

October and November 2024 Newsletter

This month we welcome Miss Rachel Hutchins as our new P1 teacher covering Mrs Jones' maternity leave. Best wishes to Mrs Jones and to Mrs Foster who will go on maternity leave at the end of October.

We use **Google Classroom** to communicate with P1-7 parents. If you are having any difficulty accessing Google Classroom please contact your child's class teacher. If you don't use this, you will miss out on important communication.



Hello to our 20 new P1 pupils!

Parents on the first day of their child's absence from school must notify the school through the Google Form link below. Alternatively, sending a private message on Google Classroom or telephoning the school will suffice. Written notes are no longer required.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf_9KfYFxaL6dulSBtZo8Bs4JQGYkLR5nhFS2zLRIatWKPbgQ/viewform?usp=sharing

The above link will be also available on the school's website www.mcclintockps.co.uk.

Teachers normally will be able to access Google Classroom and answer any queries between 8.45am and 5.00pm unless attending meetings or on outside duty etc. Outside of these hours teaching staff like our parents are busy with home life so please do not expect a reply.



Our New Soft Play Area – Totally Refurbished and Totally Fun!

Thanks to the Parents' Support Group, donations from the Children's Centre, Seskinore Rural Group and local contributions the pupils outdoor play area has been transformed. Well done everyone for making our pupils happy.

Our **Parents' Support Group (PSG) AGM** will take place on **Wednesday 16th October** in the P4/5 classroom at **7.00pm**. In the cost-of-living crisis which is impacting heavily on school budgets the fundraising work of the PSG is very much appreciated. It is also an opportunity for parents to network with other parents. Hope to see you there!

After school Guitar lessons have already commenced for P4-7 pupils. Mark Carmichael will be the tutor.

Mental Maths Mayhem! On Tuesday 22nd October each class will be focusing on mental maths through a range of practical and interactive activities. Who will be our **P4-7 Times Tables King or Queen?** We will find out on the 7th October & 11th November!

Parent Interviews – Parent interviews will be conducted **22nd - 24th October**. See ‘Dates for your diary’ below for more information.

Free Way to Fundraise for the School - Please type in the link www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/mcclintockps to register and support our school. It is easy to use, with the majority of retailers offering donations to the school, at absolutely no cost to you! **There is an Easy Fundraising App on Android Google Play and Apple App Store that makes it very convenient for you to use.** Please don't forget to tell your family and friends to support us too!

Don't forget to use your **Asda Rewards app** until the 30th November. **Asda Cashpot for Schools** will give the school 0.5% costing you absolutely nothing. Again let your family and friends know to support McClintock PS fundraising.

Last month **P1-7** all pupils have been receiving **Mandarin (Chinese)** on Friday mornings. Mandarin is the most common language spoken in the world and is becoming increasingly more important in business communication. Educationalists suggest that children learning a second language helps their brain development and function!



After school P2 and P3-4 Multi-Sports started in September and will continue for 4 weeks until half term. Mr Kyle Johnston will be leading the sessions. See dates for your diary.

After school P5-7 Football begins on **Tuesday 3rd October** and will continue for 4 weeks until half term. Coach Mr Kyle Johnston, Lisbellaw United Youth Coach will take the sessions. See dates for your diary below.

Take care of school books - We are asking parents to ensure that reading books come back into school in the same condition as they were taken home. Books are also not coming back which impacts when giving out texts to other reading groups. **If books are not returned or come back in poor condition, we will have to ask that the school is reimbursed with the value of the text.**

Our successful Girls Football Team who finished as Runners-Up in the Drumragh Peace Shield, narrowly losing on penalties.

65 P4-7 McClintock pupils were put into football teams to play against Dromore PS in a Blitz on Friday 4th October.

The Purple '**Cash for Clobber**' Clothing Bank, is still located at the front of the school, outside the kitchen to encourage the habit of recycling and helping those who are less fortunate than ourselves. We are kindly asking you to continue donating any unwanted or used clothes, pairs of shoes, handbags and belts to generate much-needed funds for us and also helping parts of Africa, Pakistan and Eastern Europe at the same time. Simply deposit your bin liner into the clothing bank. The commission from your 'clobber' bags will assist us to bridge the financial shortfall in funding for our school.

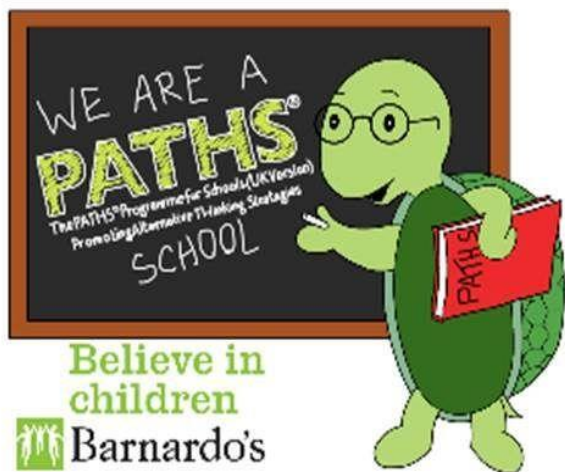
Ulster-Scots Highland Dancing takes place on Friday evenings in the school. Beginners are taught 6.00-6.40pm. New starters are all very welcome 5.30-6.15pm! Only £3 per session.

For the latest up-to-date information and photographs like and share our **Facebook Page 'Friends of McClintock Primary School'**.

Lost Clothing & Footwear - Already this term there has been a number of new clothing items that had to be deposited in the lost property box, after no-one claimed them. **Please ensure that all items of school uniform and P.E. kit has your child's name clearly labelled. A reminder that we encourage pupils to wear black footwear to school, preferably black shoes.** We are very proud of our pupils' appearance.



Accelerated Reading – The last AR Quizzing Day is Monday 26th October. Pupils should have met their three targets by this date! Thanks to our P4-7 parents who turned up at our AR Information Session. We hope you found it useful.



At McClintock PS we implement the **PATHS programme** (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies) to help empower all children to develop the key fundamental social and emotional learning skills which will enable them to make positive choices throughout life. All staff have been trained in the programme and it is taught on a regular basis in each classroom as part of the school's PDMU (Personal Development and Mutual Understanding) curriculum. See www.pathseducation.co.uk for more information.

Our **Shared Education** partnership with Roscavey and St Colmcille Primary Schools has resumed again. We have a varied programme of interactions between the schools at pupil, teacher, co-ordinator and principal level for this academic year. See our Facebook Page showing the **Outdoor P1 Play Session** at McClintock. Sessions have been arranged in our Shared Ed schools.

Under the auspices of Queen's University Archeological Centre P6 and P7 have been invited in October to take part in an **archeological dig** at the **Mellon Homestead, Ulster American Folk Park**. This sounds like fun and we are excited what we may discover!

P7 SEAG Pupils – Finally we offer our best wishes to our P7 pupils who have all worked hard for this year's Transfer Test. Mrs Thompson will be taking an After School Club on Mondays during October and November, 3.15-4.00pm.

Brass tuition for **P5-7** takes place every Tuesday morning in October and November.

Rev. Geoffrey Abraham is leading a 6-week programme with P6-7 looking at the dangers of drugs, smoking and alcohol.

Our **P4-7 School Council** has now been elected by their peers and will regularly meet with Mrs Aiken to discuss pupils issues.

We were fortunate to receive **Ulster-Scots Agency funding** this term to employ Mr David Doonan to develop singing.

Mr Dennison was successful in applying for the **Rural Micro Capital Grant** and got **6 iPads** which can be used with in classrooms!



McClintock Staff were very generous in September supporting Seskinore's Macmillan Coffee Morning and Cancer Research UK.

Please go to our Facebook Page and participate in the [Play Park Strategy Survey](#) to improve the park facilities in Seskinore. The survey closes on the 23rd October. This is the first and last opportunity in really enhancing what we have in the village.

See 'Dates for your Diary' below for the dates we are closed for Half Term.

Finally, don't forget to put in your diary that Barker's Car Wash is doing a Charity Car Wash 8.30am-4.30pm on Christmas Eve. All proceeds will be kindly given to the school.

Dates for your diary

Monday 1 st October	School Council – First Meeting 3pm
Mon 7 th , 14 th & 21 st October	P7 SEAG Club 3.15-4.00pm
Mon 7 th , 14 th & 21 st October	P2 After school Multi-Sports Coaching 2.15-3.15pm
Tues 1 st , 8 th , 15 th & 22 nd October	P3/4 After school Multi-Sports Coaching 3.15-4.15pm
Thursday 3 rd October	P5-7 After school Multi-Sports Coaching 3.15-4.15pm
Friday 4 th October	Shared Ed – Foundation Teachers Meeting at McClintock PS
Tuesday 8 th October	P4-7 Football Blitz at Dromore PS 10.00-12.30pm
Wednesday 9 th October	P6 Archaeological Dig at UAFP 10.00-12.30pm
Thursday 10 th October	Rev. Colin Mercer Whole School Assembly 11.15am
Tuesday 15 th October	Shared Ed – P1 Outdoor Play at Roscavey PS 10.00-11.30am
Wednesday 16 th October	Heather Watson CEF Whole School Assembly 11.15am
Thursday 17 th October	P6 Archaeological Dig at UAFP 10.00-12.30pm
Monday 21 st October	Shared Ed – P1-4 Road Safety Talk by the PSNI 9.30-10.00
Tuesday 22 nd October	Parents' Support Group AGM 7.00pm in P4/5 Classroom – All welcome
Wednesday 23 rd October	Shared Ed – P1 Outdoor Play at St.Colmcille's PS 10.00-11.30am
Thursday 24 th October	Rev. Bobby Orr Whole School Assembly 11.15am
Tues 22nd – Thurs 24th October	P4-7 Last Accelerated Reading Day before Mid-term (3 targets to be met by this date)
	P1-7 Mental Maths Mayhem Day
	Shared Ed – P5 Teachers Meeting at McClintock PS
	Shared Ed – P1-4 Firework Safety Talk by the PSNI 9.30-10.00
	P1-7 Parent Interviews
Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November (inclusive)	School Closed (Monday 28th Oct – Staff Development Day & Tuesday 29th Oct – Staff Baker Day)
Monday 4 th November	School Re-Opens for Pupils
Mon 4 th , 11 th , 18 th & 25 th Nov	P1/2 After school Multi-Sports Coaching 2.15-3.15pm
Mon 4 th , 11 th & 18 th November	P3/4 After school Multi-Sports Coaching 3.15-4.15pm
Tue 5 th , 12 th , 19 th & 26 th Nov	P7 SEAG Club 3.15-4.00pm
Tuesday 5 th November	P5-7 After school Football Coaching 3.15-4.15pm
Wednesday 7 th November	Mobile Library
Monday 11 th to Fri 15 th November	Pupil School Council Meeting 3.00pm
Tuesday 12 th November	P1-7 Flu Vaccine in morning
Wednesday 13 th November	Friendship Week
Thursday 14 th November	Shared Ed – P6-7 Teachers meeting at Roscavey
Monday 18 th November	Rev. Colin Mercer Whole School Assembly 11.15am
Thursday 21 st November	Shared Ed P6-7 Anti-Bullying Talk by the PSNI at St.Colmcille's PS
Friday 22 nd November	Heather Watson CEF Whole School Assembly 1.30pm
Saturday 16 th & 23 rd Nov	Last SEAG After School Club 3.15-4.00pm
Monday 25 th November	Rev. Bobby Orr Whole School Assembly 11.15am
Thursday 28 th November	P3-4 trip to Armagh Museum
Tuesday 17 th December	P7 SEAG Tests
Tuesday 24 th December	Mobile Library
	Rev. Bobby Orr Whole School Assembly 11.15am
	Christmas Production in Church Hall 10.00am & 1.30pm performances
	Barker's car wash returns for one day only. In memory of Ivor A. Barker. All proceeds to McClintock Primary school.