

## SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

Welcome back everyone!

*Summer Sun & Autumn Fun*

Dear Parent & Friends

The new academic 2023/24 has begun and we couldn't be more excited to welcome our pupils back to school. They all look pristine in their school uniform, and we really appreciate your adherence to our school uniform policy. A special welcome to our Nursery and Year 1 pupils and to all the new families who have joined our school community.

This year we have planned an incredible line up of new learning opportunities for our wonderful pupils and their families. We are reintroducing our parent class assemblies which will provide an opportunity for class learning to be shared. Parents, their families and friends will be invited to their child's/children's class assemblies on Friday mornings. The Travelling Book Fair will visit the week beginning Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 in our ICT suite. Funds raised will be used to purchase books for the Accelerated Reader section of the library. Accelerated Reader is now operational for pupils in Years 4-7.

We have designated the week beginning Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024 as Creativity Week. Not only will our pupils experience new dance, music, and drama activities but each pupil will design or paint their own canvas. Edwards school hall will become an Art Gallery and parents and friends will be invited to our art exhibition. The week beginning Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024 has been designated as Financial Capability Week. We hope to invite local business owners along to share their experiences of running a business.

May I take this opportunity to welcome Mr Lecky our Year 4 class teacher to Edwards. Many of you will already know Mr Lecky who completed his final teaching practice in Year 3 with Mrs Donaghy last year. We wish him every success as he begins his career in the teaching profession.

Our school counsellor Anne McVeigh commences counselling sessions on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September. If you would like your child to avail of counselling, please contact your child's class teacher.

Dates for your diary are as follow: -

Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	Years 3 - 7 pupils Finn Valley Cross Country Competition
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> September	Year 1 pupils remain in school to 2.15 pm
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	SEAG Registration closes
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> September	Nursery pupils remain in school to 1.45 pm
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> September & Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	School Photographs - Families and Individuals
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	Flu Vaccine - KIDZ PLAY CLOSED
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 2 parents Linguistic Phonics 2.15 pm
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> October	Nursery parents Stay & Play 2 pm until 3 pm
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 2 Trip to Gortin Glen Stickman Trail
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 1 parents Jolly Phonics 2.30 pm
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	SCHOOL WILL CLOSE AT 1 PM to facilitate Parent Interviews
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October until Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> October	Travelling Book Fair in the ICT Suite
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Cross Country at Castlederg High School Years 2 - 7 pupils
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 1 Trip to Gortin Glen Gruffalo Trail
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 3 Parent Class Assembly Harvest 9.30 am
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October until Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	HALF TERM
	SCHOOL REOPENS

As our digital learning strategy continues to evolve, we are excited to implement Charanga's online musical school programme and we are currently sourcing a digital numeracy platform. Our school website has been updated to include a new front page and Mrs Kerrigan has kindly added an Absent Pupil Form as a tab. You can complete this form online for illness, medical appointment, in hospital, holiday or other and submit it directly to her. This QR code for the Absent Pupil Form can also be used.



Thank you to everyone who supported Cash for Clobber. You will be delighted to ascertain that we raised £169.40 for school funds. May I take this opportunity to thank Hamilton's Food Hall for their very generous support to our school community. The fruit and water for sports day, Keeling's fruit and the Back-to-School stationery bag and £5 voucher for our Year 1 pupils are all greatly appreciated. As I often reiterate, "It takes a whole town to raise a child". When we all work together, we can provide our pupils with amazing learning opportunities.

Throughout the 2023/24 academic year the team at Edwards look forward to working with our school community in the spirit of partnership and trust that by working together we can continue to both enhance and extend the level of education delivered at Edwards.

Should you have any unanswered questions or ambiguities regarding school life please do not hesitate to contact myself or another member of the team.

Wishing everyone a successful 2023/24 academic year.

With kindest regards.

**E C Robinson**  
**Principal**

PS Unfortunately, a resolution has not been reached between the Department of Education and the teaching unions. This means teachers will continue to work as action short of strike action.