



Cool News

October 2024

Diary Dates

Harvest Service

Our Primary School Harvest Service will be held on Friday 25th October at 9.30 a.m. All of our classes from Yr 1-7 will be participating in this service and all of our friends and family are invited to attend.

As part of our harvest celebrations, we will be collecting items for the Omagh foodbank. Donations may be left in school 21st–24th October. Food donations that have been requested are tinned hot dogs, meat balls, chicken chunks, tuna or soup. Packets of noodles or rice.

Parent Teacher Meetings

School will close at **12.45 p.m.** on **Tuesday 22nd October** and **Thursday 24th October** to facilitate Parent Teacher meetings. These meetings will be held in the school hall between **1.15–3.15 p.m.** and will be drop-in sessions.

To help with organisation:

- Surnames beginning **A–G**: drop-in session **Tuesday 22nd October**
- Surnames beginning **H–Z**: drop-in session **Thursday 24th October**

If your drop-in session does not suit, please contact either your child's class teacher or the school office to arrange an alternative appointment.

Time to Read Programme

Our school will be continuing with the Time to Read programme this year.

This programme is designed to help improve literacy skills of pupils by delivering one-to-one paired reading sessions with pupils. All of the pupils who participated in this programme last year really benefitted from the experience and we are grateful for the volunteers last year who made that possible.

Volunteers come into school for one hour per week to deliver the sessions. Training and support is provided as part of the programme.

If you would be interested in joining our team of volunteers, please contact the school office.

- 10th Oct:** Cooley Caterpillars
- 17th Oct:** PTA AGM @ 7.30 p.m.
- 25th Oct:** Harvest Service @ 9.30 a.m.
- 22nd & 24th Oct:** Parent Teacher Meetings: School closes @ 12.45
- 28th Oct - 1st Nov:** (inclusive) School Closed: half-term
- 11th Nov:** Remembrance Assembly
- 14th Nov:** Cooley Caterpillars
- 11th - 14th Nov:** Anti-Bullying Week
- 29th Nov:** Drop-in Day
- 13th Dec:** Nursery Open Morning
- 5th Dec:** Nursery Christmas Performance
- 12th Dec:** Cooley Caterpillars
- 18th Dec:** School Carol Service
- 20th Dec:** School closes at 12 noon: No school dinners
- 23rd Dec - 3rd Jan:** (inclusive): School Closed: Christmas holidays

All dates are subject to change.



Time to Read

**MAKE WORDS
COME TO LIFE**

www.bitcni.org.uk/timetoread

Pupil Responsibilities

At the beginning of September we held elections for our School Council and Eco Committee. Pupils submitted their election campaign before pupils in Yrs 3-7 voted for their class representatives. Congratulations to all of our pupils who were successful in being elected, we are looking forward to hearing their ideas and seeing their plans in action!

This year we have also introduced class librarians in Yrs 2-7. Pupils volunteered for the position before being selected at random.

Our School Council have also requested a playground helper system in school and we will be working in the upcoming weeks to introduce and establish a system of help and support within our playground for all pupils.



PTA

Our PTA will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Thursday 17th October at 7.30 p.m. All parents are welcome to attend this meeting and we would encourage everyone to come and join us and to support the learning within our school.

The PTA play a vital role in helping organise activities throughout the school year and in helping to raise money for much needed school resources that we otherwise would have to do without. During the last academic year their fundraising activities and applications provided a range of new resources to our school including a Promethean ActivPanel and funding to help continue the Accelerated Reading programme within our school for the next three years. Events included a fashion show, a social evening, a Fun Night and a Uniform Exchange.

Board of Governors

Following our recent request for nominations to stand as parent representative on our school Board of Governors only two nominations were received. As two representatives are required, this means that there will be no requirement to hold a ballot. The representatives will be Mr Peter Alcorn and Mrs Donna Kenwell. Subject to EA approval, both representatives will take up their positions on the newly formed Board of Governors when it is fully reconstituted by the Education Authority later this year.

Cooley Caterpillars

Our parent, baby and toddler group, Cooley Caterpillars, will be continuing this year on the second Thursday of every month. The group meets in our Assembly Hall, 9.15 a.m.—10.30 a.m. on these days. Thank you to our parent volunteers who organise the activities and events. Please feel free to come along and invite your friends and family to join as well.

Home Learning

Please remember to log into your child's SeeSaw (Yr 1-4), Class DoJo (Yr 5-7) and Google Classroom (Yr 5-7) accounts. All sign in information has been sent home by the class teachers. If you have any difficulty accessing these platforms please get in touch with the class teacher.

Student Placement

Mr Neil Strain will be on placement in our Yr 5/6 class as a student teacher from 30th September—25th October.

Uniform

Please ensure your child's personal belongings are clearly labelled with their name, especially their school jumper/cardigan. Items can get easily misplaced or mixed up in school and naming them helps us to easily reunite them with their owner.

Mandarin Lessons

Our Mandarin lessons have once again recommenced this year for pupils in Yrs 1-7. Our tutor this year is Ms Cui Zihe. Through this programme pupils will be introduced to the language and culture of China and will learn simple phrases such as greetings and numbers.

Action Mental Health

Pupils in Yrs 5-7 have participated in Action Mental Health workshops. These workshops focussed on helping pupils to learn about their mental health and actions that they can take to support their mental health and wellbeing. Workshops for Yrs 1-4 will be delivered in January.



Music Tuition

Our strings tuition, provided by the EA Music Service, has recommenced again for this year. Ms McGeough provides these lessons on Wednesday afternoons. Our drumming and piping tuition, funded by the Ulster Scots Agency has also recommenced on Mondays and Tuesdays. Mr Gareth McLees is our drumming tutor while Mr Ivor Laird is our piping tutor. We would like to thank the Ulster Scots Agency for providing these sessions in our school.

Drop-in Day

On Friday 29th November we are planning to hold a Drop-in Day. On this day, anybody interested in visiting and learning more about our school is invited to drop in to pay us a visit. Visitors may be prospective parents, current parents, governors or friends of our school.

To help with organisation, current parents will be asked to book a time slot in advance of the day. This information will be shared at a later date on our online learning platforms—SeeSaw (Yr 1-4) and Google Classroom (Yr 5-7).

Textile Recycling

Our textile recycling bin is located on the left hand side of the school building. This bin accepts donations of used clothing, shoes, sheets etc. Our school receives a payment for these donations so please do support us in this way if you can.

Safer Schools NI

Safer Schools NI is an app and portal that parents can access and which provides online safety advice. Notifications and alerts are sent which provide prompts and warnings for parents about online trends and threats, information about fake news and advice on social media and gaming platforms. To access this app:



**SAFER
SCHOOLS NI**

- download it from your app provider
- Create an account by selecting parent/carer > register here
- Select Cooley PS and NU
- Type in entry code

Entry codes and instructions are available on the school online learning platforms: SeeSaw (Yr 1-4) and Google Classroom (Yr 5-7).

Easyfundraising

When you are shopping online, please consider registering on the easyfundraising website and selecting our school as your cause. Once registered, access your favourite shopping websites via the portal and once you complete your purchase our school will receive a donation at no extra cost to you or to the school. The websites that you use and the purchases that you make remain confidential and are not disclosed to anyone in school.

Cooley Primary School

90 Cooley Road,

Sixmilecross.

BT79 9DH

www.cooleyps.co.uk

