

St Michael's Primary School Finnis

January/February 2017



The whole staff would like to wish everybody a very happy and healthy New Year, we hope everyone had a great Christmas, that you are all looking forward to the new school term and that the snow stays away!

The Down GAA coaching, taken by Liam Hardy, has commenced for the Primary 4-7 children and is on each Wednesday, children should wear their PE clothes on this day.

The Ulster GAA Council coaching, taken by Ryan Mc Shane, has commenced for the Primary 1-5 children and is on each Friday.

Netball will resume on Thursday 19th January, afterschool for all Primary 4-7 girls.

Soccer coaching will start up again on Thursday 19th January between 2.00pm and 3.00pm for P1,2,3 and between 3.00pm and 4.00pm for Primary 4,5,6 and 7 children.

Swimming has started up again on Friday 13th January, the Primary 6 children will have their last swimming lesson, Friday 27th January, after which they will remain at school.

The service of light will be held on Tuesday 31st January at 7.30pm.

First Confession will be held Tuesday 7th March at 7.30pm.

First Holy Communion will take place Saturday 6th May at 11.00am, we would ask that the current Primary 5 parents give a hand with the refreshments after Holy Communion up in the hall.

Confirmation will take place Wednesday 10th May at 6.00pm at Gargory.

Literacy and Numeracy afterschool for the Primary 6 children will start Monday 23rd January and Wednesday 25th January, these classes will run for the rest of the year.

The Down GAA draw before Christmas raised a total of £570.00. This money pays for the Down GAA coach who comes to school which costs £760.00 per year.

The sponsored walk last term was a huge success with everyone having a lovely day at Castlewellan Forest Park. An outstanding £1015.00 was raised for the school, funds which is fantastic, well done and thank you very much.

We are hoping to develop a school garden this year which will improve the outdoor learning opportunities for the children. It is also a chance to utilise the excellent relationships between parents and the school. As part of the School Development Plan it was hoped that parents could lend a hand over a series of Saturdays to create some raised beds at the front of the school. All materials, lunch and refreshments would be provided by the school. Any parent who may be able to help let Patricia know in the office. More information to follow.

Each child should have a Mathletics and Reading Eggs password which enables them to access these Numeracy and Literacy programs at home. We run a competition each week at school, with the children from each class who use these programs the most, getting a small prize on Monday morning at Assembly. Both these programs are a great, fun way to bolster your child's literacy and numeracy skills. The license for both Mathletics and Reading Eggs is paid for from funds raised by the Parents Association.

Milk Money for January and February is £3.57

The price of school dinners has gone up to £2.55 per child as of January 1st 2017 and will increase further to £2.60 from 1st September 2017.

Any Primary 4-7 child who wishes to do woodwind lessons at school please let us know, the boys and girls are coming on great as witnessed at our Carol Service before Christmas.

Guitar lessons are currently being held on Tuesdays, the charge per child is £5 per lesson.

Could all moneys be paid on a daily basis. There are some monies outstanding from before Christmas, could parents check at the office with Patricia.

When conditions are icy, the school lane can become very dangerous, could we ask all parents to ensure their children do not use the lane to walk up and down from the chapel car park when there is snow or ice. The gate at the playground will be open every day. Thank you for your understanding.

Yours faithfully

Donal Mc Caul

Principal