



OMAGH COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL

School website: www.omaghcounty.org

February 2015

Nursery and P1

As this is the time of year for enrolling Nursery and Primary 1 children for September 2015, I would remind parents that even though the closing date for completion of forms was Wednesday 14th January, late applications are still being accepted. Parents and children who have not yet enrolled or are new to the area are invited to come in and see around the school.

Half Term Holiday

School will be **closed** Friday 13th for Staff Development, Monday 16th, and Tuesday 17th February inclusive for Half Term.

AQE Test

The results of the Common Entrance Assessment test for transferring children, were received on Saturday 31st January. All Year 7 parents are currently meeting with their child's teacher to discuss progress and consider secondary level options at this time. As mentioned in last month's Newsletter, parents who require a meeting with the Principal following the issue of results, will be contacted.

Christmas Performances DVDs

We still have a number of DVDs of our Junior and Senior Christmas performances available from the School Office, should anyone wish to purchase one.



P.T.A

Once again the PTA are organising an indoor bowling tournament which will run from Monday 16th—Friday 20th February. This is shaping up to be a great success and we thank the PTA for their on-going commitment to the school.



Medical Conditions and Needs

Please remember that nuts or food with nut products should not be sent into school. Do let us know if your child has developed any noteworthy medical conditions since commencing school, e.g. asthma, allergies etc. If your child requires medication, i.e. inhaler, epipen, etc. Please ensure that they are forwarded to the school.

Free School Meals

If your circumstances have changed in recent months and you think, or are not sure, if your child(ren) may be eligible for free school meals please read the poster on the Community Notice board. Forms can be obtained from the information table in the foyer or from the school's office. Alternatively there is a link to the form on our school web site on the "Parents Page".

CHOIR NEWS

There is great excitement today as our choir have just found out that they will be taking part in the BBC Choir of the Year Competition on Monday 23rd February. Practice hard choir!!

Technology Challenge Team

Thanks to Year 7 pupils, Josh Clarke, Luke Barker and Jamie Harpur for so ably representing Omagh County P.S. in the WELB Technology Challenge on Monday 26th January.



Credit Union Quiz

We would like to thank the pupils from Year 6 and 7 who gave up their Friday night to represent Omagh County P.S. at the Omagh Credit Union Quiz. Over 20 Teams attended the event and congratulations to the Year 6 teams on coming 7th and 8th; and the Year 7 teams on coming 1st and 4th. The winning team will now go forward to the quiz finals

Winning Year 7 Team



Carl Logan, Lucy Giles, Jack Rogers and Rebecca Baxter



Year 6 Teams

Year 7 Team





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NURSERY NEWS

Little Talkers

Omagh Library
Thursday 5th February
9.30am-11.30am

Little Talkers is a practical course for parents to help develop their children's language and Communication.

There are 6 sessions lasting about two hours each. Sessions are practical and informal and cover a range of topics.

For further information contact **Marie-Louise 02882411570** or see the Nursery page of our school website.



Parky the Magician

On **Wednesday 25th February** Nursery and Year 1 children are in for a treat as **Parky the Magician** comes to school to entertain the boys and girls. A fun morning for all!

P.A.T.H.S

Year 4-7 classes are following the PATHS programme. The PATHS programme is in line with the Northern Ireland Curriculum, whilst focusing on the key concepts: emotional understanding, self-control, social problem solving, positive relationships and self-esteem. Year 4-7 staff are currently undertaking training and there will be a **parents evening on Monday 2nd March 2015** for parents to find out all about the programme.

SAFER INTERNET DAY 10th February 2015

Latest Ofcom research has shown that 91% of 5-15 year olds live in a household with internet access and over a third of all 3-4 year olds are now accessing the internet in their homes.

To keep your children safe online

- **Talk to your child about what they're up to online.** Be a part of their online life; involve the whole family and show an interest. Find out what sites they visit and what they love about them, if they know you understand they are more likely to come to you if they have any problems.
- **Watch Thinkuknow films and cartoons with your child.** The Thinkuknow site has films, games and advice for children from five all the way to 16.
- **Keep up-to-date with your child's development online.** Children grow up fast and they will be growing in confidence and learning new skills daily. It's important that as your child learns more, so do you.
- **Set boundaries in the online world just as you would in the real world.** Think about what they might see, what they share, who they talk to and how long they spend online. It is important to discuss boundaries at a young age to develop the tools and skills children need to enjoy their time online.
- **Keep all equipment that connects to the internet in a family space.** For children of this age, it is important to keep internet use in family areas so you can see the sites your child is using and be there for them if they stumble across something they don't want to see.
- **Know what connects to the internet and how.** Nowadays even the TV connects to the internet. Make sure you're aware of which devices that your child uses connect to the internet, such as their phone or games console. Also, find out how they are accessing the internet - is it your connection, or a neighbour's wifi? This will affect whether the safety setting you set are being applied.
- **Use parental controls on devices that link to the internet, such as the TV, laptops, computers, games consoles and mobile phones.** Parental controls are not just about locking and blocking, they are a tool to help you set appropriate boundaries as your child grows and develops. They are not the answer to your child's online safety, but they are a good start and they are not as difficult to install as you might think. Service providers are working hard to make them simple, effective and user friendly. **Find your service provider and learn how to set your controls**



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