

Junior Campus

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22nd January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

NEW SCHOOL BUILD

The Project Team and Project Board both met this week. Sure and steady progress continues to be made and those of you with a keen eye will have noticed the formal Planning Application Notice was posted in the press this week. Formal notification of such;

The latest communication Statement from the new build project team is as follows;

On 22nd January 2013 the Minister for Education, identified a new primary school to service Islandmagee and the surrounding area to include Mullaghduh and Kilcoan Primary Schools, as one of the high priority projects to secure New Build Capital funding. This project was chosen through the Major Works Protocol. In September 2016, Mullaghduh and Kilcoan Primary Schools amalgamated to become Islandmagee Primary School operating on a split campus. P1, P2, P3 and P4 operate on (Mullaghduh) Junior site and P5, P6 P7 operate on the (Kilcoan) Senior site. This proposed project will deliver a handbook compliant five class base primary school on an EA site within the existing catchment area of Islandmagee Primary School's current enrolment. RIBA Design Stage 3 has been approved by the Department of Education in October 2020 and subsequently the design team have commenced RIBA Design Stage 4 – Detailed design & contractor tender package. A planning application for this project was issued to Mid & East Antrim Council on 22.12.20.

The time that it has taken to get to this stage has certainly been frustrating, however, the Project Team have continued to meet monthly throughout the pandemic via online platforms which has allowed work to continue. I would encourage you to register to view the application online and perhaps voice your support. ref LA02/2021/0014/F

This link should make this easier for you. <http://epicpublic.planningni.gov.uk/publicaccess/>

ADMISSION TO YEAR 1 SEPTEMBER 2021

The Year 1 Admissions process is open and applications can be made until 29th January. Guidance is available on the Education Authority Website

<https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/applying-for-a-school-place>

The following link takes you directly to the online portal for completion of applications

https://pupilservices.eani.org.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en

YEAR 7: POST PRIMARY TRANSFER

This year sees the introduction of the new **online application** system for pupils transferring from Year 7 to Post Primary. Guidance for the application process will be available on the Education Authority Website on 2nd February. The portal for completion of applications opens on **1st March and closes at 4pm on 16th March**. It is proposed that all post primary schools will have their admissions criteria finalised today; it is vital that you are aware of the criteria of the schools your child will be applying for and that you make clear reference to the criteria in your application.

I will be attending an online meeting with the Principals of Carrickfergus and Larne Grammar schools early next week to get clarification of their particular school's criteria and application processes.

I will keep you updated as information becomes available.

Children of Key Workers & Vulnerable Children

The school continues to provide supervised learning each day for children of Key Workers and Vulnerable Children; those with SEN Stage 5 Statement.

Please be advised of the following information before applying for Key Worker provision:

- This provision is supervised learning only and children will complete the same activities as those learning from home. No additional face-to-face teaching will take place.
- Children to arrive at 9am unless previous agreement has been sought and normal home times will apply
- One parent in the household must be a key worker
- Children should bring their Home Learning Pack to school each day
- As per Department of Education guidance, Key Worker provision should only be applied for if all other childcare options have been totally exhausted.
- Your child will be required to wear school uniform and have a coat, hat, scarf, gloves and appropriate footwear for outside
- Children must bring their break and lunch with them each day.

STRICTLY: If anyone in your household is experiencing symptoms you/your child must not come to school. We must be kept fully informed of any suspected cases.

SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION

The safety and wellbeing of all our children is paramount. If you have ANY concerns about your child or for another child, please do not 'stay quiet' but instead get in touch.

Child Protection Points of contact are:

Designated Teacher: Mrs Cambridge acambridge685@c2kni.net

Deputy Designated Teacher: Mrs Todd ctodd119@c2kni.net

Deputy Designated Teacher: Mrs Wolfe awolfe606@c2kni.net

Designated Governors: Miss Marie Kane and Rev. Peter Bovill

For protocol reasons I would ask that any child protection or safeguarding concerns that you have regarding a child be sent to a member of the Safeguarding Team and NOT via the generic info@ account.

REMOTE LEARNING & HOME SCHOOLING

We have had another great week! Please remember that if you are doing your best then you are doing enough. Do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's teacher if you are unsure of something or if you are having difficulty supporting your child's learning in a specific area. We all, that is the whole school family, must remain mindful that this is a particularly difficult time for everyone and we all need to look after ourselves.

Ask for help if you need it, walk away and take a break from the technology and the 'Home Learning Packs' if you need to.

Do continue to send through to teachers at least one piece of evidence of work/ learning as our evidence base. We understand that work will be done at times that fit round individual family circumstances and in the same way, responses from teachers will not be immediate either. Appropriate feedback will be given according to the relevance of the task and teacher workload; this means that parents won't be bombarded with messages too 😊

At our online staff meeting, the teachers were singing the praises of the fantastic engagement we have been experiencing to date. Well done to all concerned, you are amazing!!

Reminder: if you require a printed Home Learning Pack let your child's teacher know in advance so they can plan ahead; we are restricted as to the number of people that can be onsite at any one time.

STAFFING

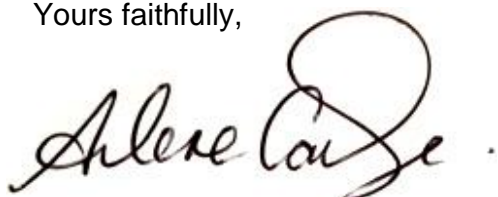
We welcomed Miss Craig back from her Career Break this month. The funding provided by the Department's Engage initiative meant that Miss Nevin would continue to be involved with the teaching of the Year 4 class to give continuity at this unusual time. Unfortunately, due to the most recent lockdown and circumstances surrounding it, Miss Nevin has not been able to get fully involved just now but remains in the background supporting and monitoring the learning in preparation for returning full time around Easter when Miss Craig goes on maternity leave.

IT IS FRIDAY!!

Have a safe and enjoyable weekend. Thank you for your patience and understanding throughout this challenging time. The messages of support and encouragement sent to staff have been very much appreciated.

Have a well-deserved break and we will all be back again on Monday.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs A. Cambridge
Principal