



STRAIDHAVERN PRIMARY SCHOOL

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October 2023 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Guardians,

What a busy start we have had to our new school year! I trust that everyone has settled well into school routines. As ever, please don't hesitate to get in touch using Class Dojo, email, phone or face to face of course if you have any concerns or queries.

Kind Regards,
Mrs Meekin

Our School Superstars!



We are very proud of our pupils in Straidhavern Primary School, and have been delighted to distribute weekly certificates to our stars of the week for each key stage. Well done to our winners so far, we look forward to sharing lots more in the weeks ahead!

Pictured are our very first award winners of the 2023-24 academic year!

Meet the Teacher Event:

On 21st September 2023, we held our 'Meet the Teacher' workshops in each class. It was wonderful to see so many of our parents in attendance. Thank you for the feedback you provided on this event, we will be taking this on board to help us further improve our provision in the year ahead. If you have not yet had the opportunity to provide feedback on this, the link to do so can be found here: <https://forms.gle/uU1mNwM6w9qtSRpP7>

Parent Teacher Association:

Our PTA held their AGM on Friday 29th September at 9am, and roles have now been allocated for the year ahead. However, it is NOT TOO LATE TO GET INVOLVED! The PTA will be holding a meeting on Wednesday 11th October 2023 @ 6pm, with a view to planning a series of exciting events for the remainder of the first term (including an exciting Halloween event... please keep an eye on our Class Dojo



for further details!). New members are always welcome, after all many hands make light work!

Macmillan Coffee Morning:



Our Key Stage 2 pupils hosted a hugely successful Macmillan Coffee morning on Friday 29th September 2023. Not only were we blown away by the support we received in terms of donated cakes and treats, but our school assembly hall was a hive of activity! Perhaps most impressively though, our small school raised an incredible final total of £434 for the charity! Once again proving that we are indeed a small school with high expectations. Thank you so much to everyone for the support received.

School Uniform:

We as a school are proud of the way our pupils are presented each day, and hope that the updates to the school PE kit have proved beneficial for your child. We are, however, amassing quite a collection of school jumpers in lost property! Please, please check that your child has not accidentally taken home the wrong school jumper or cardigan, and be sure to label all items of uniform to help us return belongings to their rightful owners.

Wraparound Care:



Our breakfast club and after-schools programme continues to be very popular at a cost of £2.50 per hour. As before, this price is dependent on meeting minimum numbers. Please do ensure to pay any outstanding invoices as promptly as possible to ensure we remain able to provide this excellent facility.

Music Tuition Fees:

Invoices have been sent out for Music Tuition Fees for those who have chosen to take up lessons. Please ensure that these are paid before the half term break.

Parent Teacher Meetings:

Appointment slots have now been allocated for our parent teacher meetings from Tuesday 24th-Thursday 26th October 2023. Messages have been sent out to everyone with details of these, so please do get in touch if you have not yet received/need to change an appointment slot.



World Mental Health Day – Tuesday 10th October 2023



As a school we are extremely aware of the importance of mental health amongst our pupils, and are pleased to have Rosie from Jigsaw counselling in with us each week to support those who need a little help. However, adults' mental health matters too! Please know that as a school we want to support both you and your children. If your child is currently in receipt of counselling through Jigsaw in school, please be advised that you may also be eligible for up to 6 free sessions for yourself as an adult.

A Safe Space to be Me also offer counselling locally. Self-referrals can be made via their website: <https://www.asafespacetobeme.co.uk/>

Playball Halloween Camp:

We look forward to welcoming Antrim Playball back into school during the upcoming half term break (Monday 30th October-Friday 3rd November 2023). If you wish to book a space for your child at their Halloween Camp, please book directly with Playball using the link: www.playballkids.com



Straidhaven Smalls and Talls:

Our PTA Smalls and Talls group has been up and running very successfully throughout September. Please do share with those who you feel might benefit from an opportunity to get together with other parents/carers and their 0-4 year olds from 10am-11.30am each Wednesday.

Rain Suit Orders:

Waterproof Rain suits (trousers and jacket sets - as beautifully modelled by one of our pupils!) are available to order using the form below by Friday 13th October 2023 at a cost of £15 per set. These have been sourced by our PTA and are provided by Denis Wilsons of Glenavy, offering excellent value for money and durability.



<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd5hhpkWX3JmiWI5EI7DrOIXpjs78xi0tXv5HKcsDyhiEMug/viewform>