

Election of Parent Representative on the Board of Governors

Helen Moore has stepped down from her position as a parent representative on the Board of Governors. I have extended thanks to her on behalf of everybody connected with the school community for everything she has done over the last number of years. We will need to hold an election for a new parent representative and this has been scheduled for Tuesday 12th September at 7pm in the school library.

If you are interested in this post please refer to the guidance notes that were sent home yesterday and collect a nomination form from the office. All nomination forms should be returned to school by

PTA Meeting

The first PTA meeting of the year is scheduled for Tuesday 12th September at 7.30pm. All parents are very welcome to attend. I would encourage anybody planning to attend to also try to make the parental election at 7pm.

School Photographs

Individual and family photographs will be taken by Opus on Tuesday 19th September. Information will be sent home in the next week or so.

Parent Helpers

Many parents last year completed Access NI checks that meant they were able to assist us with trips out of school. If you would be interested in assisting, or indeed are unsure if you need to renew your clearance, please call into the office and Mrs McCluskie or Mrs Armstrong will be happy to answer any questions you may have. As these are voluntary roles there will not be a charge to complete a check.

Reading Partnership

Last year we started a reading partnership scheme to support younger pupils with their reading in school. Having an adult provide 1:1 time for reading really benefits a child and we are hoping to extend the scheme this year. Training for parents will be provided by Mrs McDowell on a date that suits those interested. If you are interested to get involved please call into the office and let Mrs McCluskie or Mrs Armstrong know when would suit and we will do our best to schedule the most suitable time.

Sustrans Active Travel Partnership

I am delighted to announce that we have been selected by Sustrans to become one of their Active Travel Schools. Over the course of this year there will be many exciting ventures the children will be encouraged to take part in such as a walking to school week and bike repair workshops. The intention is to encourage our children to be a little bit more active and to make their way to school using a means of transport other than a car.

Breakfast Club

This year Breakfast club will open at the earlier time of 8am and costs £1 per pupil per day.

School's Out NI Jobs

School's Out NI are looking to recruit people to work for them. An advert can be found online as well as on the front door to school.

Classroom Assistant Posts

We are currently advertising several classroom assistant positions with hours ranging from 12.5 to 20 per week. Job descriptions can be found on www.eani.org.uk.

Food Waste

In an effort to become a bit more environmentally friendly in school we will be encouraging pupils to bring home any leftover food from their packed lunches. Not only will this help cut down the amount of food waste that passes to landfill from our school, it will also let parents know what exactly is or isn't being eaten in school.

Notes Home This Week

Apologies for the amount of paper that has come home this week. We will try to limit the amount of notes we send home and keep them to a Friday. Below is a list of all the notes that were sent home this week in case you missed something.

- Parent information booklet
- Dinner menu
- Internet and photographic permission
- Mobile phone permission
- First Aid permission
- Notification of parent election for representative on board of Governors
- Flyers for Miniversity and Ju-Jitsu afterschool clubs

House Captains

Congratulations to the following pupils that have been elected as House Captains and Vice Captains

Scrabo	Captain Lucy Rankin	Vice Captains Abbie Higgins & Conor Jordan
Mount Stewart	Captain Louise Cunningham	Vice Captains Cameron Montgomery & Jack Magowan
Strangford	Captain Zara Irvine	Vice Captains Alexander Williamson & Emmie Richardson
Castle	Captain Cole Espie	Vice Captains Erin McGonigle & Toby Saunders

Lost Property

There are many, many items, mostly sweatshirts, in our lost property from last year. This will be in the Library from Tuesday afternoon for you to have a look for misplaced items. Any items unclaimed will be sent to local charity shops on Monday 11th September.

Dinner Money

School dinners should, whenever possible, be paid for on **Monday** mornings for the full week or the number required for that particular week.

The present cost is **£2.60 per day** and **£13.00 per week**.

After School Clubs

Start dates for after school clubs in Term 1 are listed below. We also have the option of adding a girls' hockey club at Regent on a Friday afternoon. This will require parents to collect and drop their child to Regent. A note will be sent home today to gauge interest.

We have introduced football for P3 and P4 pupils which will now be on Wednesday afternoons at 3pm to avoid a clash with Junior Choir. Spaces are limited and P4 pupils will be given priority. If P3 pupils gets a place, please be mindful that they finish at 2pm on Wednesday and arrangements will need to be made for their collection and return to school.

Clubs marked with * means payment for external coaches will be required.

Monday	Miniversity* from 4 th September, sign up required (2-3pm P1, P2 pupils) (3-4pm P3 to P7 pupils) Tennis from 25 th September * (P5-P7 pupils)
Tuesday	Boys Football (P5 to P7 pupils) from 12 th September Junior Choir (P3, P4 pupils) from 12 th September AQE (P7 pupils) from 5 th September French (P4, P5 pupils to Christmas) from 12 th September
Wednesday	Football (P3, P4 pupils) 3-4pm Spaces limited, priority to P4 pupils. Note P3 pupils finish at 2pm. Senior Choir (P5 to P7 pupils) after half term
Thursday	Gymnastics * (P1 to P7 pupils) from 5 th October Gardening (P4 to P7 pupils) from 14 th September
Friday	Jujitsu* (P2, P3 pupils from 15 th September) (P4 to P7 pupils from 8 th September) Girls Hockey* (P4 to P7 at Regent House from 15 th September, parents will need to transport pupils)

Miniversity After School Club, September 2017

We are very excited to announce that MINIVERSITY Creative Learning Club will start on 4th September with a Junior & Senior Club. The clubs will run after school in the computer suite on a Monday. The Junior Club (P1-P2) will run 2-3pm followed by the Senior Club (P3-P7) 3-4pm. Each session touches on a 'career theme' where children are given tasks using a variety of different programs such as MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, SCRATCH or Movie Maker. Term 1 runs for 12 x weeks and the cost is £60 per child which can be paid in 2 instalments. If you would like to register your interest please contact study@miniversity.com or 0771 204 2222. If you have any queries regarding the program please visit www.miniversity.com and contact them direct for further information.

Dates Ahead

Tuesday 19 th September	School Photographs
w/c Monday 23 rd October	Parent Interview Week
Tuesday 24 th October	Flu Vaccination
Friday 27 th October	Last Day of Term
Monday 6 th November	School Closed – Staff Training
Tuesday 7 th November	School reopens for pupils

If there is anything I or any of the teachers can do to assist you or your child(ren) please get in touch via the office or email me on jgray246@c2kni.net
www.castlegardens.org.uk

J Gray
Principal

Facebook Castle Gardens
Twitter@CastleGardensPS

