SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our first school newsletter this year. I hope you will find it informative and interesting! Don't forget to regularly check your child's school bag for letters and Google Classroom for digital communication. As we begin the new academic year I would like to take this opportunity to extend a welcome to all the new families who have joined us this year and warmly welcome back everyone involved in the life of McClintock Primary School.

This new term welcome new staff to McClintock – Mrs Doreen Armstrong (P3-4 Classroom Assistant), Mrs Linda Brown (Dinner Lady covering Mrs McCormick) and Mr Jordan Ardis (Cleaner covering Mrs McCormick). We hope they will enjoy working here. We also wish Mrs McCormick a full and speedy recovery after her recent operation.

We wish to make all parents aware that we have pupils in P3, P5 and P6 with allergies including nuts. A member of staff also has a nut allergy. Anything containing nuts such as Nutella, Peanut Butter, certain Cereal Bars must not be brought into school as some of our pupils will take a severe reaction. When preparing breaks and packed lunches please bear this in mind. This applies to **all** P1-7 pupils because of movements around the school, are together at lunch, at whole school assemblies etc. A letter highlighting this will be sent out to all parents.

Parent, Alistair Barker is running the Belfast Half Marathon on the 20th September. He is kindly doing it to raise funds for the Primary School & Children's Centre. We will be using some of the proceeds to revamp the outside pupil display board this year. Please support Alistair by clicking on the following link –
https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/alistair-barker-3?utm_medium=CF&utm_source=WA&fbclid=IwY2xjawToL4JwZG9mAWV4dG4DYWVtAjExAHNydGMGYXBwX2IkEDIyMjAzOTE3O

Until after the Mid Term break (From Monday 2nd November) P1 parents should collect their children from the school gate at 12.20pm, unless pupils are staying for lunch.

We are a **Healthy Break** school and want our pupils to develop life-long healthy eating habits. Find attached a copy of our guidelines for what is permitted to be brought to school for break.

We have set up **Google Classroom** for P2-7 pupils so we can communicate with parents and vice versa. P1 pupils will take a little longer to get set up on the system for Google Classroom. More information to follow. **To reduce costs and preserve the environment the vast majority of written correspondence will not be printed and issued through Google Classroom.** We will also be using **Google Forms** to collect some information from parents. **A Medical Information Google Form request (to be done for each pupil) has been sent to P2-7 pupils via Google Classroom and to P1 pupils by email.**

With the continuing cuts in education funding an excellent way to raise funds for McClintock P.S. at no cost to you is through using our on-line shopping app. 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 well known retailers offering donations to the school, at absolutely no cost to you! **We have discovered that there is an Easy Fundraising App available on Android Google Play and Apple App Store that makes it very convenient for you to purchase using mobile devices such as phones and tablets etc.** Retailers such as eBay, Amazon and all the major main street stores, including supermarket chains are in the scheme. **Please tell your family and friends to support us too!**

School priorities in McClintock's **School Development Plan for 2026-27** include focusing on Attendance, Spelling in Literacy and Number Bonds (P1-3) & Times Tables (P4-7) in Numeracy. The Shared Education Project partnership with Roscavey and St.Colmcille's Primary School will continue this year involving pupils and staff. **We would appreciate this year parents checking and signing all written homework and homework diaries please.**

Good Attendance is vitally important for your child's academic and social development. If your child is unwell then the school should be notified on the first day of absence, either by Google Classroom, Google Form, Handwritten note left into school or by telephone. The response will be recorded by either the teacher or secretary. An Absence Google Form has been sent to P2-7 parents (P1 to follow shortly).

The **Annual General Meeting** to elect the committee for the **Parents Support Group** for this academic year will take place in the school this term. I would urge parents to come along and play an active part in helping the school and perhaps make new friends.

Some dates for your diary – Parent Interviews Tuesday 20th, Wednesday 21st & Thursday 22nd October, 2.00-5.00pm. **Christmas Production (To be confirmed)** Tuesday 15th December 10am and 1.30pm performances. **Sports Day (Weather permitting)** Thursday 20th May P1-4 9.45-11.00am and P5-7 1.30-3.00pm.

Thank you to all the parents who contributed to **June's Parent Questionnaire.** A summary of the results will be sent out to parents this month. **Out of the responses we will be having an additional Parent Teacher Meetings on 9th-11th March and we have introduced a free online payment option. We will also be making little tweaks to improve the way we work.**

If you believe you may be entitled to **free school meals** please contact the **Education Authority's Free School Meals Section** on **028 9047 0233**. As part of the entitlement a **uniform grant** is also available for each pupil. I have noticed that some parents who would be entitled to receive this assistance haven't yet applied, remember that you must re-apply every year. If you believe you are eligible an early application to the Education Authority is advised, as the waiting list can be quite long at this time of year. If you wish, make me aware that you have submitted an application and I will try to assist the processing of your application by following it up with the Education Authority. For more information on eligibility visit the EA website https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals to read all the latest relevant documentation.

The **Breakfast Club in the Children's Centre** reopens from the first day of the new term, **Tuesday 1st September**. Pupils can be left in the **Children's Centre** from **8.15-8.50am** where they will be supervised and receive a healthy breakfast consisting of cereal, toast and fruit juice/milk. Children attending after 8.30am will not have time to take a full breakfast so please ensure if you would like your child to avail of the breakfast to arrive before **8.30am**. The cost for each pupil is **£1.00** per day or **£4.50** for the entire week. **Any pupils arriving at school before 8.50am should avail of the Breakfast Club, as supervision in the main school or classrooms is not available.**

After-school provision is available from the Children's Centre: 1.00-2.00pm £1.50, 2.00-3.15pm £3.00 and 3.15-4.00pm £1.50.

This month **P4-7 pupils** will be participating in the **Accelerated Reading programme** which has a proven track record in greatly improving pupil reading and comprehension. We will be hosting a Parents' Meeting in the school hall to discuss the programme. This will take place on **Wednesday 9h September 3.15-4.15pm and all P4 parents are invited to attend and P5-7 parents can come along if you would like a refresher.**

To maintain and promote the quality of **pupils' homework** parents are requested to check and sign any written homework. Homework diaries will be distributed to the P3-7 classes inviting teachers and parents to write comments. Pupil spelling/table books containing **Weekly Spelling and Number Test** scores will be sent home on Fridays for parents to view and sign. The importance of parents and teachers working in partnership to support their child cannot be over-emphasised.

Again at the end of each term **the Top Speller and Times Table/Number facts pupils** in each of the P3-7 year groups will be publicly recognised and they will receive an attractive trophy or medal at a special assembly. The Friday test scores will be used to assist in selecting the winners. Pupils will be reminded to use the **'look-visualise-say-cover-write-check'** method when learning spellings and regularly rehearse the times tables and number facts. Your child's teacher will be only too delighted to give you guidance, simply arrange a convenient meeting time!

Brass tuition for **P5-7 pupils** is scheduled to resume this **Friday 4th September**. Please ensure that instruments are brought in every week. New P5 starts who have submitted paperwork to EA will receive their cornets at the first session. To date the school do not know which P5 pupils have been selected by the EA.

I suggest that P7 parents who are considering a grammar place for their child to look at the official Schools' Entrance Assessment Group (SEAG) website – **www.seagni.co.uk**. This site provides the most up-to-date information on the process, including registration forms, a guide for parents, past papers and access arrangements etc. If you are unsure about any aspect then please contact Mrs Thompson, Mrs Somerville or myself to discuss any matter further. For your information the two test dates, which SEAG candidates must attend are Saturday 14th and 21st November at 10am in Omagh Academy. **Please note P7 parents who wish to register their child for the entrance test with SEAG have to do so before Friday 18th September. It is the parent's responsibility to enter their child with all the relevant information completed.**

The Purple **'Cash for Clobber' Clothing Bank,** is 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. A sincere thank you to parents and the local community who donated items last year. 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.

Mrs Thompson will be shortly taking an after-school **SEAG Homework Club** for P7 pupils. The first session will be **Monday 14th September, 3.15-4.00pm**.

The school will be offering **After-school P4-7 Guitar** lessons next month. Watch out shortly for a letter sent home with the pupils.

We would be grateful if parents could ensure that pupils coats and school sweaters etc. are clearly labelled as every year a number of good quality uniform items are left unclaimed. Also during the better weather pupils readily discard their sweaters during playtime, sometimes leaving ownership a problem! I believe that local stores such as Watterson's and Marks & Spencers in Omagh can provide labels and I have order forms that can be posted off, if required. It would be helpful if pupils could bring in coats with hoods to keep heads dry and warm when outside. **We also suggest that P1-2 pupils have spare underwear in their school bags.**

On PE days pupils should wear their kits into school. PE kits include red t-shirt, navy socks and shorts. In colder weather plain navy leggings/bottoms can be worn. Multi-coloured leggings/bottoms are not permissible. Could all pupils have a coat with them that they can wear outside when the colder weather returns.

McClintock Ulster-Scots Highland Dancing Group resumes again, after the summer break, on **Friday 11th September** in the school hall. The cost will be £3 per week. Everyone, particularly newcomers will be made very welcome. **Newcomers to attend the 5.30-6.15pm session.** Sessions are as follows; 4.30-5.30pm Seniors, 5.30-6.15pm First Class, 6.15-7.00pm Swords, 7.00-7.45pm Seann Truibhas. For any more information, please contact the school on 028 8284 1613.

Milk money for the autumn term is **£14.20** (71 days @ 20p per day).
Alternatively if you wish to pay **Milk Money** for a full year it is **£35.20** (176 days @ 20p per day).
Please pay to your child's class teacher by this Friday 4th September.

Dinner money is payable on Monday mornings and the cost is **£3.10 per day** - **£15.50 per week**. Please pay the school by Friday 4th September. **It would be very helpful if correct cash amounts could be given to limit change needed.** We also accept cheques payable to the school. See below our new online payment option.

McClintock P.S. now offers the option to make payments via Bank Transfer!

This option is available to everyone for any payments payable to the school, i.e. School Dinner money, Trip money, Extra Curricular money, eg. Guitar, Multi-school Sports, Swimming etc.

When sending a bank transfer, can you please input as much detail as possible in the Reference box. You have only 18 characters but you may email the Secretary, Mrs Magee at bmagee797@c2kni.net with more details if required.
For School Dinners, please input: Name, Class and M, T, W, Th, F can be used to abbreviate the days.

For example: If Joe Bloggs in P3 wants school dinner all week, please input JB P3 M-F
If Joe Bloggs in P5 wants school dinner Monday, Thursday, please input JB P5 M, Th
For any other payments, please input: Name (Initials), Class and what the payment is for, i.e. Guitar

Bank Details are as follows:

McClintock Controlled P.S.
Sort Code – 938130
Account Number - 38818047

Milk and Dinner money, clearly marked in separate envelopes with name and amount should be forwarded to the secretary, Mrs Magee. For your convenience Mrs Magee has **pouch envelope booklets** in the office for purchase at only **£2.60**. Cheques should be made payable to EA Western Region. **Please pay weekly, preferably on a Monday with the correct amount.**

Please visit our **Facebook Page 'Friends of McClintock Primary School'** and **website www.mcclintockps.co.uk** which I encourage you to look at for important school information.

Getting children to manage their finances at an early stage is important. We operate a **Credit Union savings scheme** to encourage pupils to save on a regular basis. If you would like your child to start saving, from as little as £1 per week then please contact the school's secretary, Mrs Magee who will only be happy to help.

We kindly request that each family donate an inexpensive box of tissues per child to the school for the use by pupils. We would be grateful if these can be given to your child's class teacher during the first week back.

If you have a concern about your child's progress, about the curriculum or any aspect of your child's experience at McClintock then please seek support at an early stage from the relevant member of staff. The principal is also available for discussion, after contact has been made with the appropriate individual.. We also have a Concerns/Complaints policy which is available to parents on request.

May I take this opportunity in reminding parents to park safely in the village, especially at busy drop-off and collection times. Previously the PSNI monitored this situation during the year and talked to vehicle users. Please do not park on the yellow zig-zag lines or where other users/pupils are put into danger.

If your child has asthma, they may leave a spare inhaler in school with their teacher who will store it safely. If you wish to do this then please request from the Secretary, Mrs Magee the appropriate forms that need filled in.

As we commence our new school year, please encourage your children to be organised and prepare ahead to ensure that they bring all that they require each day.

It is recommended that pupils in P1-7 should bring a pencil case with the appropriate items, for example glue stick, pencils (P1-2 Chubby Pencils), pens (P6-7 Blue/Black Writing Pen), sharpener, ruler (P5-7 30cm), eraser etc. This will assist your child to start the day properly prepared for learning.

Please also ensure, as far as possible, that children know their going home arrangements before coming to school to minimise interruptions to class during the school day.

Our aim is to promote independence and good organisational skills, which are essential to maximise children's learning. It is with parental support that we can best help your children to reach their full potential and it is with excitement that I look forward to seeing all of our children develop and make good progress throughout this new school year.

Ms Devlin will begin **Learning Support** from Thursday 17th September to help identified pupils with their academic work. **This is an additional service provided by the school for the benefit of our pupils.**

Brass tuition resumes on Friday 4th September for P5-7 pupils. P6 and 7 pupils should bring in their instruments. Education Authority Music Tutor, Mr Stephen Crooks will have the names of the P5 Brass pupils who were successful in the Music Aptitude Test taken in P4. He will meet the new Brass pupils on Friday.

Scottish Country Dancing starts in the first week back for 10 sessions. P2-7 classes will all be taught by tutor, Ruth Clarke. We hope to have a showcase at the end of the term where parents will be invited to watch the pupils perform!

Rugby tuition for **P5 and P6 Boys and Girls** will take place for 5 consecutive Fridays. We have been selected to further develop this sport during 2026-27. **PE kits should be brought in on this day and because it will be on grass football/rugby boots are highly recommended.** Gum shields are not required at this stage.

With still many viruses circulating and to protect all our pupils and staff we are asking that if your child is clearly unwell it would be advisable to keep them at home until they are fully recovered. In the case of diarrhoea/vomiting it is recommended that pupils should not be in school until 48 hours has passed since the last episode. Pupils who are sick are not in any condition to learn and their presence could spread infection to others.

A copy of the school's Child Protection leaflet – 'Protecting our Children' and School Holiday List are attached to this newsletter for your information. A copy of the School Dinner Menu has also been attached for your information.

The School will be closed for Staff Training on Friday 25th September.

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 1st September	**Autumn term commences**
Wednesday 2nd Sept	**Shirley Monteith Assembly 11.15am**
Fri 4th, 11th & 19th Sept	**P5-7 Brass tuition resumes 9.30-10.50am (Please ensure instruments are brought in every Friday)**
Wednesday 9th Sept	**P4-7 Accelerated Reading Parents Information session 3.15-4.15pm in the P4/5 classroom. P4 parents are strongly encouraged to come and P5-7 parents may come if they need a refresher on the programme.**
Friday 11th September	**Ulster-Scots Highland Dancing class resumes (see above for details)**
Mon 14th, 21st & 28th Sept	**After School Multi-Sports P2 2.15-3.15pm**
	After School Multi-Sports P3-4 3.15-4.15pm
Monday 14th September	**P7 After School SEAG 3.15-4.00pm**
Tues 15th, 22nd & 29th Sept	**After School Multi-Sports P5-7 3.15-4.15pm**
Friday 11th & 18th Sept	**P5/6 Boys and Girls Rugby Coaching from Darren McGuigan 1.45-3.15pm**
Thursday 17th September	**Learning Support begins – Ms Devlin**
Friday 18th September	**P7 SEAG entrance test application closing date**
	P6-7 Football Peace Cup at Drumragh College
Monday 21st September	**Mr Dennison – New Curriculum training**
Wednesday 23rd Sept	**Shirley Monteith Assembly 11.15am**
Friday 25th September	**SCHOOL CLOSED – TRANSFORM ED STAFF TRAINING**
	Ulster-Scots Highland Dancing on as normal
Tuesday 29th September	**P6-7 Hockey Blitz at Omagh Academy Hockey Pitch**