

25 October 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians

As we reach the end of a busy half-term I write to express my appreciation for your continuing support and encouragement. Parent/Teacher Interviews conclude this afternoon and I would like to thank parents for attending. This partnership is very important in ensuring all of our children reach their full potential. I would also like to record my gratitude to my teaching staff for their additional work in preparation for this week.

Thank you for your contributions to this year's Harvest Appeal. The recipient was Lisburn Foodbank whose representative spoke at Assembly and thanked the pupils for their generous food donations and also the sum of £391.90.

I would very much like to thank all those who have already sent contributions for our Educational Trust Fund. I would encourage everyone to contribute as these additional resources are invaluable, particularly in light of current budget restrictions.

We continually strive to improve our communication with parents and I trust that you are finding the text messaging service which we have introduced this term, to be a useful and effective method of advising, alerting and reminding you of important information. This reduces paper and photocopying costs whilst ensuring that the information 'arrives' with our parents rather than possibly being left under a desk or in a school bag. To this end we have more recently also commenced email to parents. It is therefore imperative that our office is kept advised of any changes to mobile numbers or email addresses.

Our Eco-Team has introduced systems which have significantly reduced the amount of waste being sent to landfill (from 5 x 1100 litre bins to 2 x 1100 litre bins within the last year). This reduces the cost associated with collection of waste and at the same time reinforces our commitment to being more environmentally aware.

The Department of Education's current advertising campaign on TV has been reminding parents and carers of the importance of school attendance. Whilst parents may consider an attendance of 90% to be good, it equates to 19 days – almost a month off school!

Percentage attendance below 85% is unacceptable.

Percentage Attendance	Days Absent Per Year	Banding
100%	0 (Full Attendance)	Excellent
95%	9	Satisfactory
90%	19 (3 weeks + 4 days' learning missed)	Poor
85%	28	Very Poor

As we now commence our Half-Term holiday, I hope that you will all have a safe and enjoyable break until school re-opens on Monday 4 November.

Yours faithfully



G T Cherry
Principal