



Not long now to the big day! In school, we have tried to make our Christmas festivities as normal as possible. The children continue to be so excited and cannot wait for Santa to arrive.

This will hopefully be the last weekly note before Christmas. I would like to thank you all for your understanding and patience this term. Your support has been and continues to be amazing. We are pleased to see some members of our school back after having Covid and our thoughts are with those who are off at this time. We wish them all a speedy recovery.

This has been a challenging term for schools and my staff has approached this in a very professional and caring manner. Like me, they are looking forward to a couple of weeks of rest and recuperation!

As we break up for the Christmas holidays just a reminder to let me know if your child tests positive for Covid, up to and including Tuesday 21st December.

On behalf of the Governors and Staff, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.



Christmas Video and Charity

All classes have now filmed their Christmas video. We hope to have this on the website week commencing 13th December. Keep your eye out for this! There may be some future stars in the making!

In the past many parents have very generously given their child's class teacher/classroom assistant a Christmas gift. Although this is always very much appreciated, this Christmas season we are encouraging a donation to enable us to purchase a defibrillator for the school instead of purchasing a 'teacher' gift. (if you already have this sorted, please don't give twice.)

The defibrillator will be available to be used in the community during school hours, should it be needed.

If you would like to donate to our defibrillator fund, please send your donation in an envelope on Monday 13th December 2021. Thank you.

Happy Health Minds Pilot

The Department of Education is funding the Happy Healthy Minds Pilot initiative. Our school will be using the Larne Well-Being Hub as our service provider. A note has been given to your child today (a copy is also attached with this note.) **This is an opt in service and as such we require your consent. Please complete the consent form and return by Tuesday 14th December.**

Diary Dates

Monday 13th – Friday 17th December 2021

Classes will be taking part in different Christmas Activities. We all can't wait!

Friday 17th December 2021

Christmas Party Day

Children may come to school in their own clothes, but please wear a coat as we may be outside at break time. Each class will have their party in their own class bubble.

Friday 17th December 2021

School will close for Christmas Holiday. Please note pick up times: -

P1	11.50am
P2 & P3	11.55am
P4	12.00pm
P5 & P6	12.05pm
P7	12.10pm

Monday 20th & Tuesday 21st December

School closed – Staff Development Days

Wednesday 23rd December – Monday 3rd January 2022 (inclusive)

Christmas Holiday School closed.

Tuesday 4th January 2022

Term 2 commences at 8.50am.

Monday 10th January 2022

Applications for P1 Intake 2022 opens on line at 12 noon.

C L Morrow
Principal

10.12.2021

Dear Parents/Guardians

Following the launch of the recent Department of Education 'Healthy Happy Minds' pilot initiative, I am writing to inform you about a service that we will soon be offering in school. We will be using the services of the Larne Well-Being Hub.

The Healthy Happy Minds pilot allows for therapeutic and counselling services to be provided to pupils, during this financial year. It is planned that a counselling service will commence early January and run on a weekly basis until March 2022.

The confidential service will offer one-to-one counselling/creative therapy for children OR access to the drop-in service for short well-being check-ins (provided parental consent has been provided for service use). Children will be able to dip into the drop-in service if they feel they would like – maybe once, never or regularly.

Areas that the counselling services can help with include anxiety, wellbeing, mental health etc.

The scheme will be advertised inside of school so that school staff and children are able to refer into it by:

1. Speaking to their class teacher or Classroom assistant.
2. Posting a note in the class worry box (P5-P7).

School staff can assist all children, with P5-P7 also able to refer themselves. Parents can also inform staff if they feel the well-being check ins are something that their child may benefit from.

Parents/guardians will be required to **opt in** should their child wish to avail of the drop-in services outlined. This is a great opportunity for our pupils to avail of specialised support which will take place in familiar surroundings on school premises during the school day.

Some children may benefit from longer sessions i.e. counselling/ creative (play/art) therapy – this will be discussed with parents/guardians **before** beginning any sessions.

Please could I ask you to complete the consent form below by Tuesday 14th December if you are **happy for your child to avail of the drop in service** as we would require your prior consent in order for them to do this.

_____ (child's name, please print) has my permission to use the
'Healthy, Happy Minds' **drop-in** service.

_____ (child's name, please print) has my permission to use the
'Healthy, Happy Minds' **Counselling/creative therapy**
service.

_____ (Print name)

_____ (Sign) _____ Date