



PRINCIPAL: Mrs J McCann B.Ed Hons, PQH  
Tel: 028 43722559  
Fax: 028 43726767  
Email: jmccann993@c2kni.net

17A Shimna Road  
Newcastle  
Co-Down  
BT33 0AS

## **September News**

We say a warm welcome back to all our existing pupils and to the new families who have joined us over the summer break, for the new term to Newcastle PS! We also welcome Mrs Bennet, Miss McCauley and Miss Dodds, new members of staff who will be covering for those staff currently on leave. Mrs Stewart will be with us until the 18<sup>th</sup> September whereby Mrs Gordon will take over the reins in P5 on Monday 21<sup>st</sup>.

School meals and snacks will be available from Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September. School meals are priced at £2.50 per day or £12.50 per week. This money should be in an envelope, clearly labelled with your child's name and the days on which dinner is required. This should then be passed to Heather on a Monday morning. If your child is entitled to Free School Meals and you have not already done so, you need to apply as soon as possible as free meals cannot be taken until confirmation is received from EA. Forms are available from Heather in the school office.

Snack remains at £2.00 per week. P1, P2 and P3 should pay snack money directly to Mrs Baines, Mrs Bennett and Mrs Thompson as snack for P1-3 is provided by them. P4-7 snack is available from the kitchen and remains at £2.00 per week and this money should be paid to Heather on a Monday. Break time snack for all classes consists of a bread based snack with fruit and water or milk. The school advocates healthy eating and if your child does not take snack we urge you to provide a healthy break for them. Each class will be operating a healthy eating scheme within their own room. We ask that you do not send fizzy drinks to school.

Money pouches are available in the school office priced at £2.50 for your convenience.

Heather or Roberta will be available in the office at the front of the school from 8.45am to 2.15pm each day. For convenience, I urge you to pay all dinner and snack money on a Monday or Heather can take monthly or termly payments if this suits better.

The first school bell will ring at 8.55am and your child will line up in their class in the playground where they will be met by their class teacher and escorted to their classroom. The bell for school to begin will ring at 9am as usual. If the weather is wet, children may enter the school assembly hall from 8.45am where they will be supervised by two members of staff until 8.55am. We ask that children arrive to school on time ready for the day ahead. Lateness especially, is very disruptive for the class, the teacher and the child. Lateness and absence is recorded on our attendance system and monitored by the Education Welfare Officer. If your child is absent or needs to leave school early for any reason, the appropriate form needs to be completed (available from Heather), as this is then filed and shown to the EWO when they visit school each month. If this is not done, the

EWO may well be in contact with you. Should your child's attendance or punctuality drop below 88% a referral to the EWO will be made by the school.

P1 pupils will stay in school to 12 noon until the week commencing 19<sup>th</sup> October when they will stay until 2pm. P2 and P3 pupils stay until 2pm each day.

Swimming for P5 and some P7 pupils commences on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015. The cost remains at £3.50.

Music Tuition provided by Education Authority in brass and woodwind will again be available this year. The cost is approximately £50.00 per term plus the hire of the instrument which this year will be £46.00. Please contact Mrs McCann if you are interested in your child taking part. Mrs Simpson will be available again for piano tuition. Please contact her for further details.

After school clubs for P4-7 will commence the week beginning Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2015 from 3 - 3.45pm. They are as follows:

Monday	Tuesday	Thursday
Hockey Art ICT	Football (TBC) Table Tennis STEM	Netball

The P1-3 after school club from 2-3pm will run from Monday to Friday this year. The cost is £2.50 per day. P1 pupils can avail of this club after half-term in November. We ask that those children who attend the 2-3 Club are picked up by an adult at the main entrance of the school. The after school club will commence on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September. Please complete a form and we would appreciate if you could have this with Heather by the Friday of the week before you require the club so we can organise appropriate numbers of staff and snack.

Due to considerable interest the school will trial a Breakfast Club. This will be open to P2-P7, Monday to Friday from 8-8.45am each morning. A bread based snack, cereal, fruit and a drink will be on offer and the cost will be £2.00 per day. Again we ask that you complete a form and pass it to Heather on the Friday prior to the week you require the club so we can organise staff and food. P1 may join the Breakfast Club if desired in Term 2 (January 2016).

For your convenience all monies can be paid monthly or termly if desired.

Any pupils who would like to take part in First Penance, First Communion or Confirmation should give their name to Mrs Milligan our Nursery Assistant who is our school link with the local church. Classes will most likely commence in October.

As always, our school website is updated regularly with school events and news. It can be found at

[www.newcastleps.com](http://www.newcastleps.com)

We also operate a text and email service, so please update your mobile numbers and email addresses with Heather to ensure you receive all news and vital information.

Please complete the enclosed Data Collection and Child Protection forms and return to school at your earliest convenience.

### **School Reminders**

1. Due to severe pupil allergies, Newcastle Primary School & Nursery Unit must be a **nut free zone**. Children **must not** bring nuts or nut products e.g. Nutella to school for lunch or snack.
2. Dogs are not permitted anywhere on our school grounds.
3. Parking in the school grounds is for staff and deliveries only.
4. Please do not ride bicycles or scooters in the school playground – we don't want any accidents!
5. Please do not wait inside the school foyer when collecting children at 3pm. The P1-3 children who attend the after school club wait here to be collected and it becomes very difficult for the staff to monitor who has been picked up if parents of older children also wait here.
6. Administration of medicine forms need to be completed or updated for any pupils who need to take **prescribed** medication during school hours, this includes asthma forms, which are available from Heather.
7. To minimise disruption during class time, if you are picking your child up early or leaving in forgotten items, please report to the school office whereby Heather will contact the relevant classroom.

### **And finally!**

The NPS stork has landed!! Our first NPS baby has arrived!! Congratulations to Ms Rennicks on the birth of her son. Mother and baby are well and we hope they are going to visit us in school soon!

It won't be long until Mrs Stewart and Mrs Hanna will be following suit and I'm sure you will join me in congratulating Mrs Wilson on the impending patter of tiny feet in December!!