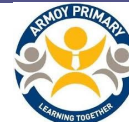


# Weekly News

## Friday 9th September



### Remembering Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Today we held a short assembly to mark this sad historic event in our lives. Pupils watched images of the Queen's life including her Jubilee sketch with Paddington bear. The pupils heard the National Anthem being played. As a mark of respect we will fly the Union flag at half mast in honour of the late monarch.



### AQE

Applications for registration are currently open and will close at **4pm** on Friday 23rd September 2022. If you have not yet registered your child please use the link below to take you to the online portal which is at the bottom of the AQE web page.

<https://aqe.org.uk/applications-for-registration-2022-2023/>

### Drop off and Pick up

**KS1**—We would suggest that those dropping off at the side gate use a one way system in the mornings and at 1.50pm. Please enter from the Drones Road and exit onto the Gracehill Road.

**KS2**—Can we remind those dropping off children to be mindful of other road users and pedestrians on the Gracehill Road in the mornings and at 1.50pm and 2.50pm. Please do not double park on the Gracehill Road, use the layby at the front of the school and please do not block the staff entrance into the school car park.

It is essential to have your child at school on time and before the school day starts at 8.55am. Lateness disrupts the start of your child's day and also the rest of the class and staff who have arrived in school on time.

### PTA

Once again, we are appealing for your support with our PTA as we welcome you all to our first meeting on Tuesday 13th September at 7.15pm via Zoom. Our AGM will take place on Tuesday 4th October. The link will be shared before each meeting and new members will be made very welcome!

### After School Clubs

This week you have received details of our after schools programme. Your support of these clubs alongside the tireless effort of our PTA volunteers has enabled us to raise enough funds to purchase playground equipment for our KS2 playground. The pupils and staff are very grateful for the efforts made to enhance the resources of the school.

### House Teams

We have decided to reintroduce house teams and points for the pupils. We have four house teams. They are: Armada- Yellow, Gracehill- Blue, The Hedges- Green and Knocklayde- Red. Your child has been told their house colour and the pupils are looking forward to collecting points for a monthly reward.

### Music lessons 2022-23 (P4-P7 only)

Music Loft instructors will be restarting lessons on Friday 16th September. If your child would like to learn drums, piano or guitar please get in touch with Kathy in the school office. Music Loft instructors call into school once a week

to give music lessons .

If you hire a school guitar then those fees will be due again and will be on ParentPay next week.

### Data collection and permissions

Please return these to school asap as we need the details on them to be up to date.

### Uniform & checks

Please make sure that all items belonging to your child are clearly labeled with their name. Please also check your child on a monthly basis for head lice.

### Golden rules

Please go through the golden rules with your child as we want to promote positive behavior in school. We have been discussing the golden rules in school this week and in assembly.

1. *We keep our hands and our feet to ourselves*
2. *We move about the school and classroom safely*
3. *We complete activities at home and in school to the best of our ability*
4. *We listen to and respect each other and the adults in school*
5. *We treat each other as we want to be treated*
6. *We have good manners*

### Cool For Schools

Individual, family groups and P1/7 photographs were taken in school on Thursday. Please check your email for information on ordering. This is completed by parents online.

### Upcoming events & dates for the diary

**Swimming**—will recommence on Tuesday 13th September for P5/6 and should be paid weekly on ParentPay.

**Meet the teacher afternoon**— Friday 16th September. P1-4 session is from 1-2pm and the P5-7 session is from 2-3pm. We will provide supervision for pupils while you are in these meetings.

Shared education fun day—due to take place on Wednesday 21st September. Arrangements to be confirmed.

**Parent/teacher week** 17th October.

**Flu vaccine**—Nurses will be in school in November (14th) to administer the vaccines. We will be in touch with details closer to the time.

**Harvest Tea/McMillan Coffee morning**—21st October (parents/grandparents invited). Details to follow

Pupils will be taking part in fundraising activities in school including a guess the sprinkles competition and a class Bake Off!

**Panto**—All being well we are planning to take our pupils to the panto this year. We will be attending the Grand Opera House, Belfast on **Wednesday 7th December** to watch 'Cinderella'. This trip will cost £20 per pupil and details will be sent out at the start of term

**Residential trip**—We have organised our P6/7 residential trip which will take place slightly earlier this year from 17-19 April 2023. We have tried to keep the cost as low as possible but due to an increase in price at the Share Village and in the cost of transport we have had to increase the price slightly to £220 per pupil. This will be payable in instalments with an initial £50 deposit required to secure your child's place. 25 places are available and in the event of oversubscription priority will be given to P7 pupils. P6 places will be allocated after this on receipt of the deposit until