



"Memorable
Learning"
2021 -2022

Ampertaine Primary School Newsletter



Wednesday 27th October 2021

Recent Newsletters are available online at ampertaineps.co.uk/parents/newsletters

PLEASE KEEP CHECKING OUR WEB SITE FOR LATEST PICTURES AND DATES OF EVENT



NEWS FROM ROOM 1

We've been doing lots of Halloween activities this week. We read *Room on the Broom* by Julia Donaldson. We made broomsticks by putting the characters on in the correct order. We made witches' patterned tights. Mrs Logan showed us how to draw a witch.

We looked very carefully at pumpkins, then made orange paint by mixing red and yellow paint together. We painted our pumpkins with very special 'broomsticks'!

Room 2 News

Room 2 are enjoying play based learning in our weather station.

We have been using lots of weather vocabulary and learning place names on our big weather map.

We love using the iPads to record each other doing weather reports.



Mobile News

On Tuesday 19th October P3/4 had some very exciting visitors! Mike from 'World of Owls' came as part of our Light and Dark topic. The children loved meeting Bowie the Barn Owl and Harley the Eagle Owl, along with some other not so feathery friends!! They learned lots of new facts too. Check out our class page on the school website for more photos and videos of our fun and interesting afternoon.



Room 3 News

Last week we had great fun with a busy Maths Week, please look on our class webpage on the school website to see lots of photos of our activities and Scavenger Hunt outside!

In this short week we've been focussing on Harvest and Hallowe'en fun challenges in class. We even had time to design some Hallowe'en silhouette art. They look great..what do you think?



Room 4

The Children of room 4 have been working very hard over the past weeks on our Kenya topic.

They have completed some beautiful art work such as our silhouette savannah pictures as well as some outstanding African pattern work.

They have also been working hard on our please visit Kenya posters and animal fact files which we all thoroughly enjoyed!



Christmas Shoe Box Appeal 2021

We are continuing our Samaritans Purse appeal this year. We are asking for one box per family where possible. Information on Shoe Box Appeal has been sent home in the form of a leaflet. Due to last year's situation we were unable to support a truly worthwhile cause. All boxes to be left into school. Final drop off date Friday 12th November.

PTA Fund raising. 'Only Smarties have the answer'

Current restrictions mean we have to look for appropriate fundraising activities.

Every child in the school has received their tube of smarties. Once they have eaten them, we would ask that each family attempts to fill at least one tube with 20p coins! Once a tube has been filled it can then be returned to school!



We hope that you all support this idea in these strange times.

After half term, we plan to hold our first meeting, to discuss current expenditure and to generate some new ideas for the way ahead. We will keep you informed of that in due course. Again many thanks for all your continued support to our school.

Parent Teacher Interviews (Monday 8th – Thursday 11th November)

All interview dates and times have been allocated. We value this time to give feedback to parents and inform on the development and progression of the pupils, both academically and socially. Social distancing will operate within the hall. A one-way system will be in place for entering and leaving the building. Time will be allocated to sanitize in-between interviews.

A1 Embroidery

A massive thank you to all parents who used A1 Embroidery when purchasing this years school uniform.

The company as you are aware have been very generous to our little school by providing signage for our car park. Their generosity has continued and the school was recently presented with a cheque to be used for school funds.

Thank you to you all and a massive thank you to A1 Embroidery for these much needed funds.



Packed Lunches



We would ask parents to include a freezer bag or sealable sandwich bag in their children's packed lunches.

Presently any rubbish or food not eaten is being kept in lunch boxes and sent home. In the instance of an uneaten yogurt or other liquids these will be placed by the pupil in the sealable bag and then taken home in their lunch boxes.

Due to Covid 19 restrictions and maintaining our bubbles, the pupils are not able to walk around the hall and use the bins.

NUT-FREE ZONE

Please continue to do the outstanding job with regards to food being brought into school.
We are a NUT-FREE SCHOOL and will continue to monitor the food eaten at break and lunch time.
It is vital that ALL are proactive, ensuring the health and welfare of our staff and pupils.
Thank you for your continued cooperation in this matter.



School Car Park SLOTS

Thank you for your continued patience particularly on a Friday. We realise it is slower at the moment due to young children still getting used to the system. .
We would ask that all pupils are ready to exit their cars with coats and bags ready to go. The mornings can be very busy and we wish to encourage a constant flow in and out of the car park.
ALL PUPILS are now expected to use the system. **We would ask that you stick to your time slots to avoid confusion and to maintain a constant flow of traffic particularly when collecting.** At times with forgotten bags etc classes may be out just after their slot. Please come within your ten-minute time slot.
Thank you for continuing to give priority to those exiting the car park.

Contacting school

We would ask at these times for all parents to use our school info account when informing school of information. If you have any queries for our teachers or wish to speak with them, please use our email account to arrange an appointment.
Our school email is info@ampertaineps.maghera.ni.sch.uk . We would ask for your email subject to include the name of the pupil and class.

Remote learning Provision

- Work will only be provided remotely to a child who is either covid positive and well or isolating due to being a close contact.
- Work will be uploaded to the appropriate online platform for your child. Either Google classroom or Seesaw.
- The work will be based on class work from that day. Instructions will be limited. Work is not expected to be handed in or uploaded to teachers. All work to be given to teachers once pupils return.

COVID Guidance

We are very conscious that COVID numbers across NI are still high so if your child is symptomatic at all, **or has been identified as a close contact**, please do not send them to school. Isolate them, notify us and book a PCR test immediately.

All arrangements will be kept under review and any changes will be communicated to you as and when appropriate and/or necessary. If you have any other queries or questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.

We thank our parents for their understanding during an ever changing line of guidance from the EA.

Our FIVE steps to follow
1. If your child is unwell, please keep him/her at home.
2. If your child is unwell in school, he/she will be sent home.
3. If you feel that your child MIGHT have Covid-19 symptoms, please do a Lateral Flow Test or book a PCR test. Preference being PCR.
4. If your child tests positive for Covid-19, please keep your child at home to isolate.
5. If a child or staff member in class tests positive for Covid-19, I will inform parents from that class (and anyone else who may have been close contact). The PHA may contact close contacts but this could take time and may not include your child. In this case, it is the RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH PARENT to decide whether to regularly do Lateral Flow Tests with their child, book a PCR test for their child or do nothing.

It is essential that EVERYONE plays a part in keeping themselves and others safe.

School payments

Children should bring payment into school on MONDAY morning.

Payments MUST include correct change and be organised with the school envelope clearly labelled with:

- Nature of payment ie school dinners
- Payment details ie days of the week
- Child's name and class

School envelopes can be purchased at a cost of £2.50.

We are required to deal with all money using appropriate PPE, all money will be removed from the building and banked before a complete clean down of the office area. This is why it is vital that money is received in this way and can ONLY be dealt with on a MONDAY morning. We greatly appreciate your assistance in this matter in this unprecedented situation.

School dinners

The children had responded well to the new system in place with those taking dinners increasing as the school term as developed.

We hope you approve of our changes and we look forward to more pupils enjoying the delicious meals. The menu is on our website in the Newsletter section and has been emailed to all who have subscribed to our website.

All money MUST be in an envelope clearly labelled and brought into school on the MONDAY to enable Clare to count and then sanitise the work area. The **EXACT AMOUNT OF MONEY** should be in the envelope.

And lastly.....

Our hope is that we return and continue to build on the excellent work our pupils have been demonstrating. The school has been a place of learning, socialising, developing and growing. The pupils have stuck to our current way of school life so so well and we know they will continue to follow our guidelines and ways. It has been lovely to see the P1 pupils settle so well into our Ampertaine family over our first term. It is a big step from pre school and they have all handled it very impressively.

We wish you all a safe and pleasant extended holiday.

From all at Ampertaine.

Calendar Dates

October	
Wednesday 27th	Finish for half term. Whole school finishes at 12 noon. Please follow the collection times. Slot A= 11:50 Slot B = 12 noon Slot C 12:10
Thursday 28th	OFF for half term
Friday 29th	OFF for half term
November	
Monday 1st	OFF for half term
Tuesday 2nd	OFF for half term
Wednesday 3rd	Back to school
Thursday 4th	Poppy Appeal
Monday 8th – Thursday 11th	Early Closure to facilitate Parent Teacher Interviews Collection Times Slot A @ 12:30 Slot B @12:40 and Slot C at 12:50pm More information to follow.
Friday 12th	All Christmas Shoe Boxes to be left into school.