

## **TOBERMORE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER**

**Issue No. 9**

**March/April 2022**

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have a brilliant Term 2 in school with lots of exciting activities taking place and normal school life slowly returning. There is the saying the time flies when you are having fun and certainly this term has been one of fun for pupils and staff. It is hard to believe that when we return after Easter there will be 10 weeks until our summer holidays.

Thank you to all the staff, both teaching and non-teaching staff for their continued dedication to all the children in our school and for providing a safe and fun environment for them to learn.

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**

Mrs Speers is our Designated Teacher for Child Protection and Safeguarding and Mr Cheevers is our Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection and 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 Speers** (Designated Teacher for Child Protection and Safeguarding), **Mr Cheevers** (Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection and Safeguarding) or **Mr K. Quigley** (Designated Governor for Child Protection and Safeguarding).

### **Pupil of the Month Awards and Other Certificates**

Pupil have received their March Pupil of the Month Awards and will receive their April awards when they return to school after the Easter break. In addition to these awards, children have also received certificates due to performing well in Nessy, 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!

### **Breakfast Club**

Breakfast Club begins at 8:20am every morning and costs **80 pence** per day or £4.00 for the full week. If you are interested in sending your child to Breakfast Club, please contact Mr Cheevers for more information.

### **Eco Committee – After School Club**



Mrs Hawthorne, Miss O'Neill, and Mr Hunter our student teacher from Stranmillis University College have been working very hard on Thursday afternoon during Eco Club. Lots of effort has been made to tidy up our garden area by painting, weeding, and preparing the raised beds.

The children have also received a new shed to store their equipment in. The children have been planting their vegetables hope to be able to grow their own produce. There is also the hope of achieving an award at the end of this year for growing their vegetables.

Mrs Hawthorne also contacted Mid Ulster Council and Karen Brown. From this meeting Mrs Hawthorne was able to source bags of compost and a Brown Bin for compost which our Eco Committee use to empty their food caddies.



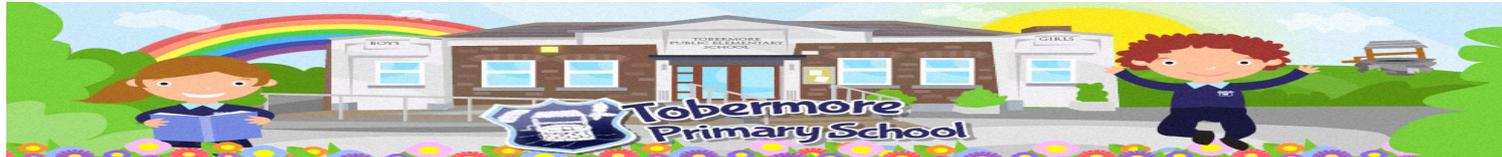
Mr Hunter and his dad also upcycled an old bathtub which we are looking forward to using in our garden.

As you can see, the Eco Committee and our staff have been extremely busy, and we would like to thank them for making our garden so beautiful and full of life.

All this hard work will also go towards helping our Eco Committee to renew our Green Flag.

### **School Website and Facebook**

Please keep up to date with any new information and news over the school year via our online platforms, our school website and Facebook page.



### **Engage Programme**

Mrs Smyth/Miss O'Neill continue to support the children in our Engage Programme funded by the EA. This is helping support groups of children in Year 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 with aspects of Literacy. We have also received new funding for this until the end of June 2022

### **School Dinners**

Please remember to check the website for updates to our dinner menu. Dinners cost £2.60 per day and if possible, please can all money be sent to school at the start of the week.

### **World Book Day**

This year we celebrated World Book Day on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Children were encouraged to create their own interpretation of their favourite book cover. The results were fantastic, and the children really excelled themselves completing some amazing book covers.

Well done to all the winners who received a prize for their efforts. A huge thank you to Mrs Speers for organising and coming up with this event.

### **Visitors to School**

We have been pleased to welcome in Pastor Dundas, Reverend Boyd, Reverend Diffin, and Emma Reid from CEF, to take class assemblies over March and April. The pupils in each class have enjoyed the messages from the scripture.

Unfortunately, we have had to say goodbye to Emma Reid from CEF, who is moving to a new role after Easter. It has been a pleasure to have had Emma in school over the last number of years and we want to thank her for all her time and efforts with the children. We would also like to wish her all the best in her new job. Please come back to see us, Emma if you are in the area.

### **PTA**

Please remember our 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](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/>

Our PTA met in March and have started to plan for our Duck Race on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June. The PTA have also funded a new PE scheme for next year, helped fund work being completed in the school garden and are buying the sign for our Outdoor Classroom.

### **Homework Reminder**

From Monday to Thursday your child receives homework from their teacher. This homework can be a learning homework, a written homework, or a reading homework. Homework is set to strengthen the already positive relationships that we have in Tobermore Primary School between staff and parents and to acknowledge the role that parents play in supporting their child's learning. Parents are key to helping support and develop their child's learning.

In addition, homework is set to allow you to see what activities your child is completing in school and how they are getting on in school and to continue to create a learning environment at home. In Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 children will require more 1 to 1 support as they are learning key concepts such as letter sounds, number recognition, etc.

Please ensure that you check in your child's school bag or folder daily as it is an integral way of communicating with the school as well as allowing you to check and complete homework. We appreciate your support with this.

### **Share the Walk and Big Walk & Wheel**

Over the month of March our children took part in Share the Walk activities and the Big Walk & Wheel. Thank you to all the children who participated in both these events. On one of the days, we had over 30 bikes in our bike shed and Steven from Sustrans was very impressed.

Thank you to all the staff for their continued support and encouragement to all the pupils in school and to help organise these events.

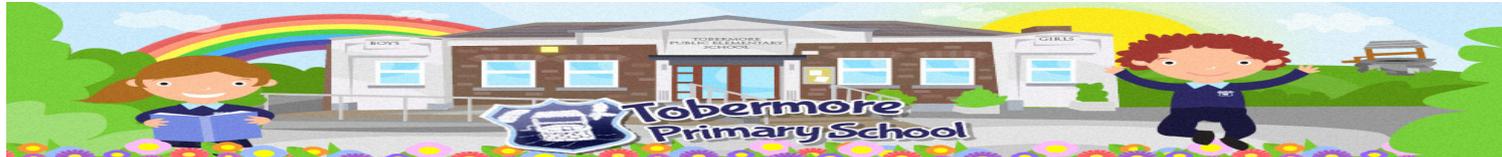
### **Sustrans**

Thank you to our Sustrans' Officer Steven for coming into school and working with our children from Year 1 to Year 5. The children in Mrs Speers' class had a great day on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March on their bikes and scooters. Two pupils in Primary One also completed Ditch the Stabilisers and by the end of the session they were successful in riding their bike without the stabilisers! Well done Emily and Isabel and thank you to your parents who came along to assist.

The children in Mrs Hawthorne's class had a great session outside in the beautiful sunshine with Steven. He showed the children how to check their bikes correctly and played lots of balancing games.

### **Daffodil Tea Party**

Our Daffodil Tea Party was held on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April and all proceeds went towards our school garden. Thank you to all the staff for working so hard in organising this event and preparing the children. A special mention to Mrs Hawthorne for organising the event, Mr Hunter for his musical expertise and for Miss O' Neill who helped prepare the children with the music.



### Mr Hunter

At the end of Term 2 Mr Hunter, who has been teaching in Year 6 and Year 7, will finish his teaching practice in Tobermore Primary School. During his time in our school, he has made a wonderful impression and has become part of our school community. He has developed a wonderful rapport with the children he has taught and has cemented wonderful relationships with staff too.

Mr Hunter helped staff and pupils prepare for the Daffodil Tea Party and he was also heavily involved in our Eco Committee. He will be missed by everyone, and I am sure you would all like to wish him all the best for his future in teaching.

### Ulster Scots

In Term 3, Willie Hill from Ulster Scots will teach children about drumming. These sessions will take place on Tuesday afternoons and are for children in Year 4 to Year 7. This after-school club has been funded by Ulster Scots and there will be no cost for this. The club will begin on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022 from 3pm to 4pm.

This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about music and the Ulster Scots. The children will be working on the OCN Level II qualification which involves practical work as well as theory, the history and construction of the drum, using a specific workbook. The children will be awarded a certificate at the end of the course.

Please find below the dates for the Ulster Scots Drumming on Tuesday afternoon: -

Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> April 2022	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2022	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> May 2022	Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> May 2022	Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2022
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2022	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2022	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2022	Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2022	Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2022

Please note the additional date on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Ulster Scots will also be taking our Year 3, 4 and 5 class and our Year 6 and 7 class for dancing in Term 3 as part of our PE lessons on Tuesdays.

### Outdoor Play Equipment

Over the past year the school has received numerous pieces of funding from the EA. We were really excited about using this money to continue to develop our outdoor area and encourage our pupils to take part in a variety of new activities at break and lunch time and during class time. Thank you to Mrs Robb for ordering all this equipment and to all the teaching staff for choosing a wonderful selection of equipment for our children to use. Another special thank you to our teaching and non-teaching staff for organising all this equipment for each playground.

### Cycling Proficiency

Mrs Hawthorne has started taking some of our Year 6 and Year 7 pupils for Cycling Proficiency on Wednesday afternoon. This is important for our pupils for them to learn how to cycle safely on the roads. We wish all our children all the best with this. Please see the school calendar for the Cycling Proficiency dates.

### 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 see the website for additional information on our school uniform.*

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.

In Term 3, we want to continue to keep the standards of school uniform high in school and to ensure this happens, Mr Cheevers will be monitoring school uniform over the next 2 months.

### Lateness

Our school day begins every morning at 9:00am. Children are permitted in the school building from 8:50am. Please ensure that your child is in school by 9:00am to help ensure they are starting their school day with the rest of their classmates. This is an important part of their school day and provides consistency and helps children settle into their classroom.

In addition, school ends at 2:00pm for children in Year 1, 2 & 3 and 3:00pm for children in Year 4, 5, 6 and 7. If for any reason, your child is going to be late for school or they are going to be collected late from school, please contact the school office.

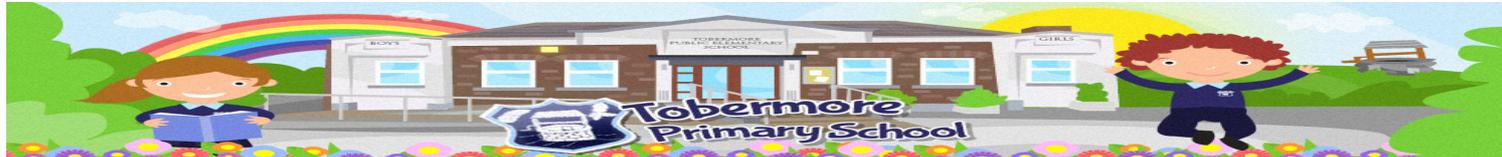
### Year 3 Pupils

Year 3 pupils will stay in school on Tuesday and Thursday to 3:00pm in Term 3. Pupils will leave school at 2:00pm on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

### Important Dates

On **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April** school will finish at **11:30 am** for all pupils for Easter Holidays. On **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April** and **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April**, the week after we return from Easter holidays, school will close at **2:00pm** for all children. Staff will be taking part in training and the 2:00pm finish on these days will help facilitate this. Tobermore Primary School will be closed on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May** for the Northern Ireland Assembly Election.

**If you wish to check on any of the events that have been mentioned in our newsletter, please check our school website or our Facebook page.**



Calendar for April, May, and June

Please take note of the dates below:

- 25<sup>th</sup> April**  
 – Term 3 begins  
 – School closes at 2pm for staff Training
- 26<sup>th</sup> April**  
 – Sustrans Big Street Survey for Year 6 and Year 7 pupils  
 – Ulster Scots Dance for Year 3, 4 and 5 @ 1:10pm  
 – Ulster Scots Dance for Year 6 and 7 @ 2:05pm  
 – Ulster Scots Drumming for Year 4 to Year 7 @ 3:00pm to 4:00pm
- 27<sup>th</sup> April**  
 – Cycling Proficiency with Mrs Hawthorne for Year 6 and Year 7 pupils
- 28<sup>th</sup> April**  
 – School closes at 2pm for staff Training  
 – Piano with Mrs Hanna  
 – Year 1 places for September 2022 allocated  
 – Daily Mile – 10 Year Anniversary
- 29<sup>th</sup> April**  
 – Activity NI - Wellbeing PE Lessons – 9:10am to 9:55am (Year 1 and Year 2)  
 – Activity NI - Wellbeing PE Lessons - 11:00am to 11:55am (Year 3, Year 4, and Year 5)  
 – Activity NI - Wellbeing PE Lessons – 9:10am to 9:55am (Year 6 and Year 7)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> May**  
 – School closed (May Day)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> May**  
 – Ulster Scots Dance for Year 3, 4 and 5 @ 1:10pm  
 – Ulster Scots Dance for Year 6 and 7 @ 2:05pm  
 – Ulster Scots Drumming for Year 4 to Year 7 @ 3:00pm to 4:00pm
- 4<sup>th</sup> May**  
 – Cycling Proficiency with Mrs Hawthorne for Year 6 and Year 7 pupils
- 5<sup>th</sup> May**  
 – School closed for Election
- 6<sup>th</sup> May**  
 – Activity NI - Wellbeing PE Lessons – 9:10am to 9:55am (Year 1 and Year 2)  
 – Activity NI - Wellbeing PE Lessons - 11:00am to 11:55am (Year 3, Year 4, and Year 5)  
 – Activity NI - Wellbeing PE Lessons – 9:10am to 9:55am (Year 6 and Year 7)  
 – Football Tournament at Woods Primary School
- 9<sup>th</sup> May**  
 – Entrance Exam Club (Year 6)
- 10<sup>th</sup> May**  
 – Ulster Scots Dance for Year 3, 4 and 5 @ 1:10pm  
 – Ulster Scots Dance for Year 6 and 7 @ 2:05pm  
 – Ulster Scots Drumming for Year 4 to Year 7 @ 3:00pm to 4:00pm
- 11<sup>th</sup> May**  
 – Cycling Proficiency with Mrs Hawthorne for Year 6 and Year 7 pupils
- 12<sup>th</sup> May**  
 – Piano with Mrs Hanna  
 – Eco Club
- 13<sup>th</sup> May**  
 – Activity NI - Wellbeing PE Lessons – 9:10am to 9:55am (Year 1 and Year 2)  
 – Activity NI - Wellbeing PE Lessons - 11:00am to 11:55am (Year 3, Year 4, and Year 5)  
 – Activity NI - Wellbeing PE Lessons – 9:10am to 9:55am (Year 6 and Year 7)
- 16<sup>th</sup> May**  
 – Entrance Exam Club (Year 6)  
 – Assessment Week begins

Calendar for April, May, and June

Please take note of the dates below:

- 17<sup>th</sup> May**  
 – Ulster Scots Dance for Year 3, 4 and 5 @ 1:10pm  
 – Ulster Scots Dance for Year 6 and 7 @ 2:05pm  
 – Ulster Scots Drumming for Year 4 to Year 7 @ 3:00pm to 4:00pm
- 18<sup>th</sup> May**  
 – Cycling Proficiency with Mrs Hawthorne for Year 6 and Year 7 pupils
- 19<sup>th</sup> May**  
 – Board of Governors’ Meeting  
 – Piano with Mrs Hanna  
 – Eco Club
- 20<sup>th</sup> May**  
 – Activity NI - Wellbeing PE Lessons – 9:10am to 9:55am (Year 1 and Year 2)  
 – Activity NI - Wellbeing PE Lessons - 11:00am to 11:55am (Year 3, Year 4, and Year 5)  
 – Activity NI - Wellbeing PE Lessons – 9:10am to 9:55am (Year 6 and Year 7)
- 21<sup>st</sup> May**  
 – Year 7 Post Primary School Allocation
- 23<sup>rd</sup> May**  
 – Entrance Exam Club (Year 6)
- 24<sup>th</sup> May**  
 – Ulster Scots Dance for Year 3, 4 and 5 @ 1:10pm  
 – Ulster Scots Dance for Year 6 and 7 @ 2:05pm  
 – Ulster Scots Drumming for Year 4 to Year 7 @ 3:00pm to 4:00pm
- 25<sup>th</sup> May**  
 – Cycling Proficiency with Mrs Hawthorne for Year 6 and Year 7 pupils
- 26<sup>th</sup> May**  
 – Piano with Mrs Hanna  
 – Eco Club
- 27<sup>th</sup> May**  
 – Activity NI - Wellbeing PE Lessons – 9:10am to 9:55am (Year 1 and Year 2)  
 – Activity NI - Wellbeing PE Lessons - 11:00am to 11:55am (Year 3, Year 4, and Year 5)  
 – Activity NI - Wellbeing PE Lessons – 9:10am to 9:55am (Year 6 and Year 7)
- 30<sup>th</sup> May**  
 – Entrance Exam Club (Year 6)
- 31<sup>st</sup> May**  
 – Jubilee Party  
 – Ulster Scots Dance for Year 3, 4 and 5 @ 1:10pm  
 – Ulster Scots Dance for Year 6 and 7 @ 2:05pm  
 – Ulster Scots Drumming for Year 4 to Year 7 @ 3:00pm to 4:00pm
- 1<sup>st</sup> June**  
 – School Closed
- 2<sup>nd</sup> June**  
 – School Closed
- 3<sup>rd</sup> June**  
 – School Closed
- 6<sup>th</sup> June**  
 – Entrance Exam Club (Year 6)
- 7<sup>th</sup> June**  
 – Ulster Scots Dance for Year 3, 4 and 5 @ 1:10pm  
 – Ulster Scots Dance for Year 6 and 7 @ 2:05pm  
 – Ulster Scots Drumming for Year 4 to Year 7 @ 3:00pm to 4:00pm
- 8<sup>th</sup> June**  
 – Cycling Proficiency with Mrs Hawthorne for Year 6 and Year 7 pupils
- 9<sup>th</sup> June**  
 – Sports Day

Calendar for April, May, and June

Please take note of the dates below:

- 10<sup>th</sup> June**  
 – Activity NI - Wellbeing PE Lessons – 9:10am to 9:55am (Year 1 and Year 2)  
 – Activity NI - Wellbeing PE Lessons - 11:00am to 11:55am (Year 3, Year 4, and Year 5)  
 – Activity NI - Wellbeing PE Lessons – 9:10am to 9:55am (Year 6 and Year 7)
- 13<sup>th</sup> June**  
 – Entrance Exam Club (Year 6)
- 14<sup>th</sup> June**  
 – Ulster Scots Dance for Year 3, 4 and 5 @ 1:10pm  
 – Ulster Scots Dance for Year 6 and 7 @ 2:05pm  
 – Ulster Scots Drumming for Year 4 to Year 7 @ 3:00pm to 4:00pm
- 15<sup>th</sup> June**  
 – Year 1 Induction Afternoon
- 16<sup>th</sup> June**  
 – Piano with Mrs Hanna
- 17<sup>th</sup> June**  
 – Activity NI - Wellbeing PE Lessons – 9:10am to 9:55am (Year 1 and Year 2)  
 – Activity NI - Wellbeing PE Lessons - 11:00am to 11:55am (Year 3, Year 4, and Year 5)  
 – Activity NI - Wellbeing PE Lessons – 9:10am to 9:55am (Year 6 and Year 7)  
 – PTA Duck Race
- 20<sup>th</sup> June**  
 – Entrance Exam Club (Year 6)
- 21<sup>st</sup> June**  
 – Ulster Scots Dance for Year 3, 4 and 5 @ 1:10pm  
 – Ulster Scots Dance for Year 6 and 7 @ 2:05pm  
 – Ulster Scots Drumming for Year 4 to Year 7 @ 3:00pm to 4:00pm
- 22<sup>nd</sup> June**  
 – Cycling Proficiency with Mrs Hawthorne for Year 6 and Year 7 pupils
- 23<sup>rd</sup> June**  
 – Piano with Mrs Hanna
- 24<sup>th</sup> June**  
 – Activity NI - Wellbeing PE Lessons – 9:10am to 9:55am (Year 1 and Year 2)  
 – Activity NI - Wellbeing PE Lessons - 11:00am to 11:55am (Year 3, Year 4, and Year 5)  
 – Activity NI - Wellbeing PE Lessons – 9:10am to 9:55am (Year 6 and Year 7)
- 28<sup>th</sup> June**  
 – Ulster Scots Dance for Year 3, 4 and 5 @ 1:10pm  
 – Ulster Scots Dance for Year 6 and 7 @ 2:05pm  
 – Ulster Scots Drumming for Year 4 to Year 7 @ 3:00pm to 4:00pm
- 29<sup>th</sup> June**  
 – End of Year Awards  
 – Year 7 pupils last day.
- 30<sup>th</sup> June**  
 – School finishes at 12:00pm for summer holidays

All dates are subject to change and additional event will be added over the next few months.