



Buick Memorial Primary School Newsletter

Friday 8th September 2023



Parents and Carers,

What a beautiful week of sunshine we've had in Cullybackey! It was lovely to see the children playing happily in our playgrounds and Outdoor Learning opportunities being seized by staff. Should this beautiful weather continue, please remember to put sun cream on your child before school. Thank you.

Our second cohort of Nursery and Primary 1 pupils joined us this week and they are adapting to their new routines and indeed school life. We anticipate that Primary 1 pupils will stay until 2pm from Monday 25th September 2023. In preparation for this, pupils are invited to join us for lunch on Friday 22nd September. Lunches cost £2.60 and can be paid on the day. Pupils staying for lunch should be collected at 1pm. Those not wishing to participate, should be collected at 12:15pm.

This social opportunity will familiarise children with the Dining Centre system in advance of staying for the whole day. Further details will be sent via ParentMail. Please ensure you check this platform regularly and reply within the given timeframe. We must have strict deadlines to allow the appropriate amount of food to be ordered and prepared by our Dining Centre staff. Your understanding in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Uniform

Our Uniform Shop has now closed for Term 1. Like our post-primary colleagues, we will reopen this again in January and June to allow uniforms to be purchased. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation. It is lovely to see our new PE Kit being worn for physical activities and the consistency throughout the school. Thank you for your support in this initiative.

Parents should ensure that their child wears black or brown shoes to school – not trainers!

Free School Meals

We have a number of children enrolled within the school who would be entitled to free school meals but are not registered as such. If your child is not currently on the 'Free Meals Register' and you feel that they could/should be, please visit www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals to make an application. It is in the school's best interest to have all children who are eligible registered as such, as this impacts on the budget allocated for this academic year.

Parents who have applied should not presume their child will receive a free school meal immediately. Only parents who have completed the registration process and who have received written confirmation, will be on our list. The Education Authority has stated that pupils who are awaiting processing should pay £2.60 per day if availing of a school meal, until the registration process has been completed.

Dining Centre and Lunches

Monday, 11th September is Week 3 of our new Lunch Bunch Menu. School dinners remain at a cost of £2.60 per day. Any pupil with a food allergy **must** complete the relevant form before availing of food from our Dining Centre. These forms were sent home last week with every child. If your child doesn't have any allergies, please do not return this form to school.

We would like to remind parents that they should clearly name pack lunch bags too as they can easily get muddled in a school environment! Also, please do not send food to school which your child cannot open or does not like! It is important that children have enough food and drink to sustain them for the full day. Parents are encouraged to be mindful about sending in big bags of sweets as lunch. Nutrition is essential for growth, please carefully consider the content of your child's packed lunch.

Nut Allergies

We have a number of pupils in school with allergies to particular foods such as nuts. Buick is a 'NUT FREE SCHOOL'. We respectfully ask parents to think carefully about what items they give to their child. Please encourage healthy eating and do not send any nut products into the school environment. We must eliminate the risk of anaphylactic reactions. Your co-operation in this matter is essential in keeping all children safe.

SEAG Registration

Primary 7 parents are reminded that SEAG Registration is still open. Please ensure you have registered if you wish your child to sit the SEAG Transfer. Please visit <https://seagni.co.uk/> for further registration information and to gain information on the timings and new contents of the assessments.

Registration for SEAG is a parental responsibility and the school cannot complete such applications. The closing date for submission is Friday 22nd September 2023.

The SEAG Entrance Assessments (now only 2 papers) will be held on the following dates:

- **Saturday 11th November 2023**
- **Saturday 25th November 2023**

Parents of pupils in Primary 7, who will be competing the SEAG Transfer process, will be offered the opportunity to have their Parental Interview on Wednesday 27th September, Thursday 28th September or Friday 29th September. A ParentMail will follow to allow slots to be booked with Mrs Kyle. Parents who receive their Parent Interview now, will not need to book in again in October!

Data Collection and Medical Needs

Thank you to everybody who returned their Data Collection Forms. These are now being manually entered onto the SIMs system. It is essential that we have emergency contact numbers for all pupils as we will be sending out messages via the C2K service, in the event of any school emergency.

A small number of parents have returned forms with "potential anaphylaxis" or "potential asthma". We can only work with an official diagnosis and the relevant medication being supplied to us. It is your parental responsibility to ensure we have all appropriate information and medication in school each day, should it be required.

The Education Authority's Medical AM1 and AM2 forms are available on our website throughout the whole school year for parents to complete, should there be a change in medical conditions.

For children who fall under the high-risk categories, we must complete a Care Plan and Risk Assessment annually. If you feel that your child requires one of these Plans, please contact Miss Peters directly as soon as possible.

After School Clubs

We will begin with P3 After School Club. This is open to all P3s and will be led by Mrs Hunter and Mrs Gamble. The Club will run for 4 weeks:

- Monday 18th September
- Monday 25th September
- Monday 2nd October
- Monday 9th October

Parents will be able to book their child in for this Club and pay in advance via ParentMail. Parents should be mindful that they don't book in for the 2-3 Club on the same days!

Transport

We are still awaiting further information on the routes and provision being put in place for our children from the Education Authority's Transport Department. We recognise that Causeway Coaches has been in touch with a number of parents regarding their provision.

Buick has no control over this school element. All queries/concerns should be directed to the Transport Department at Ballee on 028 9598 5959.

Covid

Unfortunately, Covid is still present within our community, and its spread is likely to increase over the coming winter months. We have already a few cases at Buick! We will be following the Public Health / NI Direct Guidance which states:

If you have a positive COVID-19 test result, you should follow the advice below: stay at home and avoid contact with other people for five days (or three days for children and young people under 18 years of age) after the day of the test, or from the day symptoms started (whichever was earlier)

- avoid contact with people you know [to be at higher risk from COVID-19](#) for 10 days especially those with a weakened immune system
- do not visit others in a health or social care setting for 10 days
- continue to take precautions, such as regularly washing your hands and wearing a face mask, particularly in crowded indoor places
- let everyone in your household and anyone with whom you have had close contact, know that you have Covid.

School Office Opening Hours

The school office is open from 8.45am to 3.30pm and closed between 1pm-1.30pm for lunch. Please bear this in mind when ringing the school. Additionally, please be considerate of school life if you don't get through and, if necessary, leave a voicemail.

Homework Completion and Your Parental Role

This week, Buick's teaching staff discussed the quality of homework completion. It is essential that all parents ensure their child is completing their homework to the best of their ability and that the homework is signed off accordingly by a responsible parent or adult.

We must maintain our high academic standards. For all children to achieve their potential, we need to work in partnership. Any homework sent home should be easily completed as it is in line with class ability. It has been proven that pupils with supportive home learning environments will flourish within the education system. Please ensure you are fulfilling your parental responsibility.

Primary 6 Swimming

Primary 6 Swimming will recommence on 28th September. We anticipate that all pupils will participate in this portion of the PE Curriculum. Details of times and payment will be sent through via ParentMail.

Our children gain so much from the whole swimming experience: the organisation skills in preparing their swimming kit, the social interaction on the bus journey there and back, and the showering and changing independently are all life skills. We know they will thoroughly enjoy it!

Choir

Over the next few weeks, Mrs McCleery (Music Co-ordinator) will be holding auditions for Buick Choir. Please check ParentMail for further information. This is a prestigious tradition at Buick and the children will perform at our Special Events throughout the year. Buick Choir's first rehearsal is scheduled for Monday 25th September from 3pm - 3:45pm.

Assessment

This week we have been conducting baseline assessments. We use these assessments to form groupings alongside professional judgement. When we complete assessments again in May 2024, we will be able to track individual progress accordingly and record this on SIMS.

This comprehensive system allows us to target additional support, where needed, and to ensure that each child is achieving their potential.

Have a lovely weekend!

Kind regards,

R. Peters (Acting Principal)