



2023

Diary Dates

You will find these all under 'calendar' on the school App.

Earthquake fund

Monday 13th will be a non-uniform day.
Tuesday 14th (Valentines Day) children are asked to wear something pink or red (school hoodies are perfect if they don't already have something red).
Children are asked to bring in £1 each which will be donated to the Turkey-Syria Earthquake appeal.

January Superstars

All of our pupils continue to work very hard and be the best they can be! However, we did have some Pupil of the Month

awards given for some excellent work throughout the month of January.

World Book Day

World Book Day is 2nd March 2023. Our younger pupils especially, enjoy dressing up as their favourite book character for this special day. However, we are aware of the current cost of living crisis and have consulted with parents. Of the 47% who responded to the short questionnaire, 56% said 'yes' to dressing up. We would therefore like to make this as stress free and cost effective as possible for everyone. We are now asking for costumes your family have finished with to be sent into school so that we can organise a costume swap. Please put costumes you no longer need into a plastic bag and label clearly with the size and character e.g. age 10-11, Harry Potter costume. We will then organise a day when parents can come into school and pick

up a costume in advance of World Book Day.

Break Time

Please note healthy breaks are only allowed at break time. Fruit is best however other alternatives are suggested in the leaflet available at this link:
https://storage.googleapis.com/siteassetsswd/40/docletter/20200911095037_59_Healthy_Breaks_for_Schools_A5_Leaflet_ENGLISH.pdf



Water Bottles

Only water is allowed in water bottles—not juice—thank you.

Dinner Money

Dinner money must be sent to school on a **Monday for the week ahead, clearly labelled with your child's name and the days he/she is eating**



dinner.

Dinner Hall Rules, Yellow cards and Red cards

On Friday we had an assembly reminding all of our children of our Golden Rules, behaviour expectations and consequences for behaviour choices which are not in line with our rules. The dining hall Golden Rules were also explained to pupils. These are

- We line up calmly.
- We walk carefully through the dining hall.
- We speak quietly to those around us.
- We keep the table clean.
- We are polite to everyone.
- We use good table manners.

For behaviour in the dinner hall and / or playground at lunch time your child may come home with a Gold Card or a Red Card. Gold cards are given to children who have stood out for positive behaviour. This is something to be celebrated at home :-)



Red Cards are given if a child has consistently broken the Golden Rules in the dinner hall or at play-time, or, has behaved in a way that is very unacceptable. These are sent home to be signed by a parent and returned to school.

Illness

As you will be aware, there has been an increase in infections caused by Group A streptococcus bacteria compared to what is expected at this time of year. This is being seen primarily in children aged under 10 years.

Group A streptococcal infection usually causes a mild illness with symptoms such as skin infections, sore throat and fever. Scarlet fever, again usually a mild illness, is caused by Group A strep. The vast majority of cases are mild, however, in very rare circumstances, it can cause serious illness.

Parents who suspect their child has scarlet fever are asked to keep them at home and seek medical advice from their GP.

You may receive a warning and inform letter from us to make you aware of scarlet fever in school and to encourage you to be alert to symptoms in your own child, seeking medical advice if required and not sending your child to school if they are unwell.

Children with a diagnosis of scarlet fever should not attend school for a minimum period of 24 hours after starting appropriate antibiotic treatment and they should feel well enough to return to school.

To help us with the management of cases of illness in school please use the 'Report Pupil Absence' button on our school website, adding as much detail as you can. Please also be mindful of Covid symptoms and keep children at home for



48 hours after an episode of vomiting or diarrhoea.

Learning For The Month

P1:

We are delighted to be hosting Miss Hawthorne (a trainee teacher from Stranmillis University College) who will also be teaching some lessons this month.

Literacy: sounds ai, j, oa, ie, ee, or, z, w, ng, v oo

oo; blending and segmenting words, reading and procedure writing

Numeracy: numbers 1-10, number stories 1—5, time

WAU: If you go down to the Woods today



P2/3:

Literacy: handwriting, writing on the lines, capital letters, early comprehension.

Numeracy: Money, data handling, adding/subtraction within 20, Tens and Units. 2, 5 & 10 times tables

WAU— Toys

ICT— Money games and phonetic review



P3/4:

Literacy: Comprehension,

adjectives, nouns, verbs, novel study- George's Marvellous Medicine by Roald Dahl and linked writing activities.

Numeracy: Vertical or column subtraction including borrowing, analogue and digital time.

ICT: PowerPoint, Nessy

WAU: Toys



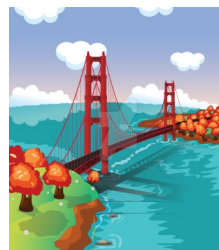
P5/6:

Literacy: Persuasive letter writing, adverbs, pronouns and Comprehension (Author's Purpose)

Numeracy: Short Multiplication, x10, x100, x1000, Symmetry, 3D shape and Problem Solving

Class Novel: The World's Worst Pets

ICT: Microsoft PowerPoint
WAU: Bridges (Shared Ed.)



P7:

Literacy: Diary entries, newspaper articles, use formal vocabulary, comprehension, writing from a different perspective. Using a range of antonyms, appropriate punctuation, correct use of dialogue. Use conjunctions, change tense, and give opinions.

Numeracy: converting units of measurement, 2-D and 3d shapes problem solving.

Measuring ingredients using the appropriate scale and measurement. Setting and calculating cost of items. Calculating profits made on items sold.

WAU:

The Earth

ICT: Cre-

ating posters and Pow-

erPoint presentations. Create a brochure to give information.





Half day strike action by teachers on 21 February

Dear Parent / Guardian,

I am writing to you about forthcoming strike action by the teaching unions in Northern Ireland. You may have seen coverage of this in the news, and I wanted to inform you about the impact this is likely to have at our school.

How will strike action affect Donemana Primary School?

When a strike takes place, those taking strike action stop work and withdraw their labour. Teachers involved in the action will, therefore, not teach their class(es) or undertake any other duties before 12.00 noon on the strike day.

Consideration has to be given to the impact that the action will have on the health and safety of pupils, staff and visitors, and whether the school can run a full or amended curriculum, to determine whether it is possible to operate the school safely during the strike.

As the Principal, I and the Board of Governors have determined the **school will be closed to pupils until 12.10pm on Tuesday 21st February**. Pupils are asked to make their way to their classrooms at this point. School dinner will be served as usual, just a little later to accommodate children arriving.

Clearly this is a difficult situation, which will cause some disruption. I would ask you, however, to be understanding. On the next two pages you will see posters produced by one of the teaching unions explaining why teachers feel they have no option but to strike. A strike by teachers is very unusual. Taking strike action is not something that any teacher would undertake lightly. Those on strike will have thought long and hard about their decision and will also lose pay for the period that they are on strike.

Kind regards,
Mrs G Hay
(Principal)



INVEST IN OUR TEACHERS



A MESSAGE TO PARENTS AND CARERS

WHY ARE TEACHERS GOING ON STRIKE?

Teachers will be taking strike action on **21st February**.

We do not want to strike, but the government have given us no choice.

We are striking for education, today, tomorrow and for future generations. We hope you will support us, despite the inconvenience it will cause.

We are taking strike action because we are concerned that cuts to teachers' pay, and attack of funding for schools, are causing a crisis in education.

- Funding for schools has not kept in line with rising costs.
- The value of teachers' pay has fallen by 20% since 2010.
- This has caused a crisis in recruitment and retention.
- More teachers, and school leaders, than ever are leaving their jobs, schools cannot recruit enough suitably qualified teachers to replace those leaving the profession.

This means that:

- SEND children are not getting the support they need;
- Many schools face difficulties finding the teachers they need;
- Schools are spending less on important equipment and resources;
- Schools will cut back on extra-curricular clubs, sports and classes.

SUPPORT FAIR PAY IN EDUCATION

#FAIRPAYINEDUCATION

This cannot go on, for the sake of education, we are calling for a change of policy on pay and funding.

We have tried to avert this action - we have provided evidence about this crisis to the employing authorities and the government year after year, but they have ignored our warnings.

That is why we have reluctantly made the decision to take strike action.

We are calling for an increase in pay for teachers - but also, an increase in funding for schools.

We are asking parents and carers to:

- Support our campaign to boost funding for education.
- Talk to teachers at your child's school to find out more about our campaign and how you can support us.
- Contact your MP, MLA and local councillors and tell them that you support teachers taking strike action.
- Support our strike action.
- Support our industrial action.



Schools in Northern Ireland are facing cuts of almost **£1 in every £5 we spend on keeping our classes going.**

This is money that supports the education of your children in every school!

This means less money for school buses, school meals, sports and arts and the extra support needed by vulnerable children. Schools in Northern Ireland have been underfunded for years and already are the worst-resourced in the UK. **Each NI pupil now has £1200 LESS spent on their schooling than children in Scotland.** Every child will be impacted, and those who need more support will be the most deprived.

- **The Westminster government is demanding these huge cuts.**
- **Not a single politician elected anywhere in NI supports these cuts.**
- **All of the church and education leaders have denounced these cuts.**
- **The Board of the Education Authority NI have refused to impose these cuts.**

The trade unions representing support workers, teachers and school leaders, will not stand idly by and let our proud schools and our brilliant children be failed by unaccountable politicians. Let your local politicians know you oppose this threat to the future of our children!

Stand with school staff so that they can continue to support your children.

From: The trade unions representing support staff delivering education to 380,000 young people in all of our schools – teachers, classroom assistants, caterers, school bus drivers/escorts, principals, librarians, admin staff, cleaners and more.