

# SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2021 NEWSLETTER



Dear Parent

Welcome to the 2021/22 academic year. May I take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to all the new families who have joined our school this year and welcome back all of those families who have previously been involved in the life of Jones Memorial Primary School, Reception class and our Units. This term we are delighted to have Robbie Walker from IFA who will coach Years 3-6. Brass tuition with Stephen Magee and Violin with Hannah Foy will continue to be part of our weekly schedule.

A school visit by members of the Northern Ireland Senior women's team was among the highlights at the start of term. This was organised this summer by the Irish Football Association and the Irish FA Foundation to promote girls' and women's football throughout the country.

The success of the women's team in qualifying for UEFA Women's Euro 2022 has sparked huge interest in the women's game across Northern Ireland – and the association is keen to keep the momentum going and to get more girls and women playing football.

Fittingly, Northern Ireland Women team member Casey Howe as our local hero, kick-started the block of activity where she led coaching sessions that were enjoyed by all our girls.

## Upcoming Events in School- Dates for your Diary

Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> September	Mrs Emerson's class starts swimming lessons
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 3-6 IFA Girls football lessons with Mr Walker
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 6 Football lessons with Mr Lowry 3.15-4.15 pm
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 7 Stranmillis University College Project
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> – 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct	Bike to School Week
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 7 Progress in International Literacy Study
11 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> October	Parent Interviews (more information to follow)
21 <sup>st</sup> October	Ditch the Dark Day
22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Harvest Assembly – This will be posted online

**Monday 25th October until Friday 29th October SCHOOL CLOSED FOR HALF TERM**

**SCHOOL REOPENS      Monday 1st November 2021**

We look forward to working together in partnership with you during the 2021/22 academic year as we continue to strike a balance between safeguarding our pupils' education, their wellbeing and measures to contain COVID.

Thank you again for your understanding and cooperation as I know that this is not easy for everyone. We are all trying to keep our school community safe.

S Isherwood  
Principal

## PHA GUIDANCE AND UPDATES

I wrote to all families at the beginning of last week to keep you informed of the recent updates with Track and Tracing from PHA. As you are aware the PHA are now responsible for conducting Track and Tracing where a positive case is identified in a school setting.

### **WHAT DO I DO IF MY CHILD TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19?**

If your child tests positive for COVID-19, they should self-isolate for 10 days and not attend school during this time. The Public Health Agency Contact Tracing Service (PHA CTS) will be in touch to determine who your child's close contacts are, and will ask for contact details for them so they can be advised appropriately. If your child tests positive for COVID-19, you should inform the school, who may issue **Warn & Inform** letters to the class.

**WHAT IF MY CHILD TESTS NEGATIVE FOR COVID-19?** If your child tests negative for COVID-19 they can return to school as normal, provided they feel well enough to do so.

**WHAT DO I DO IF MY CHILD'S FRIEND TESTS POSITIVE?** If you do not hear from the PHA CTS, then there is **no requirement** for you or your child to self-isolate. The PHA CTS will identify all close contacts, and follow them up directly. If your child has been identified as a close contact, then the PHA CTS will make contact with you or your child and provide advice. **However, if your child develops symptoms, then they must self-isolate and not attend school, until they have had a negative test.**

## School Code of Conduct...

At the beginning of a new school year it is essential that we establish a clear and fair set of expectations with our pupils. Please see below our whole school Code of Conduct...

We will allow everyone to enjoy their rights by:

- Arriving to school on time
- Wearing our school uniform
- Showing respect to everyone in school
- Being well mannered truthful and kind
- Taking pride in our school building
- Looking after our books
- Walking quietly and sensibly in corridors
- Keeping our school litter free
- Setting a good example to others
- Exercising self-control: &
- Lining up quickly and quietly



## FLU IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME

The Flu Vaccination programme in schools will be going ahead this year in the Autumn Term. The date initially set by the community nurse to administer this in JMPS is **Wednesday 3rd November**.

Consent forms will be sent home to you with children in the coming weeks. You **MUST** complete the consent form for the vaccine to be administered.

The programme has been introduced to give protection to children against flu, which can be a very unpleasant illness and can mean that they have to take time off school. It will also help to stop the spread of flu and so will protect people around them as well. The vaccine is usually given to children by a simple spray into their nose and they can return to their lessons very quickly afterwards.

Information about the programme and leaflets in other languages can be found at:

<http://www.fluawareni.info>

## WEARING FACE COVERINGS ON SCHOOL PREMISES

Thank you to those parents and guests to school who so diligently wear a face mask or covering while on school grounds. This is an important risk mitigation measure to help prevent the spread of the virus in school premises. While I understand some adults may be exempt on medical grounds, we ask that all guests to school wear a face covering – even when outside.

## PASTORAL CARE

Thank you to our parents and carers who have completed the pastoral care pack for children. Any changes to collection arrangements must be shared with us in writing. Please be aware that we **CAN NOT** release pupils into the care of juniors aged 16 or below. As you know, we have worked hard to establish a safe routine for the dismissal of children at the end of the school day. We ask that you remind your child each day what their arrangements are for home time. If an adult is collecting them, please tell them who it will be.

## SCHOOL CARPARK

Parents and visitors to school are welcome to use the Carpark facilities in our grounds. However, it is up to all adults to ensure the safety and care of our pupils and is paramount. For this reason, we ask everyone to adhere to the following:

- Speed limit of 5 MPH (should be strictly adhered to)
- Vehicles should not be parked on pavements or access points at any time.
- All drivers must observe the one-way system.
- Please do not park across the zebra crossings.
- There is a designated area for STAFF CARS only.
- Drivers must exercise caution at all times when in school grounds.

- Pedestrians should use the designated crossing areas & pathways.
- Parents should get out of their car to collect their child and escort them to their vehicle or in to school (pupil safety comes first).
- The disabled bays at the front of school should only be used by blue badge holders

Please show consideration for other drivers and remember the safety of our pupils is paramount

Please share this information with everyone at home who may be collecting or leaving pupils to school that they must show concern to other vehicles parked at the school.

## BIKE TO SCHOOL WEEK

Jones Memorial Primary School is taking part in Bike to school week which will run from the **MONDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER TO FRIDAY 1ST OCTOBER**. We are encouraging pupils during this week to safely cycle or scoot to school.

Bike to school week is a week-long event designed to showcase the benefits of cycling and scooting to school across the UK. If you cycle or scoot to school this week, we would love you to share pictures with us via School Social Media or Seesaw. This is the first initiative of the year that we are completing in connection with Sustrans. Jones Memorial Primary is an Active Travel School, and we are working towards gaining our next level of accreditation.

## HEALTHY BREAK & SNACKS IN SCHOOL

In JMPS, we try to encourage a policy of healthy eating. We would ask that all pupils who take lunch have a lunch box with their names clearly visible. Fizzy drinks, chocolate, sweets and crisps are not advised as we try to promote a healthy balanced diet for all.

As we have children who suffer from specific and severe food allergies, we request that no peanuts, seeds or related products are brought to school. The school is a **"NUT FREE ZONE"**.

School dinners will continue to be available to all children. We ask that dinner money is sent into school in a sealed, marked envelope with the correct amount included as no change will be given. The cost is £2.60 per day.

Help your child get their five a day by including some fruit or vegetables as a snack for their morning break.

This includes all fresh fruit and vegetables and pots or tins of fruit in fruit juice, but not in syrup.

A portion could be:

- 1 medium sized piece of fruit, e.g. apple, orange, banana, pear
- 2 small fruits, e.g. kiwi fruits, satsumas, plums
- 1 cup of grapes, cherries or berries
- 1 large slice of pineapple or melon
- 1 cereal bowl of salad, e.g. lettuce, tomatoes, cucumber and celery
- 3 heaped tablespoons of fresh veg, e.g. chopped or sliced carrots, peppers or sugar-snap peas
- 3 heaped tablespoons of fruit salad (fresh or tinned in fruit juice)

**\*\*Friends of JMPS supply a FRIDAY TREAT at the cost of 50p per snack\*\***

## PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS

At the beginning of each academic year, we like to share with everyone at home key information about what your child will learn in school this year and how you can help support them at home. You will have received communication from your class teacher and will continue to do so as the year goes on.

## SAFEGUARDING REMINDERS

The school safeguarding team comprises:

Team leader Mrs S Isherwood (Principal)  
Deputy Designated Teacher Mrs R Bailie  
Deputy Designated Teacher Mrs H Graham  
Chair of the Board of Governors Mrs A Beattie  
Designated Governor Mrs D Morrison

If you have any worries or concerns about the welfare of your child or any other child in the school, you can speak to a member of the Safeguarding Team.

The school is currently operating a system of no visitors without appointment. If you need to speak to your child's teacher, please phone into the office to make an appointment on 02866323420.

## HARVEST ASSEMBLY

Our Harvest will be posted online again this year on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021.

The theme of the Assembly is Thanksgiving.

'Keep an eye' on our **Social Media** accounts for details.



<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Elementary-School/Jones-Memorial-Primary-School-164068633675390/>



<https://twitter.com/jonesmemorial>



[https://instagram.com/jonesmemorialps?utm\\_medium=copy\\_link](https://instagram.com/jonesmemorialps?utm_medium=copy_link)

## SWAP SHOP

If you want to purchase additional items of school uniform from the Swap Shop, please pass on what you need and the size and Mrs Doonan, our School Secretary will try and facilitate you.



## CLOTHING BANK

Our Clothing Collection has always been very popular over the years, and we would just like to take this opportunity to remind parents that we can store bags to recycle used clothing, bed linen etc anytime. Further details are available on the ECO notice board.



**Contact School: 028 66 323420**



Ask for Miss Katie Dunne JELLY TOTS (Thursday Class)

Ask for Mrs Jayne Magee LITTLE MESS (Monday Class)

## And Finally...

Every single one of our pupils are special to us. We value their unique personalities, talents and what they bring to our school. We want to nurture

their love of learning, their belief  
the adults around them. We will  
succeeds. We are here to support  
we are a Rights Respecting School – that is



in themselves and to have faith in  
strive to make sure that every child  
and do the utmost for our pupils,  
place.

## Jones Memorial Primary School inc Reception, ASD Unit and LSC

### Holiday List

and Closures for School Development

**2021/2022**

#### Arrangements for start of new school Year

**Year 1/Reception** Finish at 12.55pm and thereafter at 1.20pm if availing of lunch.

**Years 2 – 7** – Children's School Day - 9.15am – 3.15pm

#### Autumn Term

**(First Day of Autumn Term – Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> August – EVERYONE IN SCHOOL 9.00am – 12.00pm**

**No Transport available on above date**

August Bank Holiday	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> August 2021
Halloween Holiday	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> October – Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> October 2021
Christmas Holidays	Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2021 – Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2022

**On the last day of Autumn Term, Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021 school will finish at 12.00pm**

#### Spring Term

**(First Day of Spring Term Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022)**

School Development (No Pupils)	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
Half-Term Holiday	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2022 – Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2022
St Patrick's Bank Holiday	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> March 2022

School Development (No Pupils) ..... Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Easter Holidays ..... Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022 - Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022 (inc)

On the last day of Spring Term, Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2022 school will finish at 12.00pm

### Summer Term

(First Day of Summer Term Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022)

Bank Holiday ..... Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2022

Bank Holiday ..... Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> & Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022

On the last day of Summer Term, Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 school will finish at 12.00pm

**Please retain this for future reference**