



Dear Parents

As we bring this term to a close there is so much to celebrate & be thankful for. Our wonderful children have achieved so much within the classroom & beyond. Thank you for your unending support & encouragement, which has been particularly evident during the week of parental consultations. I wish you all a restful & special Easter Holiday. V Hutchinson



CORE

End of Term:

**Fri 12 April @
12:30pm**

Return to School:

Monday 29 April

Sport & Extra-Curricular Activities

Many congratulations to all our children who have triumphed at the school concert and in the sports field. We wish our boys well as they compete in the NI Hockey finals on Monday 8th April and our girls who are representing Strandtown in the All-Ireland Table Tennis final on Thursday 2nd May. Pupils have represented the school wonderfully in football, hockey, rugby, netball, table tennis, swimming, cross country and at the Credit Union Quiz Team. I hope you have tracked all their successes through our website. Thank you to our wonderful pupil councils (school council and the Eco committee) for their input and leadership in school.

Computer Assessments



All pupils in Year 4 to Year 7 are completing literacy and numeracy tests online, these tests will be completed in May. These assessments are used to ensure pupils are making appropriate progress and will inform strengths and areas for development in the classroom. Outcomes will also be reflected in the pupil Annual Report.

Diary Dates

- Holland Parent Info. Afternoon 08/04/19
- Holland Trip (1): 06/05/19 - 10/05/19 (Rm 13,16 & 27)
- Holland Trip (2): 20/05/19 - 24/05/19 (Rm 14 & 18)
- Holland Trip (3): 03/06/19 - 07/06/19 (Rm 32,33 & 34)
- Delamont Trip (2): 28/05/19 - 31/05/19
- Parent Evening Cyber Security: 01/05/19
- Bank Holiday: 06/05/19 (School Closed)
- Summer Fair: 18/05/19
- Staff Dev. Day 27/05/19 (School closed for pupils)
- Sports Day Y4/Y5: 11/06/19
- Sports Day Y6/Y7: 13/06/19
- Year 7 Leavers Evening: 19/06/19

Parents

Our parent focus group has met twice this year and is due to meet again on the 7th May 1-3pm. This group is a very useful forum to give the school feedback on how we can improve for the benefit of every child. If you would like to be involved in this group, please contact Miss Bailie via the school office.

Please attend our parent evening on the 1st May at 7pm on Cyber-security. This is led by Dr Carlin from Queens University. This session will help parents with practical cyber security and is presented in an accessible way. We hope parents keeping themselves and families safe online will have a positive impact on all our school community.

Our Literacy & Numeracy workshops for Year 5 parents will run again in May and June. Further information on this will follow.



We will be issuing an online questionnaire next week and would really appreciate it if you were able to take 10 minutes to complete this.

Eco Initiatives

Next term we want to continue to discourage the use of single-use plastic bottles in school as part of our Eco Schools campaign. We would appreciate your support with this.



It has been a busy Spring term for your PTA this year. The Senior Disco, Whacky Tacky dress up day and East Belfast quiz have boosted the fundraising by over £2,000 so thanks to everyone involved in these events. The funds raised from the extremely generous donation from Knock Drama's panto at Christmas have been used to buy new music stands, a piano stool and an iPad Pro for the Music Dept. The PTA, with the funds raised by the school community, continue to support the school's diminishing budget by providing essential resources and support to give our children the best possible education.

Upcoming events include the ***Summer Fair on the 18th of May, the Easter Egg competition*** and the much anticipated return of the ***Parent Disco on the 24th of May***. We are looking for prizes for the raffles at both the Fair and the Disco so if you can donate a prize or you know anyone who can, please contact the PTA at [**strandtownpta@gmail.com**](mailto:strandtownpta@gmail.com). We also have a new Facebook page (Friends of Strandtown PTA) where you will get details of all upcoming events including the all-important info on the ticket release date for the Parent Disco.

As ever we wish to thank all of our volunteers who have helped with our events – we couldn't run these without your help. If you want to volunteer at an event or prefer to help behind the scenes, the PTA will always have a role for you. Contrary to popular belief, the current PTA consists of a very small number of parents who really need additional help. If you are interested, please e mail the PTA at the address above.

Happy Easter to all and we will see you in the Summer term – Strandtown PTA xx

Regards,
Áine Doyle