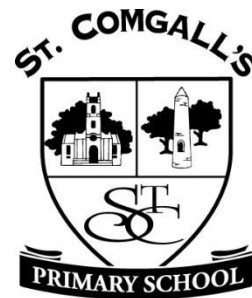


Parent Information Sheet

OCTOBER 2019



Please find below useful information and reminders for the month of
OCTOBER 2019.

Reminder: School Closure

Halloween Holidays. School will close at **12pm on Friday 25th October** & re-open on **Mon 4th November**. There will be buses at 12pm, Breakfast Club & Tuck, on Friday 25th but no dinners. School closed 28th Oct – 1st Nov incl.



Parent Teacher Consultations

Parent teacher consultations for children in **YEARS 2 – 7** will take place in the week beginning **Monday 21st October**. An invite will be sent to you from your class teacher. To facilitate these important meetings – all children in P3 -7 will finish school at 2pm every day that week. – **THERE WILL BE NO AFTER SCHOOLS CLUBS OR WAITING ROOM DURING THIS WEEK.**

As year 1 parents have just completed teacher consultations, their next consultation with teachers will be early in Term 2.

Clubs/Home Times/Pick-up Venues etc – Home time Arrangements

Parents, we would be VERY GRATEFUL if all parents could note home time arrangements/ when your child has an after school club/ where the after school club is being dismissed from/equipment such as training gear required on a specific day/ dinner money/waiting room money etc. It becomes exceptionally challenging for our office staff if they have to follow up on/make phone contact for large groups of children. We try to communicate as effectively as possible, but it can only remain effective if children & parents read and act on it. Your help in this matter is urgently appreciated. We would also ask children & parents to take note of the day PE gear/swimming gear is required as now that routines have been established into October we will no longer be making phone calls home for these items for Key Stage 2 classes. We expect P.5 – P.7 children to be responsible for their gear and timetable.

Flu Vaccine

On Tuesday 19th November all children (with parental permission) will be vaccinated against flu. Today, the school health team will send permissions home. It will be in a brown envelope and should be signed and returned to the class teacher tomorrow. Many thanks.

Real Life Learning – Pupil Council

For the first time, our new Pupil Council for 2019/20 will be elected by their classroom peers. On Friday 26th September classroom hustings took place for any prospective candidate. On voting day children will use real voting stations/voting slips and ballot boxes – borrowed from the N. I. Electoral Office, to vote their next candidate. The outgoing Pupil Council members will act as the electoral officers. Good Luck to all candidates!

CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX APPEAL

We have launched our Christmas Shoe Box Appeal for the Charity **Road of Hope**. **Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4** children will be given information to help them create a shoebox gift. The children can decide to make a shoebox for boys and girls of different ages. The finished shoeboxes should be brought into school on or before **Tuesday 22nd October**. They will be collected by Road of Hope on Thursday 24th October in order to ensure that they reach the children in time for Christmas.

Visit the Road of Hope website for more information on www.roadofhope.org.uk
Your generosity and kindness is very much appreciated.

YEAR 2 Harvest Assembly for Parents



The year 2 children will present a Harvest Assembly for parents on **Friday 18th October** at **1.30pm**. More information will be forwarded by invite from the children. We hope you can come and join the children on that day.

School Photos

On Tuesday 8th & Wednesday 9th October – our school photographer will be in school to take individual and family photos. **Please ensure your child wears correct winter uniform from this point on. Thank you!**

School Improvement Continues

You may have noticed that our school improvement work continues with the repaint of the outside of the school. Please be aware of newly painted surfaces in case they are still wet!



MATHS WEEK

12th – 20th October is Maths week – In school we will be working with the children to develop students' Thinking Skills, Logical Reasoning Skills, Team Skills and Communication Skills. Teachers will give team puzzles and challenges which help to boost the children's confidence and raise their expectations of what they can achieve. Along with special activities happening in school, we would ask that you spend a little extra time on fun maths with your child this week. P1 and P2 classes have been given usernames for www.sumdog.com and P3-7 classes have been given usernames and passwords to use in Mangahigh.com. Teachers will have assigned special challenges for the children to complete. They can also continue to use Purple Mash to compete online. Further information is with your child.

Update from School Canteen

It is great to see so many children using the canteen at lunchtime. Parents are reminded to ensure they send children with the money to pay for their dinner on the day - as it takes a lot of time for admin staff to chase up monies owed. Thank you.

Special dates coming up in canteen: **Halloween Special: Wednesday 23rd October**
Please Note: This will be a change to the normal menu. The Halloween Special will be – BUFFET – Selection of sandwiches (Chicken/Cheese/Tuna), Pizza Fingers, Cocktail Sausages, Carrot Sticks & Fruit Muffin & Milkshake.

Friday 11th October – “Feet First Families”



On Friday 11th October our school will take part in Sustrans 'Feet First Families' initiative where schools will become 'car free zones' for the entire day. We are continuing to use the car park spaces for fun activities and encourage children to walk, scoot or cycle to school on this day with NO traffic in our car park. The Eco Team worked with Sustrans, last year, to develop suitable, safe parking locations for 'parking and striding' to school. They are suggesting you park at the Castle Grounds (6min), Castle Mall (7min), Junction 1 (19min) or Church (4min) car parks and walk the rest of the way. Instead of sitting in traffic for 15 minutes outside school why not try parking and striding, it's healthier and takes less time out of your day. We the Eco Team appreciate all your support for this day of action and hope the children have as much fun as they did last year.

PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN MAXOL

PLEASE MAKE CHILDCARE/GRANDPARENTS AWARE OF THIS.

Halloween Dress Up

Children are invited to come to school on Friday 25th October in Halloween costume. This year we would ask for a £2 donation on dress-up day for our first term charity

'CANCER FUND FOR CHILDREN'

Don't forget – on this day it is a 12pm finish for everyone



P.3 – Belfast Zoo Trip

Year 3 will visit Belfast on 15th October as part of their curriculum topic. A letter will be sent home giving further details.

Safety in the Community

Our neighbourhood officers will come to school to talk to our year 3 and 4 children about 'Safety in the Community'. It should be a helpful and informative morning.

Travelling Books Bookfair

Bookfair arrives on Wednesday 2nd October and leaves on Wednesday 9th October. Children will have browsing and buying time over the week. Any commission will go straight into new books for school.



P.1 Curriculum Evening –Thursday 10th October – 6pm

Parents of all P.1 children are invited to a curriculum talk. This will take place in the P.1 classroom, the session will be delivered by the class teacher. The talk will start at 6pm

P.5 Accelerated Reading

Now that A.R. has started with P.5 and all groups are underway, we believe it is best point now to give you information to support your child with this excellent programme.

We will hold a 'breakfast meeting' at 9am on Tuesday 15th October (drop child to class and come straight to the hall) where Mrs Magee will give you an outline of the programme and tips on how to encourage reading at home.

Hope you can make it.



TRANSFER TEST

Wishing all our year 7 children, who have chosen to sit the Transfer Test, the best of luck.

AQE 1: Saturday 9th November
GL – Both Tests: Saturday 16th November
AQE 2: Saturday 23rd November
AQE 3: Saturday 30th November

Well done to all P.7 pupils who are and are not sitting tests who have worked hard since the beginning of P.7!

School Uniform

Please note from 1st October until 30th April, all children should wear winter uniform (Shirt & Tie). I would ask you to support us by ensuring that your child/children continue to wear their uniform to school every day throughout the year. Footwear for school uniform must be all black. **Also, please ensure that all items of uniform, coats, footwear and bags are clearly marked with the child's name and class. This helps when items of clothing or bags are lost or found.**

Some Useful Websites

www.topmarks.co.uk
www.mangahigh.com
www.sumdog.co.uk
www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk
www.mathszone.co.uk
www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize
www.mad4maths.com
www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/math
www.coolmath-games.com
www.snappymaths.com

Some Useful Apps

[Mathrockx](#)
[Splash Maths](#)
[Math Bingo](#)
[Multiplication Grids](#)
[Sushi Monster](#)
[Speed Grid Challenge](#)

Some places to visit:

- Armagh Planetarium
- Ulster Museum
- Castlewellan Park
(Maze)
- W5 – Belfast
- Carnfunnock Country
Park – Larne

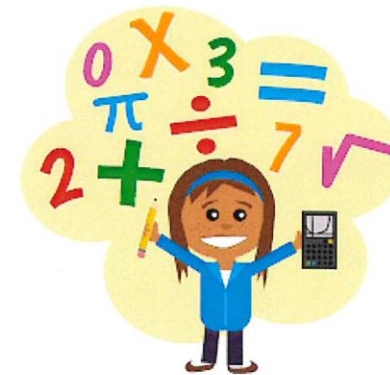
St. Comgall's Primary
School

1 Ballymena Road
Antrim

Phone: 028 94 428837
www.stcomgalls.co.uk



Help your child with Maths



*'With faith, family and friends
anything is possible'*

Why is maths important?

We use maths on a daily basis without even realising.

For example:

- Cooking
- Decorating
- Shopping
- Planning our schedules
- Journey times
- DIY
- Playing games
- Reading charts and tables i.e. bus timetables

How maths has changed?

In our classrooms we teach maths by giving the children opportunities to:

- Use practical equipment
- Discuss their work and answers to problems
- Play mathematical games / use ICT
- Use mental arithmetic
- Investigate different methods of answering problems / solving puzzles

How can you help at home?

- Ask your children to help sort the washing or pair socks
 - Look for numbers on doors, cars, road signs
 - Play board games that involve counting or rolling dice
 - Provide opportunities for your child to use money
- Encourage your child to read the train or bus timetable

Make sure you:

Look for the maths around you

Have the right attitude

- ✓ Continuously praise and encourage your child's efforts
- ✓ Encourage them to talk about their work and to explain their answers
- ✓ Ask them to think of an alternative way to answer a problem
- ✓ Speak to your child's teacher about what you can do to help

