

Newsletter December 2022



Welcome to our December Newsletter. Here you will find lots of information about what was happening through the month of December and you will also find some important information about things that will be happening in January and beyond.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us by emailing info@magherafeltps.magherafelt.ni.sch.uk or by phoning the school office on 02879632822



Hope for Magherafelt Foodbank Appeal

Wow! We are blown away by the huge response to our Hope for Magherafelt Foodbank Appeal. Thank you so much to everyone who contributed to this for your generosity and kindness. We know that these donations of Christmas Pyjamas and food will make a huge difference for some families in our local community.



Christmas Performances

We look forward to our P1-3 Nativity on Thursday 15 December and our P4-7 Carol Service on Friday 16 December.

Both performances will start at 10am and there will be refreshments served from 9:30am when the doors open.

There will be a retiring offering with the proceeds going towards school funds.

Thank you to all families who have returned any tickets that they do not require. If you have applied for additional tickets, we will be sending these home with the children by 9 December.

We are intending to record and share the performances on our school website so that all parents will be able to enjoy the show whether they can make it in person or not.



Holidays



The school term will finish on Wednesday 21 December at 12.00 noon.

School meals will not be provided, and there will be no bread at breaktime on this day.

The school bus will be running as normal.

This will be a Non-Uniform Day.

The Spring term commences for all children on Thursday 5 January 2023.

P1 Applications for September 2023

If your son or daughter is due to start Primary 1 in September 2023 an online application form must be completed. This form can be found at www.eani.org.uk/admissions

Application forms will go live on 10 January 2023. All forms must be completed by Friday 27 January. Any documentary evidence (eg birth certificates) is now to be uploaded to the portal alongside your application and this must be completed by Tuesday 31 January.

Please see the image below that sets out the timetable for all of this.



Morning Arrangements (8:30am-8:50am)

It is very encouraging that so many of our children are walking into school independently. We have noticed an increase in this since our first big SusTrans activity- Ditch the Dark day.

All children should enter the playground when they come to school in the morning, setting thier schoolbag where their class lines up. The bell rings at 8:50 for the children to line up and be collected for class.

If it is a wet morning, the children proceed straight into the main assembly hall instead of the playground.



Cinema Trip

We are looking forward to our Cinema Trips on Monday 12 December for P1-P3 and Monday 19 December for P4-P7. Both groups will be watching the film Matilda the Musical.

Please ensure you have returned the pro forma on the letter previously issued.



Social Media

It has come to our attention that a number of our Key Stage 2 children are on social media sites such as Instagram and TikTok.

The recommended age for setting up a social media account such as Instagram, Snapchat and TikTok is 13 yrs, meaning no primary school age children meet the minimum age requirements.

I would therefore strongly suggest that all parents delete such apps from their children's phones as they often encourage inappropriate conversations.

I ask for your support with these matters.



Easy Fundraising



If you are planning to shop on line this Christmas, please help our school raise much needed funds by using the Easy Fundraising app.

A link can be found on the school website and we would love for you to join us in this venture.

There are over 3,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva and Sainsbury's – **it doesn't cost you a penny extra!**

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3...

1. Head to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/magherafeltprimaryschool/> and join for free.
2. Every time you shop online, go to easy fundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
3. After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and Magherafelt Primary School will be really grateful for your donations.

Thank you for your support.

Dates For the Diary

Please see some important dates for the diary for the months December 2022 and January 2023.



Wraparound Care



RUBY ROOS

We have both a breakfast club and after school care facilities on offer again in school this year.

Breakfast Club

Our breakfast club will be operated by our own school staff

- It will run every morning **7:45am until 8:30am**
- The **cost £1.50 per session** which includes a selection of cereal, fruit, yoghurts, toast and a drink.
- Booking will operate through our new online payment and booking system the same as last year. Details of this will follow shortly.

- ***Our Breakfast club ends strictly at 8.30am. The children who attend Breakfast Club will then move to the front playground for Morning Supervision before class starts at 8.50am***

Afterschool Care

The pricing structure is below:

- 2 - 4pm£10.00
- 2 - 5pm.....£13.00
- 2 - 6pm.....£15.00
- 3 - 5pm.....£10.00
- 3-6pm.....£13.00
- During Ruby Roos, the children complete their homework, have a snack, take part in some games, arts & crafts activities, sports and above all have some fun. If you haven't used these facilities to date, I would encourage you to give them a go. The children who attend really enjoy it.
- Make your booking at the following link:

<https://mr-sports.co.uk/index.php/ruby-roos-childcare/>

Healthy Break Policy



As a school we believe strongly in the benefits of our children being provided with a healthy break. This discipline can help to establish good eating and drinking habits for your child's future health, enabling them to make healthier choices for themselves. A healthy break can also help pupils sustain good concentration and behaviour for longer periods in the classroom.

Healthy break options which are recommended include:

Unflavoured water or milk

Fresh fruit and/or vegetables

Bread-based products, for example white or wholemeal bread, rolls or baguettes, toast, plain bagels, wheaten, soda, pitta bread, plain bread sticks or crackers. Please provide fresh sugar-free fillings, avoiding sugary spreads.

We would be very grateful for your support in this important area. It can become very difficult for children who have been provided with a healthy snack to observe other children in their class having a less healthy option (e.g. chocolate bars, biscuits or crisps).

Please remember we are a nut free school!

Safeguarding and Child Protection

Any concerns regarding Child Protection matters should be reported to Mrs D Doherty (Designated teacher for Child Protection) or Mrs E Hutchison (Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection).

The Designated Governor for Child Protection is Mr S Hudson

A recently **updated (March 2022) copy of the Child Protection Policy** can be viewed on the school website or obtained from the school office.



MPS Safeguarding Team



**Mr I Somerville
(Principal)**



**Mrs D Doherty
(Designated
Teacher)**



**Mrs E Hutchinson
(Deputy Designated
Teacher)**



**Rev Dr J Curry
(Chairperson of the
Board of Governors)**



**Mr S Hudson
Safeguarding
Governor**

If you are concerned about the welfare of a child you can speak to anyone on this team.

Contact with the Chair of the Governors should be through 02879632822
Contact may also be made through the Principal or the Vice-principal.

Duty Social Work Gateway Team
Tel: 0300 1234 333
PSNI Public Protection Unit
0845 600 8000

School Calendar 2022/2023

A calendar for the school year has been attached and updated on the website. You will find it at the link below.

[School Calendar 2022/2023](#)

You will also find some important dates on the calendar on our school website:

[Website Calendar](#)



Medication Policy

Throughout the school year we ask all parents to complete and return to school a completed medication form if medication is to be administered to your child. This is of particular relevance for children with asthma, allergies or long term medical conditions.

Nut Allergies – Nut Free Zone

There are a number of children in school who have an allergy to nuts/peanuts.

To minimise the risk of children taking severe anaphylactic reactions to nuts/peanuts we would ask that **NO CHILD** consumes any nut products in school. Please help us make Magherafelt Primary School a **Nut Free Zone**.



Website and Social Media

Please remember to access our school website regularly during the year:

<https://www.magherafelts.com/>

The website will be updated regularly with, important information and also with work from our pupils.

Another useful point of contact is our FB and Twitter pages. Please give us a like and subscribe at the links below:

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/MagherafeltPS>

FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/MagherafeltPS/>

These pages will be updated with relevant information throughout the year as well.

Due to the rising popularity these social networking sites, staff and Governors have agreed that they will be setting a good example to the children in our school when using these sites.

We also invite parents and guardians of the children in our school to do the same.

The school's Online Safety Policy outlines the conduct expected of staff, parents and pupils.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that if you have any concerns, issues or comments about school, the staff and I are available to speak to you. Such matters should not be discussed on social media sites.

Thank you for your continued support.





Merry Christmas

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year!

I trust everyone will have a very enjoyable, restful and safe Christmas break

Ian Somerville

Principal

