



Dear Parents

Firstly, I would like to thank you for supporting the school so well as we re-start following the summer holiday. We, as a staff team greatly appreciate the exceptional way that you have prepared the children and presented them for school. Be assured we never take this for granted; especially in these financially challenging times!

We extend a warm welcome to our new Nursery children and our Primary One fresh starts and trust that they will be very happy in our school! A number of children have joined us throughout the school and it has been lovely to welcome them to our school community. I have very much enjoyed seeing our children welcome these new starts!

Waringstown Primary School has traditionally very high standards of behaviour with good discipline, which the school actively promotes in our children. I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents of the essential role which they play in fostering self-discipline and respect for authority. Children from an early age must be taught to listen carefully and respond positively to an instruction from a parent or a teacher. Responsibility for discipline rests with the parent, the teacher and the pupil collectively. Please support us as we promote these priorities from the start.

Each Key Stage will distribute a copy of our school rules drawn from the school's Positive Behaviour Policy. Please encourage your child to read these and help them to understand these rules as they are factors for effective learning and development.



Congratulations!

We send congratulations to Mr & Mrs S Park and family on the birth of their daughter, Aria! Mrs Park is one of our P1 teachers. I've no doubt we will get to meet Aria very soon especially once P1 begin their Baby Topic!

Thanks!

We wish to thank Mr D M^cKee (Premises Manager) and his Cleaning Team, who worked tirelessly to ensure the school was in good order for our return in August. The school is spotless! Anyone who has friends or family associated with a school knows what the summer clean entails.

Macmillan Cancer Coffee Morning / Friends of the Cancer Centre

This year we wish to host a Coffee Morning for parents, grandparents and supporters of the school in the Assembly Hall on the morning of Friday 13 October (8.45am – 11.30am). Why not aim to enjoy a coffee and a scone before work! Primary 7 will help to serve along with some of our school staff. **All welcome!**



All proceeds will be shared between Macmillan Cancer and The Cancer Centre, Belfast.

School Cook



Mrs Emma-Jean Abraham, School Cook, will be leaving Waringstown PS on Friday 29 September after 3 years working hard in our school kitchen. She will be a familiar face to all the children in the Dinner Hall each day and we would like to thank her for her hard work and wish her every blessing in the future. If you would like to contribute to her leaving gift a variable payment has been set up on Eduspot (NB: you may change the amount you wish to contribute). Please make your contribution by Thursday 28 September as we wish to present Mrs Abraham with her leaving gift in Friday's Morning Assembly.

Dogs in the school grounds

Please note that dogs, however small, should not be in the school grounds as some children are unsettled by their presence. A local school did have a **serious incident** involving a dog and a child and we do not wish this to occur in Waringstown Primary School. A number of parents have sought clarification on this point. Thank you for your co-operation.

This is a Health & Safety Notice on behalf of the school. We would also ask that you DO NOT allow children from outside your family to pet or stroke your dog!

Seesaw

Seesaw was a very useful tool during the Covid-19 pandemic. However, now that children have returned to normal education we are confident that the Seesaw communication can be removed. The website remains a vital tool for us to showcase the work going on in the Nursery and each of the classrooms.

The school Eduspot System is functioning normally. This is the main form of communication from school. Early in the year we know many parents in Nursery and P1 have to search for the QR code / invitation in their Junk email folder.

Central Office



The Central Office is located in the School Mall. This is where ALL visitors must report when arriving at school. **For Child Protection purposes, parents are not permitted access to corridors and classrooms at any point during the day.** Those of you with children attending a senior school will already know that you simply cannot walk straight into a school or arrive at a classroom door. The same protocol operates in the afternoon. Should the Office be unmanned simply wait at the Office until a member of staff comes to help you.

The Mall doors and school access

To safeguard the children our buzzer system is in operation outside the main porches. You can press the access button to gain entry to the school. We respectfully request that any parent visiting school to collect a child should report to the Office immediately. Please always park in the Visitors Car Park.

The area at the barrier is not for parking or drop-off.



Mobile Phones & Digital Technology

I strongly urge you to hold back on purchasing mobile phones for senior pupils. It is a beneficial means of communication as children move to secondary education, however, very often it is not helpful at the Primary Stage. From time to time I am contacted and asked to sort out rows that have started online in various text groups or chat rooms. **Please find attached a very useful guide stating the age restrictions on Apps at the end of this Newsletter.**

I remind you that children are NOT permitted mobile devices in school. This includes Apple watches etc. Please support the school as we adhere to our Digital Technology Policy.



Harvest Assembly



We intend to hold our School Harvest Assembly on Friday 06 October. If you wish, please send an item from the Food Bank List in with your child on this day. We know the huge pressure being placed on ALL families at the present, so PLEASE do not feel any pressure from school for this event. However, we would like to celebrate the harvest season and help the Community Food Bank if possible. Thank you!

Stranger Danger

All of our children receive information and specific rules about never going into cars / houses of strangers. We also teach children to follow the 3 W's:

Never go anywhere unless your parents know:

- 1 **Where** you are going,
- 2 **Who** you are going with and
- 3 **When** you will be back?

Parents are reminded to enforce this teaching at home and remember that no Primary School aged child should be left at home or be unsupervised at any time as it places them at risk.

Please ensure that your child knows the safe routines for walking home. It is vital that he / she knows who is collecting them from school. As we have several collection points it is **simply impossible for the staff to know** where your child should be ie at the Windsor Hill pedestrian gate or the Main Street collection point. It is very helpful if you have one 'steady' collection routine in place for the children in Primary 1 – 3 in particular, as this helps to form safe home-time procedures. It can be very distressing for a young child to be waiting in what turns out to be the wrong place!

1.50pm Home time

The 1.50pm home time is always a cause for concern as we have several collection points!

It is most helpful if **your child knows where you will be** for collection time.

Try and stand in the same place every day. It is very stressful for children and staff if you are collecting from various points or gates. In order to help safeguard the children, several Classroom Assistants will be on duty in pink fluorescent waistcoats. Mrs A Parker will, as usual, be on duty at the Windsor Hill pedestrian gate at 1.50pm. Staff will be on duty at the main school home path. Please note that in line with Education Authority guidelines staff may not step over our gate to 'manage' collections.



It is important that children should return to Classroom Assistants, Teaching Staff or indeed myself should they be unable to find you at home time. You will also be able to 'spot' the assistants easily and find your child due to the fluorescent pink waistcoats.

Primary 1 has a new collection point from within the Staff Car Park. Their pick up routines will be clearly communicated with them and we will be rehearsing this collection with parents towards the end of September. We respectfully ask that P2 & P3 parents no longer wait at the pedestrian gate. (See the attached map). The bridge area to our pedestrian gate is to be a 'parent free zone' where we can retain children safely, should parents be running late.

Nursery / Windsor Hill / Windsor Lodge School Gate

This gate will open at 8.45am and NOT before.

Please be aware that the above is purely a pedestrian gate for **residents of Windsor Hill**. For the health and safety of our children and all concerned we respectfully request that you do not 'drop off' or collect children via this gate. Children living in the Windsor Hill development may walk to school and walk home via this gate. It is vital that we maintain excellent relationships with the residents of Windsor Hill and your co-operation in this matter is deeply appreciated. Please note, as this is a pedestrian gate there will not be a patrol person on duty. However, a member of staff is present at the gate at 1.50pm and 3.00pm within the school grounds.

Primary Walk

Please be careful not to block the residents of Primary Walk in or out of their entry way. Parking is always at a premium in Main Street. However, the Primary Walk area is a cause for concern at drop off and collection times too.

The School Driveway and Staff Car Park

Parents are respectfully reminded that access via the main school driveway is restricted to staff only. NB There is NO DROP OFF facility within the school grounds nor the avenue beside the barrier! Nursery parents are reminded that they MUST park on the Main Street and walk up to collect their child / ren.

Children should under no circumstances walk up the driveway even with a parent. Children should not be 'dropped off' in the school grounds unless arriving late perhaps as a result of a Dental / Medical appointment. In this instance, parents should park in the Visitors Car Park and escort their child directly to the Office... NOT the classroom.

School Fund for Nursery & the Main School



School Fund remains a voluntary contribution at £25 / family or £15 / child. This fund may be paid via the payments section of Eduspot.

The Eduspot system is in operation and meals should be ordered **over the weekend**.

I would like to inform you that parents of new start children to our school and our new Primary One parents should by now have received a 'welcome' message from the school's Eduspot System. This is our cashless payment system which also enables us to email information directly to you.

It is much better for you to order your meals for the incoming week on the Friday evening as we know from experience the Eduspot Portal cannot cope with the Sunday evening bookings. This is not an issue with our website / our Eduspot. Rather, it is the actual UK wide website. We strongly recommend that you select your meals well **before Sunday evening** to avoid the 'crash' of the website.

Additional payments via Eduspot

P1 Book bags and Snack Fund can be paid via Eduspot.

P2 Snack Fund can be paid via Eduspot.

If at any time you require to order a book bag or a tie you may do so via the Eduspot Shop section.

School meals

A school dinner costs £2.60 / day or £13.00 / week.

Primary One children will stay for Dinner / Lunch from Monday 02 October onwards.

Primary One children remain in school to 1.50pm from Monday 02 October.

Each term's menu is posted on the school website.



Free School Meals (Assistance Forms)

Application Forms for assistance with Free School Meals and School Uniform are now available from the Education Authority website. Only parents in receipt of Income Support, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Pension Credit, Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance or Child Tax Credit are eligible to apply. It is very important to note that ALL PREVIOUS ENTITLEMENTS to free school meals expired on 30 June 2023.

**No entitlements carry over to this school year.
Please re-apply!**

Grapes in school

We had two serious choking incidents in school several years ago and the Education Authority released sensible advice that, particularly for young children, grapes should be quartered. Please ensure that grapes at Break and Lunch are cut if they are being sent in to school. So many parents have carried this advice into their food preparation routines at home. Thank you for your co-operation as we seek to safeguard ALL of our children.

NUT FREE

Once again we have a number of children in Nursery and main school who suffer from a severe allergy to all nuts. Children with this condition may have a severe reaction, which can prove VERY SERIOUS if they come into contact with nuts. Consequently, we request that NO PEANUTS or NUT RELATED PRODUCTS are brought into school for your child's break or packed lunch.

It is also our school policy that as many foods contain traces of nuts we do not permit children to swap or share food at Break or Lunch.

Please support us as we seek to safeguard all of our school community.

Parent / Teacher Interviews

Parent / Teacher Interviews will be offered in a blended fashion once again via the telephone or face to face.

Interview times and schedules will be issued once the responses have been collated. Please return the response pro-forma asap as this will enable us to timetable the interviews quickly.

Please note that if you choose a face-to-face interview, you will be given the specific day and time by the class teacher as we try and ensure all interviews fit within the school's global timetable.

Please complete and return the attached pro-forma.



Extra-curricular (after school) Clubs (P5 – P7)

A detailed list of the extra-curricular clubs offered by my whole staff team are listed at the end of this Newsletter. On your behalf, I wish to thank the staff for this voluntary work which enriches the life of the school so much. Each teacher offers an extra-curricular club.



Asthma Register

The school Asthma Register is being refreshed. Therefore, we ask that once again you complete the pro-forma enclosed (if you haven't done so already) in this newsletter if your child has recently been diagnosed as asthmatic. Please complete the asthma register form even if you have already done so on previous years.

Bees & Wasps

Please complete the enclosed pro-forma (if you haven't done so already) which seeks consent to use Anthisan Ointment and Jungle Formula Bite & Sting Spray. The school grounds are troubled with a large amount of wasps and already this month we have had several children suffering from stings! It is important to treat a sting fast. Therefore, these consent forms are vital.



School Holiday List

Please find enclosed a full holiday list for the academic year.

Homework / Reading

Class teachers are heartened by the fact that parents take an active interest in their children's schoolwork. **Please initial all homework and encourage good presentation.** It is essential that books used at home should be 'backed' and that all pencils, rubbers, lunchboxes, clothing etc. should be clearly labelled to help preserve their 'shelf life'. We respectfully ask that you do not stick tape to the book cover and please refrain from marking Reading Books to emphasise certain words.

Winter flu vaccinations

The winter flu vaccination forms have already been sent home. The completed response forms should have been returned to school by now to enable the Nursing Team to prepare for the vaccination programme.

Winter flu vaccination / nasal spray is scheduled for **Wednesday 11 October.**

Absence Notes

Enclosed within this information sheet are two sheets of absence notes to make it more convenient for parents when signing for a child's absence. The child should bring the note on their return to school to the Class Teacher. Additional sheets, if and when required, are available to download from Resources tab of the school website.

School Uniform

Please label every item of clothing. There is already a large quantity of lost property being regularly displayed in Morning Assembly. As yet, we have no-one claiming ownership. This must be just as frustrating for you, as it is for us, as we know the cost of uniforms!

Finally, be assured that the staff and I appreciate your continued support in all school matters. We are greatly encouraged by the way you have prepared the children for the new term.

Thank you!



(Principal)

C M^cCambley

Child Protection Team				
WPS Nursery Unit	Foundation Stage (Primary 1 & 2)	Key Stage One (Primary 3 & 4)	Key Stage Two (Primary 5 - 7)	Principal
Mrs C Emerson (Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection)	Mrs J Brown (Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection)	Mr M Gault (Designated Teacher for Child Protection)	Mr C M ^c Cambley	Mr C M ^c Cambley (Member of the Child Protection Team)
Child Protection Governors				
Mr T M ^c Kay		Mrs H Wan		
Asthma Register ... Child's name _____ Class teacher: _____				
My child has been diagnosed as suffering from asthma. I would like to add their name to the school's Asthma Register. I will provide a spare inhaler for the school asap.				
August's Attendance figure: 95.6%				



Please complete the entire page and return to school immediately if you have not already done so.

Asthma Register

1/ My child has an asthmatic inhaler (one provided to school) and I would like them to be included in Waringstown Primary School's Asthma Register:

Yes (Move to No 2)

No (Please sign and date)

Parental Signature: _____

Date: _____

2/ I grant permission for the school to administer the spare inhaler in the case of an emergency **(ONLY TO BE FILLED IN IF YOU TICKED YES TO QUESTION 1)**

Yes

No

Parental Signature: _____

Date: _____

Anthisan Ointment & Jungle Formula Bite and Sting Spray

I give permission for Anthisan Ointment or Jungle Formula Bite & Sting Spray to be used in the event of a sting.

Parental Signature: _____

Date: _____

✂.....

EpiPen / Autoinjector

I wish to inform / remind the school that my child holds an EpiPen. I have provided an 'in date' pen to the class teacher for return to school in August 2023.

Parental Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please note the [Absence Notes](#) are available for download from the Resources Section of the School Website. [Click Resources, Downloads & Forms.](#)

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WARINGSTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Absence Note

Pupil Name: _____ Class: _____

Date (s) of absence: _____

Date of return to school: _____

Reason for absence: _____

Signed: _____ (Parent / Guardian) Date: _____

WARINGSTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Date (s) of absence: _____

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Waringstown Primary School

SCHOOL CLOSURE/HOLIDAYS 2023 / 2024



AUTUMN TERM COMMENCES	Thursday 24 August 2023 and Friday 25 August 2023 School finishes at 12:45pm on these two days Staggered departures from 12.30pm.
BANK HOLIDAY	Monday 28 August 2023
	School resumes on Tuesday 29 August 2023 at 9:00am (Packed lunches required Tues 29 Aug - Thurs 31 Aug)
PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS	24, 25 and 26 October 2023 (School closes for all pupils at 12:45pm) Staggered departures from 12.30pm.
	Friday 27 October 2023 (School closes for all pupils at 12:45pm for the Half Term) Staggered departures from 12.30pm.
HALF TERM	30 October - 03 November 2023 Inclusive School reopens Monday 06 November 2023
CHRISTMAS	School closes 12 noon on 20 December 2023 for the Christmas Holidays as below. Staggered departures from 11.45am. Thursday 21 December to 03 January 2023 Inc
SPRING TERM COMMENCES	Thursday 04 January 2024
PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS	06, 07, and 08 February 2024 (Tuesday - Thursday) (School closes for all pupils at 12:45pm) Staggered departures from 12.30pm.
	Friday 09 February 2024 (School closes for all pupils at 12:45pm for the Mid Term) Staggered departures from 12.30pm.
HALF TERM	Week Commencing 12 February 2024 (School re-opens Monday 19 February 2024)
ST PATRICK'S DAY	Monday 18 March 2024
EASTER	Wednesday 27 March - School closes 12 noon - Two weeks for the Easter Holidays Thursday 28 March - Wednesday 10 April 2024 inc. Staggered departures from 11.45am.
SUMMER TERM COMMENCES	Thursday 11 April 2024
MAY DAY & STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY	Monday 06 May 2024 Tuesday 07 May 2024
STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY & SPRING BANK HOLIDAY	Friday 24 May 2024 Monday 27 May 2024
SCHOOL TERM ENDS	School closes 12 noon on Thursday 27 June 2024 Staggered departures from 11.45am.

Extra-Curricular (P5 - P7) Term One (2023)



7 weeks of extra-curricular activities:

- Week 1 wb Mon 02 October
- Week 2 wb Mon 09 October
- Week 3 wb Mon 16 October
- Week 4 wb Mon 23 Oct No clubs due to Parent / Teacher Interviews)
- Week 5 wb Mon 30 Oct No clubs due to School hols
- Week 6 wb Mon 06 November
- Week 7 wb Mon 13 November
- Week 8 wb Mon 20 November
- Week 9 wb Mon 27 November

ALL after-school clubs finish at 3.55pm.

Day	Club	Staff / Leaders
Monday	P6 Table Tennis Club	Mr T Brown
Monday	Scripture Union (P4 may attend this Club)	Mrs C Munce & Mrs L Chestnutt
Tuesday	P5 Computing Club	Mrs S Williamson & Mrs K McConville
Tuesday	Christmas Performance preparations (NB auditioned)	Mrs J Brown & Mrs J Carpenter
Wednesday	P5 Boys' Football	Mr D McKeen & Mr M Gault
	P6 / P7 Boys' Football	Mr A Mitchell & Mrs J Boyce
Thursday	Gardening Club (P7 only)	Mrs J Humphreys & Mrs J Erskine
Thursday	P5 Girls Hockey	Mrs J Peacocke & Mrs S Anderson
	P6 & P7 Girls' Hockey	Mrs J McElhinney & Miss L Mahaffy

NB Senior Choir will NOT rehearse after school this term!

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Extra-curricular Consent (To be completed by parents of P4 – P7 children)

I give permission for my child / ren to stay for extra-curricular activities this year.
We strongly encourage you to sign the form even if, initially, your child may not wish to stay for clubs!

PRINT Child's name: _____

Parental Signature: _____

Date: _____

Waringstown Primary School

Parent Teacher Interviews



Dear Parent / Guardian

Parent Teacher Interviews are scheduled for Tuesday 24, Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 October 2023. On these days children will be leaving school at the earlier times of:

Nursery	separate timings released via the Nursery Unit	
Primary 1, 2 & 3	with older siblings	12.30pm
Primary 4 & 5	with older siblings	12.40pm
Primary 6 & 7		12.45pm

Packed Lunches should NOT be brought to school on Tuesday – Friday.
ONLY School Dinners will be served Tuesday – Friday.
School will be closed for the the half-term wb Mon 30 October – 03 November.
School re-opens Monday 06 November, 2023.

This year, Parent Teacher Interviews can be facilitated either by telephone or in person.

Please use the reply slip below to tick your preference.

**Please note, if you choose for the interview to be 'in person' you will be given a specific day and time by the class teacher. We unfortunately cannot accommodate specific requests.*

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Parent / Teacher Interviews (October)

Please complete the pro-forma **IN PRINT** and return it to each class teacher:

Pupil name: _____ Class Teacher: _____

Sibling name / s: _____ Class _____ _____ Class _____

_____ Class _____ _____ Class _____

I request that the Parent / Teacher interview is:

Type	Please tick
Phone call	
In Person	

Please return this form by Monday 02 October.

New Collection Routine - Waringstown Primary School P1, P2 and P3

