

# Annalong Primary Matters

November/December 2023

[www.annalongps.com](http://www.annalongps.com)

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We have had a very busy first half-term with many highlights including Fitness Freddy, a Bible Exhibition, Table Tennis lessons, visits from the Mourne Mountain Rescue, the RNLI and the PSNI. We are looking forward to the rest of this term and are already planning for all the events between now and the Christmas holidays.

*P Chambers*

## Term Dates

Term Ends – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 12 noon. There will be no dinner on this date.

The full holiday list can be found on The Annalong PS App (Parent Area) and on the school website.

## School Fund

Thank you to those parents who contributed to school funds to assist with paying for essential resources. As you are aware, with budgetary constraints this income, is very important to the school. If you would still like to make this voluntary contribution of £20 per family, this can be paid via the random payment section in the school app.

## Parent Interviews

Thanks to all those parents who spoke on the phone with their child's teacher. We hope it was a beneficial experience. If you have any further concerns about your child at any stage, please feel free to contact the school to make an appointment to speak to the class teacher.

**Fitness Freddy** – We raised £2886.65 through sponsorship, which will be used to buy Play and PE resources for all our pupils. This was a fantastic amount of money which will benefit all our pupils.

## After-School

It has been great to have our after-school programme running again this term with football coaching with Kickon Soccer. The final session for this will be Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November.

**2-3 Club** will continue for Primary 2 and Primary 3 pupils until Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at a cost of £2.50 each day. This can be booked on the school app. There will be no 2-3 club on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November or Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December.

## Diary Dates

**The Book Fair** will be held in the assembly hall from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November to Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November. It will be open from 8.30am-9am each morning. This is a great opportunity to purchase new reading books to encourage our pupils to read more. The school also benefits as we get commission on every purchase which we then use to buy additional books for school.

Our **Open Day** will be held on **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November from 2pm – 3.30pm**. Parents who have children wishing to either join the Nursery Unit or Primary 1 in September 2024 will have the opportunity to visit the school with their child and speak with staff to see the fantastic opportunities that we offer here at Annalong Primary School and Nursery Unit. Primary 1-3 pupils will go home at 1.15pm on this day.

## Homework

Homework will finish on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December for all pupils. Pupils will receive words for our Christmas performances, and we would request that pupils learn these words at home.

The **Nursery Nativity** will take place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 10am in the school assembly hall. All parents are welcome to attend this performance and pupils can go home after the Nativity play.

**Christmas Performances** – This year we will have two Christmas performances. P1-3 pupils will take part in the 'The Big Little Nativity' in Annalong Presbyterian Church (kindly granted) on **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am**. Pupils can go

home after the Nativity. Our Primary 4-7 Carol service will also take place on **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 1.30pm** in Annalong Presbyterian Church. There will be tea/coffee and traybakes in the church hall after both performances. There will be an opportunity to make a donation to The Friends of Annalong Primary School and Nursery Unit and our designated Christmas charity, Heartbeat NI, who have recently donated a Defibrillator to the school.

**Panto Trip** – P2-7 pupils will once again have the opportunity to return to the Grand Opera House, Belfast on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December for its production of ‘Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs’. Dinner will be available on this day for all pupils. Those children not attending can be collected from school at 11.15am.

Nursery pupils and P1 pupils will have a fun day in school on that date. Further details will be provided by the class teachers.

**School Christmas Parties** – Each class will hold individual class parties and your child’s teacher will inform you when this will take place.

**Christmas Cards** – Christmas cards can be brought into school and will be delivered by our P7 elves.

**Movie and Munch** – We will have our special Movie day on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December and pupils can bring a snack to share with the class. **School Christmas Dinner Party Box** will be available on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December. This will also be our **Christmas Jumper Day**, where pupils can donate £1 to our Christmas Charity collection for Heartbeat NI.

Pupils do not have to wear school uniform on Monday 18<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December or Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December.

**School Closes on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 12 noon. (Nursery Unit 11.45am) There will be no dinners on that day.**

**Christmas Presents** – All staff have agreed that anyone wanting to purchase a present for a teacher or classroom assistant can instead give a donation to our Christmas Charity collection for Heartbeat NI and The Friends of Annalong Primary

School and Nursery Unit. This is anonymous and can be labelled Christmas donation and handed into the school office. This is a completely voluntary donation.

### **Attendance**

Please continue to provide a reason why your child is off using the Absence Form on the school app in the Parent Area.

**Guidance states that pupils should be off school for a minimum of 3 days after a positive Covid-19 test or symptoms but please ensure they are well enough to return to school. If your child suffers from diarrhoea or vomiting, they should remain at home for 48 hours after their last bout of sickness.**

### **Social Media**

The school has a **Facebook page** to further promote the school in the local community. This is proving to be extremely useful. Messages on the Facebook page will not be monitored.

The **Annalong Primary School App** continues to be a great success and is used to book activities, pay for school meals, communicate with and notify us of absences. **The App will be our main form of communication with parents.**

Download the App from the App Store and use access code 11111 to log on for the first time. If you have any difficulties, then please contact the school. Please ensure you have notifications switched on for your child’s class.

### **Pick Up and Drop Off**

Please only use the pedestrian entrance when you are walking your child to school. Only cars should use the vehicle entrance. We hope to soon have a new pedestrian entrance beside the traffic lights to allow for safer entry to the school grounds.

### **School Contact Details**

Email: [pchambers413@c2kni.net](mailto:pchambers413@c2kni.net)

Phone – **02843768336** or use the **Communication form on the School App.**

*Please remember that we are a nut aware school. Products containing nuts or traces of nuts must not be brought to school.*