

# ENNISKILLEN MODEL PRIMARY SCHOOL

**February 2025**

Dear Parent,

Thank you for scanning the information below. This term has started very well although the weather on occasions has presented some challenges! Pupil, staff and parent support has again been most welcome.

An After School Activity programme is up and running and is being well supported by staff and coaches. Attendance is encouraged and bar a few activities that operate a waiting list children can join an activity at any stage. A reminder of this term's programme has been included with this correspondence and is also on our website.

Attendance: Non-attendance should be for very genuine reasons. We have regular visits by the Educational Welfare Officer to check on our attendance rates/patterns. All absences must be accounted for – please telephone/report before/during/after a period of absence. Persistently late arrivals have been monitored closely for the month of January although the weather on occasions has been taken into consideration. We do make allowances on the attendance records when there are exceptional/infrequent circumstances for arriving late (bus delays, weather etc.) Endeavouring to get your child to school before 9.00a.m. every morning is much appreciated and helps the teachers maintain a good routine with homework reinforcement etc.

Health and Safety: Please take care in the school grounds. Speed needs to be curtailed and footpath kerbs should not be mounted/parked on. Likewise, the entry gate off the Castlecoole Road should not be used for cars to exit. A one-way system operates in this area.

Social media: For those parents who allow their children to have access to phones/social media sites please monitor usage very carefully. As communication is often with children known to them (from the same class) there can be an impact in school if something has gone wrong e.g. if misconstrued/inappropriate messages have been forwarded. Gaming and the amount of time spent playing should also be tightly controlled. The school will be highlighting this message alongside other advice as part of 'Safer Internet Day' in early February.

WhatsApp messaging: I am aware that many classes have parents who operate this forum. Although a terrific way to relay messages and keep in touch, thank you for not using a 'group chat' to air discontent or refer to incidents (which may have started in school) or involve/name pupils, parents or staff. There will inevitably be incidents and parents are urged to approach the school if deemed necessary. The appropriate policy will then be followed. Likewise, staff who are also parents, have a strict protocol to follow.

Please find enclosed a reminder about addressing bullying type behaviours in schools. This leaflet was forwarded to all schools last year and was previously issued by me. Please feel free to approach me directly if you have any significant concerns. Bullying is not necessarily a one-off situation – instead, it is more likely to be repeated and intentionally targeted to cause harm (verbal, physical or messaging – whatever). If situations present, I will always give time to review and monitor situations.

Key events to come:

- Events/trips planned for later this term (affecting individual year groups) will be detailed/priced separately.

- Paired Reading and Paired Mathematics projects involving P2, P3, P4 and P5 will start just after the February half-term break – letters to follow. Thank you for your engagement.
- The Fermanagh Feis has attracted much interest and many children will be competing in various categories later in the term.
- **Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> February** – ‘Dress in Red’ Non-Uniform Day. Any small voluntary donation is welcome with all proceeds being given to ‘**Riding for the Disabled**’ (RDA). Some of our children avail year on year of this group’s lessons at the Agricultural College – a body that depends on voluntary donations.
- **P.T.A. Disco** on the evening of **Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> February** (poster in circulation showing times etc.) Thank you for the support and to the P.T.A. for the organisation.
- Half-term holiday (3 days): Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> and Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February
- Breakfast Mornings – Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> February and Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> March.
- The school will also be promoting various World Book Day events in early March – details to follow.
- P.T.A. activities to come: Disco (Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> February, as listed above), a Sponsored Slide in mid-March (13<sup>th</sup>) and an Easter event to coincide with the end of term – precise details to follow.
- St. Patrick’s Day holiday (1 day): Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> March.
- Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> March – a whole school fundraiser to support ‘World Down Syndrome’ Day is planned. Money raised will be given to MENCAP. Precise details to follow.
- Term ends on Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> April at the normal time (re-opening on Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> April). This holiday period includes two staff development days (14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> April – Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> is to facilitate parent meetings as highlighted below).
- This spring, parent teacher discussions/meetings (P1 to P6) are planned for the week beginning Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> April and all day on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> April. P7 teachers will meet parents but only following a request (having been met recently as part of transfer procedures). Parents are encouraged to adhere to the time offered by the class teacher (an appointment time will be issued in late March/early April). To help parents attend parent meetings on the 14<sup>th</sup>, a creche/childcare club will be available free of charge that day – report to the dining room before your parent meeting and assistants will be there to look after your child/ren for as long as is required. **WE ARE VERY MUCH HOPING THAT PARENTS WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND THEIR INTERVIEW/S ON MONDAY, 14<sup>th</sup> APRIL (if allocated a slot that day)**. For parents unable to attend an allocated appointment, a telephone call will be made by the class teacher at the start of term 3.
- Standardised tests for P3 to P7 children will be starting just before and after the Easter holiday. Outcomes and reports outlining your child’s attainments will be sent home in term 3.

Please help us to update the records we hold for you – notably when there are changes to contact numbers and addresses.

FINALISED HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 2025/2026 SCHOOL YEAR WILL BE POSTED ON THE WEBSITE VERY SOON. A COPY CAN ALSO BE REQUESTED FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE SCHOOL WILL BE RE-OPENING AFTER THE SUMMER BREAK IN LATE AUGUST – Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> (as opposed to early September) – in line with the pattern of the previous few years. **We find by not starting back to a full week initially helps ease the children into a good routine.**

Details will also follow about **Summer Clubs** – plans are being finalised to operate Clubs this summer (as per previous years). The school closes for the summer break on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> June. The following may help when planning with child care etc:

1. Week beginning Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> June (5 days) – **SCHOOL ORGANISED CLUB (all ages)**
2. Week beginning Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> July (5 days) – **SCHOOL ORGANISED CLUB (all ages)**
3. Week beginning Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> July (5 days) – **NO CLUBS OPERATING**
4. Week beginning Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> July (5 days) – **STAR CAMP (Community Club)**
5. Week beginning Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> July (5 days) – **ROSS, MULTI-SPORTS CLUB**
6. Week beginning Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> August (5 days) – **NO CLUBS OPERATING**
7. Week beginning Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> August (5 days) – **ROSS, MULTI-SPORTS CLUB**
8. Week beginning Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> August (5 days) – **ROSS, MULTI-SPORTS CLUB**

**Ross, multi-sports organises his own flyers to advertise his clubs. He is also organising clubs at half-term and Easter.**

A new lunch menu is on the website – starts just after half-term. Select Parents and School Meals.

Should you require clarification on these or other points, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

W Glass  
Principal