



**Mr Eric McWilliam**

Over the weekend Mr Eric McWilliam, better known as our former Crossing Patrolman, passed away peacefully aged 86. Eric started to work on the Islandmagee Road in December 2003 and for the next 14 years he was there every morning and every afternoon to make sure that the children and parents of WPSNU got safely to and from school across the road, only retiring at the age of 80. In my time as principal, Eric very rarely ever had a day off. He was the perfect gentleman and a real gentle giant. The children and parents loved him and he always had a great big smile and a good morning or good afternoon for everyone who crossed the road. Eric had a close connection with WPSNU. His daughter Olive has served on the Board of Governors for many years (currently Vice Chairperson) and his grandchildren came through the school. Eric will be sadly missed and our thoughts and prayers are very much with his family at this difficult time.

**Dates for the Diary**

**October**

Tues 3	Y6 Viking Day
Tues 3	1.15pm Child Protection & Safeguarding Training
Wed 11	P/T Consultation times sent out to parents
Thurs 12 & Fri 13	Flu Vaccination
Mon 23 – Thurs 26	2.00 P/T Consultations. <b>To facilitate the consultations school will finish at 1.45pm (Y1-Y4) &amp; 1.50pm (Y5-Y7)</b>
Thurs 19	7.00pm Child Protection & Safeguarding Training
Thurs 19	7.30pm Board of Governors
Fri 27	PTA Halloween Disco (FANCY DRESS)
<b>Fri 27</b>	<b>School finishes @ 1.45/1.50 for Half Term</b>

**November**

<b>Mon 6</b>	<b>School resumes at the usual time</b>
Thurs 16	7.30pm PTA (Please note the slightly later start)

**Staff Training Day**

**Just a reminder that school is closed this Friday, 29 September to facilitate staff training.**

**Child Protection Training**

If you would like to volunteer within school or on a school trip don't forget that you need to be trained and complete an Access NI application form. **In a change of plans, training on Thursday 28 September has been postponed and will take place on Thursday 19 October instead.** Therefore, the next training will take place on **Tuesday 3 October at 1.15pm** (lasting 30 minutes) and the final opportunity for training will be on **Thursday 19 October at 7.00pm** (lasting 30 minutes).

### Attendance & Illness

Over the last few years due to Covid 19, pupil attendance levels had dropped significantly, however, last year it was great to see an improvement and I am very hopeful that we will see further improvement this year. To this mind, I would really encourage you to avoid taking holidays during term time. As part of DE policy to improve pupil attendance I am required to provide a report to the Board of Governors at each meeting. At Parent/Teacher consultations in October and February your child's class teacher will update you on your child's attendance and if your child's attendance has fallen below 90% you will also receive a letter from myself highlighting the drop in their attendance.

While I really encourage good attendance it is also important that if your child is ill, that they remain at home. Please inform your child's teacher via Seesaw on the first day of your child's absence outlining why they are absent, **YOU NO LONGER NEED TO PHONE THE SCHOOL OFFICE AS LONG AS YOU INFORM YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER.**

### Parent/Teacher Consultations

Please complete the form which will be sent home with your child today indicating which days suit you best to attend for the parent/teacher consultation. Please return the completed form to your child's teacher by Friday 6 October. Teachers will meet on Monday 9 October to co-ordinate days and times for siblings and will use Seesaw to send out consultation days and times on Wednesday 11 October.

The consultations will take place from Monday 23 – Thursday 26 October. **To facilitate the consultations, school will finish at 1.45pm (Y1 – Y4) & 1.50pm (Y5 – Y7). There will be no after school activities this week.**

### After School Activities (ASAs)

On a Tuesday & Thursday when our own staff are taking ASAs they will accompany the children out to the playground where they can be collected from the Y3/4 playground or the gate.

On a Monday, Wednesday & Friday when ASAs are taken by coaches from outside WPSNU parents should come into school to collect their children.

Mon Football – Assembly Hall

Hockey – Gym Hall

Wed Irish Dancing – Assembly Hall

Jujitsu – Gym Hall

Fri Coding – Assembly Hall

Basketball – Gym Hall

I do appreciate that some Y5 – Y7 children may be walking home by themselves or have arranged to meet you somewhere outside school. Please remind your children that if they are ever unsure about their pick-up arrangements or if no-one is there to pick them up as they expected, they should come back into school so we can contact their parents



### PTA Halloween Disco

The first PTA event of the year will take place on Friday 27 October ... our Halloween Disco. The PTA work very hard to organise events that the children will enjoy and in so doing raise additional money to the benefit of your child. Please, please, please support us in this event. **The Disco costs £2 per child and will go live on School Money on Monday 2 October.** For any parent who wishes to make a greater donation there is the facility to do so on School Money. **On Friday 27 October everyone is encouraged to come to school in Fancy Dress.** Please see the information below.



### Christmas Concerts & Carol Service

The Nursery – Y3 Christmas Concerts will take place on the mornings of Wednesday 13 & Thursday 14 December and the Carol Service will take place in Whitehead Presbyterian Church on the evening of Monday 18 December.



WPS PTA FUNDRAISER

# **HALLOWEEN DISCO**

**Friday 27th October**  
during school hours

**BOO!**

**NOT TOO  
SCARY!**

**FANCY  
DRESS**

**TREAT  
BAGS**

**GLOW  
STICKS**

**£2 per pupil**

**payable through School Money**