

**PRINCIPAL**  
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Dear Parents,

Before the Summer holidays approach, I wish to inform you of a number of different items.

### **Summer Reading Challenge**

The Summer Reading Challenge will take place from **19 June until 18 September**. Children can sign up at their local library, choose their reading goal then read any books to collect special stickers and other rewards along the way – all for FREE. There is a digital platform too, so the fun can carry on at home!

Children can read whatever they like in their chosen format – fiction, fact books, poetry, joke books, picture books, graphic novels, audio books and eBooks. Everyone who completes their personal challenge will receive a certificate and medal.

### **Current Eligible Families and New Applicants for Free School Meals and Clothing Allowances**

Parents/guardians who are currently in receipt of support for the 2020/21 school year will **not** be sent a pre-populated form for the 2021/22 school year. All parents/ guardians (including new applicants) **are required to apply on-line from Monday, 7 June 2021 via the EA website** <https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals>.

It is recommended that parents/ guardians apply during the month of June, or as early as possible, to enable applications to be processed for support to be in place for their children for the new school year. Parents/ guardians are being advised of the importance of providing valid Bank or Building Society account details in the claimant's own name. Payments cannot be made into Post Office accounts.

### **Special Diet**

Parents/Guardians whose child has a Statement of Special Educational Needs (Stage 5) and requires a special diet should contact the Meals and Uniform Section for a paper application form if they wish to apply under the special diet criteria.

### **Free School Meals / Uniform Grants Helpdesk**

The Free Schools Meals and Uniform Grants Helpdesk is operated by staff across the EA Free School Meals/ Uniform Grants service.

It is available to assist parents/guardians and schools who may have any queries. The Helpdesk operates Monday – Friday from 9.00am to 4.30pm and can be contacted via email:

**mealsanduniform@eani.org.uk**. The telephone number is: (028) 9041 8044.

Further information including eligibility criteria for the 2021-22 school year and a list of Frequently Asked Questions to assist with any parental queries can be accessed by logging onto [www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals](https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals).

### **Primary 7 Pupils**

Pupils who will be attending Omagh Academy in September 2021 have an opportunity to visit the school on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

### **Infant Mental Health Week 7th – 13<sup>th</sup> June**

Fostering good mental wellbeing early is so important for children's development. This week is Infant Mental Health week, and Interim Mental Health Champion for Northern Ireland, Professor Siobhan O'Neill has recorded a short video aimed at parents of young children (approximately age 0-4, although not age specific). She gives her tips to parents about what they can do to support their children's mental health and wellbeing, and talks about how to encourage young children to express their feelings and the importance of self-care for parents. Professor O'Neill also draws on her experience as a parent of a 4-year-old. Click on the link to view the video.

<https://vimeo.com/559980425/bb7e83a938>

### **CANNABIS OIL DISGUISED AS CONFECTIONARY**

The Department of Education has asked schools to make parents aware of products that look like familiar sweet products with colourful packets, familiar cartoon images and which are appealing to children, but that in fact contain cannabis extract, or THC (the main psychoactive ingredient in cannabis).

A young child assessed in hospital had inadvertently consumed cannabis after finding what they believed to be a packet of sweets on the ground. While on closer inspection the sweet packet is labelled as containing THC, to all other purposes they look like a common brand of sweets which are marketed for children e.g. 'Haribo Fruitilicious' - wrapped jelly like sweets or Calibo Xtra Strong'. Please be extra vigilant, especially when your children are in public areas.

### **September 2021**

Unfortunately, I am unable to give you definite arrangements around what school will look like in September 2021. We will keep you updated but rest assured your child's safety will be to the forefront of all our decisions. The following is anticipated.

#### **Uniform**

It is our hope that Covid-19 restrictions continue to ease, therefore from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 pupils should wear their school uniform each day to school except on the day's pupils have PE. On PE days pupils will be asked to wear their PE kit rather than bring it. Uniform can be purchased from S.D Kells in Lisnaskea or School Days in Enniskillen. We have also introduced a new school fleece as an optional extra available from the above shops from September. This can be worn over the school jumper and on PE days.

#### **School Dinners**

In September 2021, our Primary 7 class will be taught in their allocated classroom, therefore we anticipate pupils can return to the Assembly Hall for School dinners. This will be initially trialled in 3 or 4 staggered sittings over the first week or two. Parents will be notified when we have allocated a definite lunch time for each year group.

#### **Assembly**

Provided Covid-19 restrictions continue to ease it is our hope that assemblies will resume in September. Children will be asked to remain in their bubbles, therefore keeping to a specific section of the hall. We anticipate that there will be a junior and a senior assembly time.

Kind regards,  
F Pryce