



TOBERMORE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 4

September/October 2020

Calendar for November and December

Please take note of the dates below:

19th October 2020 -30th October 2020 –
Halloween holidays.

2nd November 2020 – Transfer Club
→ 3:00pm – 4:00pm

2nd November 2020 – PTA Meeting at
6:30pm

4th November 2020 – Transfer Club
→ 3:00pm – 4:00pm

6th November 2020 – Flu Vaccinations

9th November 2020 – Transfer Club
→ 3:00pm – 4:00pm

11th November 2020 – Transfer Club
→ 3:00pm – 4:00pm

16th November 2020 – Transfer Club
→ 3:00pm – 4:00pm

18th November 2020 – Transfer Club
→ 3:00pm – 4:00pm

23rd November 2020 – Transfer Club
→ 3:00pm – 4:00pm

25th November 2020 – Transfer Club
→ 3:00pm – 4:00pm

26th November 2020 – Board of
Governor Meeting @ 7:00pm

30th November 2020 – Transfer Club
→ 3:00pm – 4:00pm

2nd December 2020 – Transfer Club
→ 3:00pm – 4:00pm

7th December 2020 – Transfer Club
→ 3:00pm – 4:00pm

9th December 2020 – Transfer Club
→ 3:00pm – 4:00pm

18th December 2020 – School closes
for Christmas Holidays at 12:00pm for
all pupils

All dates are subject to change

Dear Parents/Carers,

The beginning of this academic year is a year unlike any other. During this time the support and encouragement from our parents, pupils and local community has been overwhelming. It has also been lovely to see the classrooms filled with happy, smiling children and to hear the laughter in the playground once again.

I hope you can appreciate that we have tried to keep disruption to a minimum whilst doing our best to keep everyone safe.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to welcome our new Year 1 pupils and other pupils in Year 6 and Year 4 to Tobermore Primary School. You have all settled in extremely well and we hope you are enjoying your time in school

Please check out our school website and school Facebook page to keep up to date with all that is going on in Tobermore Primary School.

Mr Cheevers

Free School Meals and Uniform Entitlement

If you feel that your child/children are entitled to Free School Meals or a Uniform Allowance, please contact Mrs Robb in the school office or use the link below.

<https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-school-uniform-allowance>

Absent notes

If your child is absent from school for any reason, please can you complete an 'Absent Form' and return it to your child's teacher. These can be downloaded from the website or a copy can be collected from your child's teacher. Attendance is a key part of school life; therefore, it is very important to attend school as good attendance is crucial in raising standards in education and ensuring that every child can have full access to the school curriculum and reach their full potential.

Child Protection/Safeguarding

Please remember that if you have any concerns about your own child or another child outside school, you should share these concerns with **Mrs Smyth** (Designated Teacher for Child Protection and Safeguarding), **Mrs Speers** (Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection and Safeguarding) or **Mr Cheevers**.

House Points

Please take a look at our 'House Points' on our school website. Each pupil in school will receive points for lots of different activities to accumulate points for their house. There will be winning 'House' at the end of each term and a trophy presented at the end of each year to the overall winner. Keep up to date with the points at the end of each week to see who is leading the way.

Pupil of the Month Awards and Other Certificates

Pupil have received their September and October Pupil of the Month Awards. Additionally, we have also handed out certificates for children who have been performing well in Studyladder and Accelerated Reading. All the staff are so proud of all our pupils who have achieved success by gaining any of these certificates. Well done!

Blended Learning

As I am sure you are all aware, pupils are now completing work at home using various online platforms. Year 1 – 4 are using Studyladder and SeeSaw, while Year 5 – 7 are using Studyladder. Thank you for your perseverance and understanding with these new online learning procedures. These platforms allow us to assess homework that is completed and provide written feedback. If anyone is still struggling with accessing or uploading work, please contact the school and we will endeavour to help you.

I would also like to pay a special mention to all the children who have adapted to these platforms with ease and produced brilliant work. Well done!

In the event of an emergency school closure, pupils will be encouraged to continue to learn at home. We strongly hope that our school will not need to close, or a class bubble will not need to isolate. We therefore have put in place a contingency plan in the event of any school closure.



Each class will use various online platforms to communicate between home and school. Year 1 – 4 will use the Seesaw application for communication and Year 5 to 7 will use Microsoft Teams. In the event of a closure, class teachers will direct pupils and parents to the learning activities for the time that school may be closed or for the time a class bubble would have to isolate. We will encourage all pupils to read every day and use online activities to continue with their learning.

You have already received login information for Seesaw/Microsoft Teams, Studyladder and Accelerated Reader (Year 4 – 7). If you do not have any of this information, please get in contact with your child's teacher as soon as possible.

Online learning tasks via Seesaw and Microsoft Teams

In the event of a school closure our teachers will set online learning tasks via Seesaw in Year 1 – 4 and using Microsoft Teams in Year 5 - 7. We may also use the Home Learning section of the school website to upload documents. Pupils will also be sent home Numeracy and Literacy books and work can be completed on this, a picture taken, and this then uploaded to Microsoft Teams or SeeSaw.

Written Work Packs

If there is a school closure or a class needs to self-isolate, we may be able to provide some written work packs of key learning tasks. However, these need to be prepared as we can only prepare these when and if these situations arise.

Accelerated Reading

Children in Year 4 – 7 are taking part in Accelerated Reading in class and taking tests. Children can also complete their tests at home. Please find the Accelerated Reading page on the school website and click on the link to the webpage.

PTA

Tobermore Primary School PTA AGM occurred on Monday 28th September. The following were voted on as office bearers

Chairperson: - Lois Kane

Treasurer: - Claire Moore

Secretary: - Keith Quigley

Our PTA have held one meeting per month and are continuing to organise events for the remainder of the year. If you can be of any support to our PTA, please look at the website and get in contact with some of the members to see how you can help. The PTA have already been busy this Term spending over £1200 on new reading books, to add to the books that were purchased last year.

The PTA are now registered with Easy Fundraising, which means you can help our PTA for FREE. Over 4,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! All you need to do is sign up and remember to use easyfundraising whenever you shop online. It's easy and completely FREE! These donations really mount up, so please sign up to support us at

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/tobermoreprimarypta/?utm_campaign=raisemore&utm_medium=email&utm_content=en-n1

Here is the link for website <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/tobermoreprimarypta/>

School Uniform

The school is very proud of its children; it is proud to see them in school uniform and insists that all children wear it every day. **All pupils are permitted to wear plain navy trousers only.** Your child will not be allowed to wear tracksuit bottoms with logos on them.

***** Please also ensure that all parts of school uniform are labelled with your child's name *****

Boys	Girls	PE Kit
A blue polo-shirt A navy sweatshirt with crest Navy trousers	A blue polo-shirt A navy sweat shirt with crest Navy trousers, a navy skirt or pinafore White or navy socks	A blue polo-shirt Navy (unlabelled) tracksuit bottoms or navy (unlabelled) shorts Tracksuit Bottoms and shorts can only be worn on P.E. days

PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOUR CHILD HAS A WARM/WATERPROOF COAT WITH THEM AT ALL TIMES.

If for any reason that your child is unable to wear full school uniform or PE uniform to school, a note must be given to your child's teacher with an explanation.

Crossing Patrol – Mr Bradley

Just a quick reminder to keep the space between the school gates free of cars. This is in order to allow Mr Bradley room to be seen and stay safe. Additionally, this allows Mr Bradley to help your children safely cross the road. Please keep this in mind when coming to collect your children.

Cash for Clobber and Shoe Box Appeal.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill a bag or more of clothes for our 'Cash for Clobber' appeal. We have received lots of bags which will be used to provide some funds to the school. Additionally, well done to everyone who has sent back a shoebox full of goodies to support the Shoebox Appeal. Once again, the generosity of our school community has shone through



COVID 19 Information

We are working in line with Department of Education guidelines. We have risk assessments in place and have worked hard to ensure our school is as safe as possible.

Here are some important things to remember:

- Please inform school immediately if you have a confirmed COVID case in your family.
- If you or your child has been tested and you are awaiting a result, please do not send your child to school.
- If your child is unwell, please do not send your child into school. It would be beneficial if you could check your own child's temperature before coming to school.
- If we have a confirmed case of COVID in our school community, we will follow the steps given to us by the Education Authority and will consult with the PHA for advice individual to each circumstance.
- Due to this, it therefore may be last minute that you are contacted to keep your child at home depending on when we are informed of a positive case.
- It is important to stress that we have been instructed to NOT reveal the identity of the individual with a positive test. We will inform all of the school community of the steps we are taking but the name of the individual(s) will not be released in line with protocols given to us.
- If a class needs to self-isolate, then remote learning will be available. If a teacher is unwell a substitute teacher or Mr Cheevers, in the first instance will take over the remote learning for the class. It is therefore important that you know your child's login details for remote learning.
- If you have any questions about our contingency plans or COVID response plans, please contact Mr Cheevers directly by ringing the school or via email (icheevers766@c2kni.net).



INFORMATION FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Everyone has a role to play in keeping our schools safe and helping to stop the spread of COVID-19.

DON'T SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF THEY HAVE COVID-19 SYMPTOMS.

VISIT [NIDIRECT.GOV.UK/ CORONAVIRUS](https://nidirect.gov.uk/coronavirus) TO BOOK A TEST ONLINE. CALL 119 IF YOU CANNOT BOOK A TEST ONLINE.

YOU SHOULD BOOK A COVID-19 TEST IF YOUR CHILD HAS:

A HIGH TEMPERATURE

This means they feel hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure their temperature).

OR

A NEW CONTINUOUS COUGH

This means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if they usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).

OR

A LOSS OR CHANGE TO THEIR SENSE OF SMELL OR TASTE

This means they've noticed they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

IF YOUR CHILD DOES NOT HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 BUT HAS OTHER COLD-LIKE SYMPTOMS, SUCH AS A RUNNY NOSE, THEY DO NOT NEED TO BE TESTED AND THEY OR MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD DO NOT NEED TO SELF-ISOLATE. YOUR CHILD CAN ATTEND SCHOOL IF FIT TO DO SO.

HERE'S WHAT TO DO IF:

YOUR CHILD HAS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Book a COVID-19 test
- Household self-isolates
- Inform school immediately about test result

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school if the test is negative providing they are well enough, have not had a fever for 48 hours and if they haven't been advised to self-isolate by the PHA Contact Tracing Service.

YOUR CHILD TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Inform school immediately about test result
- Self-isolate for at least 10 days as advised by the PHA.

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school after 10 days even if they still have a cough / loss of smell or taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks.

SOMEBODY IN MY HOUSEHOLD HAS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- The household member should book a COVID-19 test
- Household self-isolates
- Inform school immediately about test result

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school if the symptomatic household member's test is negative and if they haven't been advised to self-isolate by the PHA Contact Tracing Service.

SOMEBODY IN MY HOUSEHOLD TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Inform school immediately about test result

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school when they have completed 14 days of self-isolation without any symptoms*.

CONTACT TRACING HAS IDENTIFIED MY CHILD AS A CLOSE CONTACT

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Self-isolate for at least 14 days as advised by the PHA Contact Tracing Service

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school when they have completed 14 days of self-isolation without any symptoms*.

YOUR CHILD HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS A CLOSE CONTACT

WHAT TO DO?

- Attend school as normal
- If your child does not have any COVID-19 symptoms they should carry on with normal activities.

YOUR CHILD HAS TRAVELLED ABROAD AND HAS TO SELF-ISOLATE

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Self-isolate for 14 days in line with quarantine advice

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school when they have completed 14 days of self-isolation without any symptoms*.

*If your child has been identified as a close contact of a case of COVID-19, or has returned from travel abroad and is self-isolating, they must self-isolate for 14 days regardless of a negative COVID-19 test result.

Further information, including Frequently Asked Questions for Parents and Carers, can be found on the Department of Education's website at www.education-ni.gov.uk