



The Brownlee Newsletter

October 2018

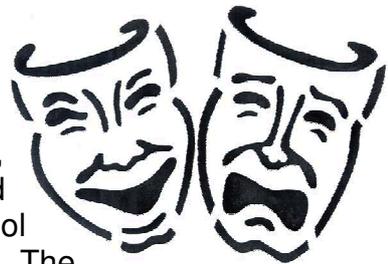
"A school where the individual is valued in a supportive and safe environment where everyone's learning experience is celebrated."

Dear Parents

I hope your child has settled well into the routine of their new class and enjoyed the first month of the autumn term. I want to thank all those parents who supported our P2-P7 information afternoon at the beginning of term and the P1 meeting on the 25th September. I trust you found these meetings reassuring and informative as your child begins a new class.

Theatre Company

On Tuesday 23rd October we are having a visit from the M&M Theatre Company who are putting on a performance of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' for the children. Due to the hall being required for setting up, we would like everyone to be provided with a packed lunch on that day. If your child receives free school meals, then a packed lunch will be ordered for them. The cost of bringing this production to school is being heavily subsidised by the PTA. I would like to say a massive thank you to the PTA for supporting us with this event. The cost per child is reduced to £1.50 per child or £2 per family. A reply slip will follow, which we would like you to return with payment by **Monday 22nd October.**



Harvest Service

Our annual harvest service for the boys and girls will take place on **Wednesday 10th October.** This will be a special assembly taken by the children from the P4 class. For this service we decorate the hall with tinned produce as well as other non-perishable foods. All the produce will then be donated to the Lisburn Food Bank. We will be setting out a table in the hallway for children to leave their donations during the week of the harvest service. Please do not bring fresh fruit and vegetables this year but only non-perishable produce.

Board of Governors

The lengthy process of reconstituting the Board of Governors for the next four years is now coming to an end. There have been a number of changes this year with Mrs Margaret Artt replacing Miss Heather Henry as a Transferor Representative from Railway Street Presbyterian Church and Councillor Scott Carson replacing Mrs Dorothy Muldrew as one of the Education Authority Representatives. Mrs Muldrew has served on the Board of Governors for over 20



years and along with Miss Henry, be greatly missed as valued members of our school's Governors. Mrs McFarland has been elected as our Teacher Representative and will replace Mrs Duffy who has been a very dedicated and knowledgeable Governor with regard to both educational and safeguarding matters.

As you know we had postal elections for our Parent Representatives and there was an extremely high turnout. Out of 153 families at the school we received 115 returns or the equivalent of 75%. The results were extremely close with literally just a few votes between the nominees. Mrs Barbara Conway and Mrs Joanne Stinson were elected onto the Board of Governors. I want to sincerely thank Mrs Conway, Mrs Stinson and Mrs Braithwaite for allowing their names to be put forward and I believe the massive response rate and the close result shows the very high regard in which all three ladies are held by our parents. Thank you to all the parents who took the time to vote and I look forward to a very successful term of office for all our Governor members.

Below is a list of our Board of Governors for your information;

Mr Gordon Lindsay (*Transferor Representative and current Chairman*)

Mr Elliott (*Principal and Hon. Secretary*)

Mrs McFarland (*Teacher Representative*)

Mrs Elizabeth Menown (*Transferor Representative*)

Rev. Michael Davidson (*Transferor Representative*)

Mrs Margaret Artt (*Transferor Representative*)

Mrs Barbara Bailie (*Education Authority Representative*)

Councillor Scott Carson (*Education Authority Representative*)

Mrs Barbara Conway (*Parent Representative*)

Mrs Joanne Stinson (*Parent Representative*)

Fancy Dress Party Day and Disco

The PTA fancy dress party day for P1-3 and disco for P4-7 will take place on **Friday 26th October**. This will take place during school time and the children can come to school dressed in their costumes. We always look forward to seeing the various costumes which seem to be of a higher standard year on year.

The school Pumpkin Competition will also be held on this day.



A separate letter will be sent out regarding the entrance fee, which will be used to cover the cost of refreshments, the DJ and resources.

PTA News

**Next PTA Meeting
Wednesday 9th October
at 2.10pm in the
staffroom. Please let
us know if you need us
to look after your child
while you are attending
the meeting.**



Christmas Craft Fair Advance notice: Call for Crafters Wednesday 5th December 2018

Any parent crafters or their friends are welcome to take up a stall. Please contact the PTA on brownlepta@gmail.com or at school office for further details & a booking form.

Christmas Raffle donations

Any parents, friends or businesses who may have suitable items to donate for the Christmas raffle - big or small, voucher or goods - all contributions will be gratefully received. Please contact PTA as above

School Bookfair

The school book fair is taking place from Tuesday 16th October and there will be an opportunity to purchase books at the end of the school day in the school assembly hall.



School Photographs

School photographs will take place on **Friday 12th October**. Family photographs can be taken first thing in the morning from 8.40am onwards in the assembly hall. It is important to inform you that only children living in the same house as a family unit can be included in family portraits. A child from another relationship can only be included if there is agreement from both parties concerned.

Parent / Teacher Interviews

Parent / Teacher interviews are scheduled to begin on **Monday 22nd October**. The school will close each day at 12.30pm for P1-3 plus older siblings and then 1.00pm for the remainder of P4-7 children. This will allow the interviews to begin promptly. The After-School Club will also be operating from 1.00pm for any parents that require it. A letter detailing your individual interview time will be sent home over the next few days.

Arrangements for parents not living together;

Please note that we can only facilitate one interview per child, however, a telephone interview can be subsequently arranged at a mutually convenient time if the child's parents feel they cannot attend the interview together.

Arrival at School

We have a couple of little issues in the mornings that I need to address. Firstly, all children who are arriving at school prior to 8.40am must go to the Breakfast Club for supervision. This morning there were a number of children who were dropped off early at the front of the school and they were playing in the front garden. This left them in a potentially vulnerable position until they were spotted by a member of staff and sent to the Breakfast Club. In future a charge will be required for this in fairness to those already paying for Breakfast Club.



On the other hand, we do have some children who are persistently arriving late each morning and therefore missing important elements of teaching. In fact, in some cases children can lose over an hour per week of class time due to being late. We do not have a registration period as

such and lessons begin promptly at 9.00am. All children should be in school for 8.55am unless there is an exceptional circumstance.

Internet Safety

Over the past number of months and again last week, we had to deal with issues in school which have originated from children watching inappropriate content online. I cannot stress strongly enough that your child should never be left unsupervised on the internet and appropriate parental filters should be in place. We will be running internet safety training for parents during the year and we would love to see as many parents, grandparents etc. attending. The risks associated with the internet are always changing and it is vital that we as parents and educators are aware of the dangers. Each year I am amazed at how little I actually know about what is out there and urge you to take this matter very seriously. Please plan for someone from your family to attend the internet training once it is announced.



Half Term

Our October half term will take place from **Monday 29th October – Friday 2nd November**. School re-opens on Monday 5th November.

Below are some important dates for your diary this month;

Monday 1st October

- P1 are now staying a full day in school and will leave at 2pm.

Tuesday 2nd October

- P3 are going on a visit to the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum.

Tuesday 9th October

- Burns Soccer School are doing a fundraising day for our school. ***Further details will follow but we would ask all children to bring a packed lunch on this day. If your child has free school meals, then a lunch will be provided.***
- PTA meeting from 2.00-3.00pm.
- Inter-Schools Table Quiz. Best wishes to our team.... Daisy Braithwaite, Caleb Morrell, Eloise Cherry and Jacob McIlwrath.

Wednesday 10th October

- This will be our school's Harvest Thanksgiving Service.

Friday 12th October

- School Photographs will take place.

Tuesday 16th October

- The Scholastic Bookfair opens in the assembly hall.

Wednesday 17th October

- Our student teacher, Mr Donnell, from Stranmillis College will start his observations today.

Friday 19th October

- Friends School will be holding their Familiarisation Afternoon at 3.30pm.

Monday 22nd October

- Parent / Teacher interviews begin and school will close at 12.30pm and 1pm each day this week.

Tuesday 23rd October

- M&M Productions will be visiting the school to perform 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. Details are above and a separate information sheet will follow. ***We would ask all children to bring a packed lunch on this day. If your child has free school meals, then a lunch will be provided.***

Friday 26th October

- Fancy dress and party day for P1-3 and disco for P4-7 during the school day. School will close at 1pm and will be followed by parent / teaching interviews. ***We would ask all children to bring a packed lunch on this day. If your child has free school meals, then a lunch will be provided.***

Our Christmas Carol Services will be held on Wednesday 12th December at 9.45am for P1-3 parents and Thursday 13th December at 9.45am for P4-7 parents.

If more information becomes available during this month I will keep you informed.

Yours sincerely

Colin Elliott

Principal

