

# Our Lady's & St Mochua's Primary School

[www.derrynooseps.co.uk](http://www.derrynooseps.co.uk)

Principal: Mr G Farrell, BEd, MEd, PQH.

*Reaching for the future... A voice today...*

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15<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Dear Parent/s

Please note the following:

**15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Draw Halloween Holidays:** Many thanks for your generosity towards our 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Draw. A total sum of £4599.25 and 46 Euro was raised via the Grand Draw and Cake Sale. This money will now go towards new resources for Numeracy and ICT.

**Christmas Shoe Boxes: The families of children in P4 and P7** (one box per family) are asked to fill a shoe box that will be sent to children in Belarus. Each shoe box should be wrapped in Christmas Paper with a **£2.00** taped to the outside. Wrap lid and box separately and use an elastic band to attach the lid to the box. Age groups are 5-8yrs, 9-12yrs and 13-16yrs and items to include are small toys, games, cuddly toys, stationery, toiletries, confectionery, scarf, gloves, hat and small Christmas Card with child's first name only. Label box for age group and gender. All items should be new. This may be the only Christmas Presents these children receive. All shoe boxes should be brought into school by **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018**.

**NSPCC Assembly:** The NSPCC will visit our school on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018 and deliver an Assembly to all children in P1-6 (See letter attached) with a special workshop for P7 only. A separate letter has been sent home with all P7 Children today.

On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2018, as part of Anti Bullying Week, we will have a 'Wear a Red Day' to highlight Anti Bullying Week with money raised going to the NSPCC.

**Family Fitness Club :** A Family Fitness Club, will begin on Wednesday 7th November 2018 for 6 weeks for Children in P2-3 and their parents, from 2-3pm and for Children in P4-7 and their parents, from 3-4pm. The aim of the club will be to highlight the importance of fitness for each family. The cost of the club will be met by our Extended School Funding. If you would like to take part in the club please reply to this email ASAP. I would encourage you to consider this programme for you and your child/ren. Maximum places is 12 children and 12 adults allocated on a first come basis.

**P2 Trip – Build a Bear Belfast:** The Primary 2 Class will visit 'Build a Bear' in Belfast on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018. They will leave the school at 9.15am sharp and return for 2.00pm. Children should wear their uniform and bring a small morning snack and a packed lunch. The cost of the trip is £20.00. The cost of the bus will be met from school funds. Please return payment marked with your child's name/Build a Bear by Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

**P6 Trip:** Primary 6 will visit the **Navan Centre** on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018 as part of their study on Vikings and Monks. The children will need a packed lunch and a warm coat. The cost of the trip will be met from school funds.

**P3 Trip:** Primary 3 will visit the **Museum** in Armagh on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018 as part of their study on Toys. The children will need a snack but will return in time for lunch. The cost of the trip will be met from school funds.

**P1/2 Trip:** Primary 1 and 2 will visit **Parkanaur Forest Park Dungannon** on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2018. They will attend with Clontibret NS as part of our Shared Education Programme with costs being met via our Shared Education Funding.

**P6/7 Trip:** Primary 6 and 7 will visit **Peace Links Clones** (Sports Activity Centre) on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2018. They will attend with Clontibret NS as part of our Shared Education Programme with costs being met via our Shared Education Funding.

**Flu Vaccination:** The flu vaccination will be administered to all pupils on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2018 – This only applies to those who have given permission.

**Pantomime:** As part of our Christmas Programme we will attend Beauty and the Beast on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2018 in the Waterfront Hall Belfast. The cost will be £14.00 per child to cover ticket and bus payable in an envelope marked with your child/ren's names by Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2018. Further details in due course.

**Important:** I would appeal to all parents not to send a child to school who is displaying symptoms of flu, chest infection, slap cheek, measles, chicken pox, foot mouth etc – these are highly contagious and currently we have two children in school with low immune systems who would find it hard to fight off infection. If you suspect your child has one of the above mentioned illnesses, please keep your child at home and inform the school immediately. Your cooperation with this matter is greatly appreciated.

**First Holy Communion and Confirmation:** The date for First Holy Communion has been confirmed for Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2019 @ 11.00am in St Mochua's Church Derrynoose and Confirmation will be held on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2018 @ 3.00pm in St Patrick's Church Keady.

**Halloween Closures:** All children are asked to dress up in Halloween Costume on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2018 – spot prizes awarded! School will close for all children at 12.00 noon and reopen on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

Children have the option to attend The Halloween Party in the Community Centre as attached.

**Staff Development Day:** The school will be closed on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018 for Staff Training.

**Parent Teacher Meetings** for Primary 3-7 will take place week beginning 12<sup>th</sup> November – Dates/times will be sent home on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018. Parent Teacher Meetings for P1 and 2 will take place in February 2019.

I thank you for your continued support during this busy term.



G Farrell (Principal)

**\*\*If you do not have a printer for reply slips simply write same information on to a blank page and return.**

Dear parent/carer,

**The NSPCC's *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme is visiting our school to make sure our pupils have the knowledge and understanding they need to stay safe from abuse.**

I'm pleased to tell you that we will be working with the NSPCC, the UK's leading children's charity, who'll be delivering their ***Speak out. Stay safe.*** programme as above. This is a nationwide programme for every primary-school-aged child in the UK and Channel Islands. With the help of their friendly mascot Buddy, they'll be presenting an assembly and workshop to the children in our school.

**"NSPCC has helped me to build the confidence to tell people about my worries and problems."  
Child's feedback**

### **What is the *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme?**

Through child-friendly, interactive assemblies and workshops their specially trained staff and volunteers will give our children information about how to keep themselves safe from harm and how to get help if they have any worries, sensitively discussing issues like bullying and sexual abuse, without using scary words or adult language.

We have studied the content of the materials and heard from other schools who have participated and are extremely confident that they are appropriate for primary-school-aged children. By the end of their visit, we're convinced children will feel empowered – knowing how they can speak out and stay safe.

If you would like any more information about the NSPCC ***Speak out. Stay safe.*** programme, including frequently asked questions, you can find it on the NSPCC website [nspcc.org.uk/schools](https://nspcc.org.uk/schools) or please come into speak to me and I can provide more information.

### **Talking about the Underwear Rule with your children**

The NSPCC's work in schools will help encourage conversations about staying safe – and they have a number of child-friendly materials to help you carry on the conversation afterwards. That includes 'The Underwear Rule', a simple way for parents to help keep children safe from abuse – without using scary words.

The guide uses the rules of PANTS to teach children that their body belongs to them and them alone. You can find out more and download the free resources at [nspcc.org.uk/pants](https://nspcc.org.uk/pants)

If you'd like to know more about the NSPCC's work, or take a look at the wide range of information and advice which is available for parents and carers, please visit their website [nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/](https://nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/)

Yours sincerely

NSPCC

Our Lady's & St Mochua's Primary School

*Halloween*

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Dear Parent/s

As you are aware school will close on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2018 @ 12 Noon. *The Education Bus (Martin Gorman) will take children home at this time*

However, if you would like your child to attend the Halloween Disco as attached please complete the form attached and return in an envelope marked with your child's name and payment.

Please note that the school staff will walk those children who are going to the disco to the community centre at 1145am. Once they are there, your child will be under the supervision of Mrs Elaine McGuigan and her team. Please contact Elaine on 07564468958 with any queries that you may have.

Please return the reply slip in an envelope with exact amount with your child's name and marked Halloween Party.

Thank you  
Mr Farrell

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Halloween Disco 2018

I \_\_\_\_\_ Parnet/Guardian give permission for my child \_\_\_\_\_ to attend the Halloween Party at the Community Centre as above. I have enclosed £3.00 to meet the costs.

Yours sincerely

  

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