

31 August 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian



We warmly welcome all our pupils and parents back after a beautiful Summer break. We especially welcome any new pupils joining us for the first time and trust they will feel very much part of our school family.

Return to FULL School Uniform

We would like to praise all our pupils who have arrived in school looking very smart in full school uniform. We want you to help ensure this daily consistency throughout the year and remind everybody that *school uniform is COMPULSORY*. *Black shoes must be worn daily with trainers brought separately if playing football at break/lunchtimes. Each class teacher will make you aware of P.E. days for your child. Children should wear full school P.E. uniform on THESE DAYS ONLY with the exception of P.7. who are required to bring their PE uniform and trainers in a separate bag **clearly labelled** every Monday for the week ahead and taken home on Friday for washing. This will help prepare our P7 pupils for Post Primary School in 2023.*

Remember, you may be entitled to a grant towards school uniform/FREE School Meals and if not already done so, can make enquiries through the Education Authority website www.eani.org.uk. Even if only occasionally taking school dinner or not at all, availing of FSM provides EXTRA funding into our school budget to be spent on resources for pupils. We also have some secondhand uniform in excellent condition available through the school office this week should you require any.

Extra Curricular Clubs

Our Early Morning Club for P1-P7 (7.50-8.30am), After School Club for P1-P2 & (P3 Thurs-Fri) 1.30pm-2.30pm and Stay Late Club for P1-P7 (2.30-4.00pm) are now available daily, but must be booked a week in advance via the online ParentPay platform.

The Early Morning Club (£2 per day) will provide pupils (on a trial basis) with the option of cereals (Rice Krispies/Cornflakes) or toast & milk daily. Occasionally there will be fruit or pancakes available. If your child has **any food allergies**, please ensure this is indicated on your child's medical form or contact the school office to update this.

After School Club (£3 daily) & Late Club (£3.50 daily) will continue to offer a drink and snack as well as varied fun activities for those pupils attending. The Late Club will offer:



Mon: ICT/Computer related activities

Tues: Children's choice of activity

Wed: Arts & Crafts or Learn to Knit

Thurs: Movie Afternoon with popcorn

Fri: Driving School (bring old trainers & coat as children will be using outdoor vehicles)

*(these will be reviewed half termly with other choices planned)

Healthy Eating Policy

We are keen to promote healthy eating during school hours. We are fortunate to have delicious healthy school dinners cooked on site and offer a healthy break through our School Meals kitchen (only £1.50 per week with a choice of 2 fruits, scone, toast or pancake.). If your child is bringing their own break, this should consist of an item from above only. A packed lunch, should be healthy and balanced with no fizzy, sugary drinks or large bars of chocolate or bags of sweets. We encourage ALL children to bring a bottle of water to drink and keep hydrated throughout the day.

Milk is optional and is payable on ParentPay (£9.00 for Autumn term)

School dinners will remain £2.60 for children (unless entitled to FSM) and are booked and paid for via the ParentPay App by Sunday midnight of the previous week. **Remember: apply for FREE School Meals (FSM) and uniform grant through the EA website if entitled.**

Investment in Resources

This year we have invested in further staff to support our foundation stage pupils and new furniture and play resources. We also plan to install a further 2 interactive boards this year in our Foundation classrooms, having already recently installed new Interactive Boards in our Key Stage 1 and 2 classrooms. We have also renewed and updated some ICT resources e.g. Beebots, Probots and mats. We also look forward to maximizing our new outdoor environment - sand pit, mud kitchen and poly tunnel.

Parental Support

Can I express my sincere thanks to the families and volunteers who helped maintain our school garden and poly tunnel over the Summer. It certainly was a challenge at times with such high temperatures. We warmly welcome and encourage new and existing parents and friends volunteering to help out. As a small rural Primary School, we rely on this support to successfully run events. We will be in touch later this month to meet and start planning some events. Let the school office know if you would like to get involved and be kept up-to-date. Thank you.

We continue to seek parental volunteers to open and close our Community Play Park on a Rota basis. Some of our older volunteers are no longer able to fulfil this role and your community needs you. If you could spare a little time, please contact **Olga Whitten Tel: 07834 525866** or **myself**. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Pupil Information

Please inform school as soon as possible of any changes in address, telephone number of emergency contact details. We treat this information as strictly confidential but it is essential that it is accurate, particularly where contact must be made in an emergency. Changes in other circumstances or health/medical details should also be communicated to the school as soon as they are known.

Head Lice

The issue of head lice is an on-going one for schools. Could all parents please check their children's hair regularly and respond appropriately. Girls with long hair are encouraged to wear their hair up or tied back for their safety during play and P.E. sessions.

Lost Property

Items of lost property from last year are displayed to the side of the school front door. After 9th September, unclaimed items will be donated towards our 'Cash for Clobber' campaign. If you have any unwanted clothing, blankets, paired shoes etc. please place these in the purple clothing recycle bin located within the school grounds. Thank you.

We will keep you informed of upcoming events mainly through our school website calendar at www.hamiltonsbawnps.com , text service and school NI School App. Notices and updates will also feature on our Facebook Page. This is predominantly for our parents/families in school and will not feature photographs of your children.

Let's work together to make this a great year and hope we don't have the unwanted distractions of the past 2 years. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's education, please contact their teacher. If you need further support or advice regarding any other school matter, an appointment can be made to speak to me through our school secretary Valerie or by emailing info@hamiltonsbawnps.hamiltonsbawn.ni.sch.uk.

Regards

D. HUTCHINSON
Principal

