



Newsletter

Issue 5
January 2024

SCHOOL MEALS Announcement

Our school meals are cooked each day in Donaghadee and delivered to our school for lunchtime. Unfortunately, the EA kitchen in Donaghadee have been told that they will be unable to provide hot lunches in the short-term. This is due to an outstanding maintenance issue. Pupils entitled to free school meals will receive a packed lunch each day. All other pupils are requested to bring their own packed lunch to school.

We will hopefully have an update in the near future to say that the issue has been resolved and that hot meals are available again both to purchase and to those pupils entitled to free school meals.

Any hot meals which have already been purchased for next week will be refunded on School Money. A hot dinner will be available tomorrow.

We apologise for the inconvenience this disruption will cause.

ADMISSIONS

The admissions application process for Nursery Unit and P1 places for September 2024 is now open.

Online applications will close at noon on 26th January. Please share this information with any family members or friends who are considering MPS for 2024/25.

INDUSTRIAL ACTION – Thursday 18th January

Please be aware of further strike action planned on 18th January by both teaching and non-teaching unions. Having completed a risk-assessment for the day, the BoG have deemed that unless there is a resolution to industrial action, the whole school will be closed on **Thursday 18th January**.

SEAG Results

Our P7 pupils will receive their transfer test results on Saturday 27th January. As an entire school community, we congratulate all pupils involved on their hard work regardless of the result on the day.

PARENT/TEACHER Interviews

Parent / teacher interviews for P1 to P6 will take place during the week of the 18th -22nd March. This is the week before the Easter holidays and school will close early all week to facilitate the interviews. Further details will follow closer to the time.

P7 pupils will have their interviews slightly earlier on either 1st or 2nd of February. This will give parents the opportunity to discuss school choices with Mr Maitland and Mr McManus well in advance of the post-primary admissions portal closing.

NEW SCHOOL DAY SUMMARY

The new times came into effect on Thursday 4th January.

*The **Nursery Unit day** remains unchanged from 9.00 to 1.30 p.m.

* **Nursery Extra** runs from 1:30pm (Parents of Nursery children who also have children in P1 – P3 may use this service)

***School starts** at 8.45 – 9.00 a.m. After 9 a.m. all pupils must access school via reception

***School finish - Monday to Thursday:**

P1 – P3 finish at 1.55 p.m.

P4 – P7 finish at 2.55 p.m.

***School finish - Friday**

P1 – P3 finish at 1.50 p.m.

P4 – P7 finish at 1.55 p.m.

* **After School Care** now runs to the later time of 5pm.

CLUBS

Our After School Clubs choices are now available for Term 2. Clubs will run from 22nd January through to 15th March with the exception of the half-term holidays (12-16th February) and parent teacher interview week (18-22nd March).

Q & A with Mr McManus



Our School Council members have brought back their 'getting to know you' segment of the Newsletter. This month they decided to interview our Principal Mr McManus and next month they are hoping to catch up with our new Vice-Principal, Mrs Gowan, who is set to join our school in February.

Changes in MPS

Before the Christmas break, parents were informed of various changes to both the school day structure and within our staff team. Please scroll back to late December on Dojo if you missed any of this information.

School Calendar

January - February 2024

January 9 th	Nursery & P1 Application Portal OPENS
January 10 th	Swimming Sessions commence for P7
January 18 th	Proposed Strike Action – School closure
January 26 th	Nursery & P1 Application Portal CLOSES
January 27 th	SEAG Results day
February 1 st & 2 nd	P7 Transfer Interviews
February 7 th & 8 th	SEN Annual Review interviews
February 12 th to 19 th	Half Term Break
February 19 th	School re-opens after half-term break
February 19 th	'BEE Safe' P7 visit

WHAT'S THE PASSWORD?



ONLINE FORMS

When submitting online forms, please use the password sent to you on Dojo. This will indicate that the form has been completed by a member of our school community with access to the appropriate password.

CONTACT & SOCIAL MEDIA

Email: info@millisleps.newtownards.ni.sch.uk

Website: www.millisleprimary.co.uk

Class Teachers: Class Dojo

Twitter: Millisle Primary @Millisle PS

Facebook.com/millisleps



Welcome to the January 2024 issue of 'School Council'. This month, we interviewed Mr McManus, our Principal, about his life outside Millisle Primary. We hope you enjoy reading it.

School Council

Mr McManus, what school did you go to and what jobs did you do before becoming a teacher?

I went to Kilcooley Primary School and Bangor Grammar. I left school when I was 16 and started an apprenticeship with BT working on phone lines and I really enjoyed it. I did that for a year before deciding I should really go back to school and get my A-levels. When I was doing my A-levels in Bangor Grammar, I was also a postman during the summer months.

Is being a principal fun?

Being a teacher was fun! I loved every single day of teaching P6 and P7 classes both in Millisle PS and before that in Bloomfield PS in Bangor. My favourite part of being a principal is getting to know and spend time with pupils right across the school and that is the fun part. There is lots of other work which can be really rewarding but can also be very tricky at times.

How many children do you have?

I have 3 children. Poppy is in Year 8 in Regent, James is in P7 in Towerview PS and Beth has just left Towerview to join P5 in Millisle Primary School.

Do you have any pets?

I have a crazy golden labrador called Jasper, two pygmy goats (Ted and Dougal) and five hens.

Do you play any musical instruments?

I love music and I play guitar. I don't play anywhere near enough and I need to make more time for it!



What is your favourite movie, music and book?

I don't have a favourite movie but Adam Sandler is my favourite actor. My favourite band is Oasis and my favourite book (for children) is Danny the Champion of the World by Roald Dahl. It's a brilliant story and no matter how many times I've read it to my classes or my own children over the years, I've still loved it every time!

What is your favourite football team?

I am a Linfield season ticket holder and never miss Northern Ireland matches. I've also supported Rangers for as long as I can remember.

What do you do in your spare time?

With school and three children to be taken here, there and everywhere, I'm not really sure what spare time is! I like playing guitar and listening to music, running with my favourite podcasts in my ears and I coach my son's 2013 football team.

Finally, what's your favourite food?

Either Nandos or Chicken Tikka Masala from an Indian takeaway.