



Happy New Year

We would like to wish all families in our school community a Happy New Year! We hope all the children enjoyed their break and are ready for the new term.

Mrs Strathern has gone on maternity leave, we wish her well and we welcome Miss McMenamin to Y5 and 6.

Accelerated Reading

One of the most effective interventions to be introduced to Glendermott has been the Accelerated Reading programme. This programme when implemented properly can have a major impact on improving pupils' reading and comprehension skills. Accordingly, we would encourage **ALL** P4 – P7 parents to ensure that their children are reading an accelerated reading book **every night**. P3 children will start in the Spring term.

Catholic Schools' Week

We look forward to holding a series of special events as part of our celebration of Catholic Schools' Week during the week of 28th January – 2nd February. Further information will be provided closer to the time.

Confirmation

We wish all our P7 pupils every happiness and joy on their Confirmation Day which will take place on Sunday 28th January at 11am in St. Mary's Church. Bishop McKeown will be officiating at the ceremony and he will visit the Pastoral Centre afterwards to meet the pupils confirmed and their families.

Application Forms

If you know anyone with children starting Nursery or Y1 in September 2018 please remind them that closing dates for applications is **Wednesday 10th January at 12 noon**.

January Newsletter

Punctuality and Attendance

All the educational research tells us that children who attend school **on time, regularly** do better than those pupils who do not. At the beginning of 2018 we would encourage all parents to ensure that their children attend school every school day before 9.00am.

This will ensure that your child will get the most out of each school day.

If your child is going to be absent from school, it is important that you let the office know. A phone call in the morning allows the school to record the appropriate absence code on our systems.

If there are any changes to your child's normal after school collection routine, please inform the class teacher or secretary so that we are aware before hometime.

Keeping Children Safe

Children are reporting that they have received computers, phones etc as Christmas presents. While computers, ipads, smartphones etc have advantages, they also create challenges. The children in Glendermott are frequently reminded through the curriculum of the importance of staying safe online.

Here are some points for parents/ guardians to consider:

- Do you know what internet sites your child is visiting?
- Do you know what is the content of your child's online messages?
- Do you know who your child is communicating with online?
- Do you know the content of any computer games your child plays?
- Do you know the legal age limit for access to social media sites?
- Do you know how to set parental controls on your child's computer/ipad/etc?

There are some useful links on the school website to help you with this. Follow the Curriculum link, then click ICT.

<http://www.glendermott.net/curriculum/ict/>

If you have any ideas for the website, please let us know by forwarding us an email or dropping a note into school.

Believe, Achieve, Together

School Communication

One of the core priorities of Glendermott is to keep our parents/guardians fully involved in and informed about the education of the pupils and the life of the school. To this end we operate the following communication systems:

- School website: www.glendermott.net.
- Text Message Service
- Letters/ Newsletters
- School Facebook Account:

We would encourage all parents/guardians to regularly visit the school website. Please keep an eye on school bags and homework books for letters home. This will ensure you are fully informed about all that is happening and all that is planned.

Snack Money

Just a reminder to parents of children in Nursery, Year 1 and Year 2 that £2 snack money is due in every week.



Reminders to Students

- P1 PE – Thursday
- P2 PE – Thursday
- P3 PE - Thursday
- P4,5,6 & 7 PE - Friday
- P5/6 Swimming on Thursday
- P6/7 Swimming on Tuesday
- P5,6 & 7 Music on a Thursday
- Credit Union Wednesday

Reminders to Parents

Due to children suffering from allergies the school must be **nut free**. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

The cost of school dinner is **£2.60**, £13 for a full week. Please ensure money is in an envelope clearly marked with name, class, amount

Please ensure that your child's bus pass is kept topped up (**£9 for 20 journeys**). This will ensure we can continue to provide this service.

Uniform

We are planning on changing to v-neck jumper, white shirt and tie, navy trousers/skirt to be phased in from September 2018. On our website we have a question for parents asking when they would like to see the new uniform introduced. The question can be found on the homepage of our website www.glendermott.net The question is live until Friday 12th January.

8th January

St Patrick's & St Brigid's College to talk to Y7
St Mary's College to talk to Y7 girls

10th January

Closing date for Nursery and Y1 applications
NWRC students working with Y5/6

12th January

Pioneer Association to talk with Y7
Choir trip to Waterside Theatre Ulster Orchestra

17th January

St Cecilia's College to talk to Y7 girls

18th January

NWRC students working with Y7

27th January

Transfer test results

28th January

Confirmation

Further ahead

Mid-term break

Monday 12th to Friday 16th February