such absences are recorded as unauthorised as per Dept of Education guidelines. Please show your child how much you value their education by sending them to school every day unless they are ill.*

# Congratulations

Well done to all the pupils from Cast who sat LAMDA Exams in the Summer and achieved fantastic results!

**P1**

Frida McCauley  
Layla Omer

**P2**

Anna Hall  
Annabelle Rose

**P3**

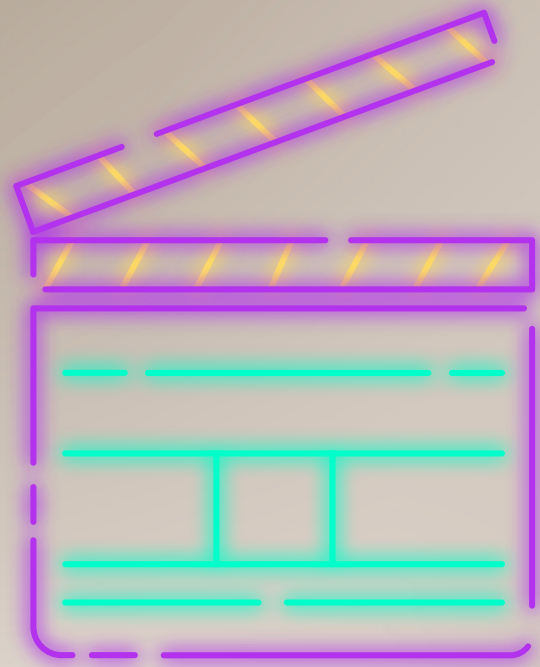
Orla Breathnach-Cashell  
Oscar Crossey  
Sofia Heron  
Olin McAuley

**P4**

Laya Magesh  
James Hall  
Hugh Williams

**P5**

Isaac Fitzmaurice  
Valentina Barden Santander  
Eesa Akram  
Ava Cinnamond  
Matthew McMurray  
Katie McCarney  
Isabelle Milliken  
Rory Milliken  
Zara Lyness  
Brian Breathnach-Cashell  
Leo Heron



# Applying for \_\_\_\_\_

# Free School Meals & Uniform Allowance

## If you require help...

-  [www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants](http://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants)
-  028 9041 8044
-  [mealsanduniform@eani.org.uk](mailto:mealsanduniform@eani.org.uk)

## 1. Are you eligible?

You must be:

- in receipt of a qualifying benefit OR
- be an Asylum Seeker supported by the Home Office Asylum Support Assessment Team (ASAT).

## Qualifying Benefits:

- Income Support;
- Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance;
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance;
- Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit;
- Child Tax Credit or Working Tax Credit with an annual taxable household income of £16,190 or less;
- Universal credit and have net household earnings not exceeding £14,000 per year.

## 2. What documentation do you need?

You will be asked to upload proof that you are receiving a qualifying benefit:

Tax Credits Award Notice

Universal Credit Payments breakdown or

- Proof of Benefit letter (if you are in receipt of Income Support, Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Related Employment and Support Allowance or the Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit).

## 3. What else do you need?

- National Insurance Number
- Children's names
- Dates of Birth
- Schools they will be attending
- Address
- E-mail and telephone number
- Bank or building society account and sort code details.

## 4. Where do you apply?

Visit the EA's Free School Meals and Uniforms page to start an application. As well as new applicants, parents/guardians who are currently in receipt of Free School Meals & Uniform Allowance will need to apply again for this year. You will need to register with an e-mail address and create an account to apply. You will then be able to log back in to check your application



## 5. What happens next?

Your application will be processed within 5 weeks. Please do not contact EA for an update on your application within the 5 weeks of submitting your application. If you have provided incorrect or insufficient supporting documentation, you will receive a tailored email advising you to resubmit your application with details of the correct documentation you need to provide.

You will receive an email from EA once your application has been approved and processed.

## COMMUNITY NOTICES & ADVERTISEMENTS

Please note that neither the services advertised on the remaining pages nor those providing them, have been checked or verified by the school.



### **BRASS BLAST!**

**Championship brass band, Downshire Brass have teamed up with Stranmillis Primary School to provide a unique musical opportunity for pupils at the School to join Downshire's youth or junior bands.**

Downshire Brass is holding an **information evening** for Stranmillis pupils and parents to learn more about the band and the teaching team, hear the band in action and to try out an instrument or two...

**Monday, 11 September 6.30pm - 7.15pm**  
**Boys Brigade Recreation Centre, Belvoir, Belfast**

[www.downshirebrass.com](http://www.downshirebrass.com)



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**Belfast Harlequins**

# JUNIOR GIRLS HOCKEY

Starting  
Sunday 10th  
September

Recruiting  
New Players  
(Especially P3s!)

Deramore  
Park

For more info, email  
[harlequinsjuniorgirls@gmail.com](mailto:harlequinsjuniorgirls@gmail.com)



# COMMUNITY FUN DAY



**FREE ADMISSION**

- BOUNCY CASTLES • ENTERTAINMENT
- FOOD TRUCKS • JO JINGLES
- ARTS & CRAFTS • SALSA DANCE LESSON
- THE GATHERING DRUM

**Sunday 24th September 2023**

**1pm - 4pm**

**BELFAST YMCA**

**56 - 58 KNIGHTSBRIDGE PARK  
STRANMILLIS, BT9 5EH**



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## BELFAST HARLEQUINS JUNIOR BOYS

# JUNIOR HOCKEY IS BACK!

## EVERY THURSDAY FOR 24 WEEKS

\* STARTING THURSDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER \*



AGES  
**P4 - U15**

TIME  
**6:15 - 7:15**

PRICE  
**£110**

**NEW MEMBERS  
WELCOME!**

Please contact [belfast.harlequins.mhc@gmail.com](mailto:belfast.harlequins.mhc@gmail.com) to register

# KV Hockey Club

Kicking off the new 23/24 hockey season

New KV Mini season starts on 9th September – All Players aged 11 and under welcome

Location:

Victoria Preparatory School

60 Marlborough Park South

Belfast

BT9 6HT

Session 1: 9:30-10:30

P1-P5 AGE GROUP

Session 2: 10:40-11:40

P6-P7 AGE GROUP

Free **'goodie bag'** for anyone wearing **PINK** in honour of the movie Barbie

**Tea & Coffee** will be available for any parents wishing to watch



Please bring a friend - new players are welcome to come and try it out for free for first week

# CAST

## SCHOOL OF SPEECH AND DRAMA

CLASSES BEGIN 07/09/23

THURSDAYS IN THE YMCA  
PUPILS COLLECTED FROM SCHOOL  
£9.75 PER LESSON PER PUPIL



- DRAMA GAMES
- STORYTELLING
- IMPROVISATION
- VERSE SPEAKING
- LAMDA EXAMINATIONS

### CLASS FINISHING TIMES

P1-3  
2:50

P4-7  
4:15



CONTACT:  
[cast.school@ntlworld.com](mailto:cast.school@ntlworld.com)  
07824992423

# BALLET CLASSES

Laura Walker Ballet School

[laurawalkerballet@hotmail.com](mailto:laurawalkerballet@hotmail.com)



Contact Laura on 07711643958,  
Facebook Laura Walker Ballet School



Classes in:-

St Johns, 141 Malone Road, Tuesday  
and Thursday

Hollywood Old School, Church Road  
Hollywood Wednesday and Fridays  
Carnmoney Presbyterian, Saturdays