



# Newsletter

Issue 6  
February 2024

## WELCOME to Mrs Gowan

Following the February half-term break, Mrs Gowan will join our staff as our new P3 teacher and Vice-Principal. I am delighted to be welcoming her to our school following a very competitive recruitment process.



Mrs Gowan joins us from Forge Integrated Primary School in South Belfast where she has taught for the past 17 years. She has also recently graduated with her Master's Degree and has extensive teaching and leadership experience which is sure to benefit the pupils of our school and wider community in the years ahead.

## FMPS Disco

The FMPS Disco for P4-P7 has been postponed due to weather warnings being in place. The re-arranged date for the disco is Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February from 6:30pm until 7:45pm.

## FAREWELL to Mrs Gillespie

On Wednesday we said goodbye to Mrs Gillespie (for now) as she begins her 12-month career break. Mrs Gillespie has overseen the first steps into education for Millisle children for the past 20 years.



In more recent times, she and Mrs MacCormack introduced the massively successful, 'Curiosity Approach' into our Nursery Unit. In addition, since I took over as Principal almost 4 years ago, Mrs Gillespie has been a huge support to me both within SLT (Senior Leadership Team) and as teacher representative on our Board of Governors.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Gillespie for her contribution to school life and wish her the very best for the coming year on behalf of our pupils, parents and staff.

## PARENT/TEACHER Interviews for P1 to P6

These will take place between Monday 18th and Thursday 21st March with school closing early at 1:00pm/ 1:15pm each day. Parents will be allocated a time slot in due course and can choose between a face to face meeting or a phone call. P7 pupils will remain in school to the normal finishing time all week having had Transfer Interviews or their Annual Review already.

## HOMEWORK Club

Our new Homework Club on a Wednesday afternoon is proving to be a huge hit with our pupils. The club runs from 3:45 to 4:45pm each Wednesday and is hosted each week by Sixth form pupils from Strangford Integrated College along with SERC Tutor, Ms Michelle Graham. All pupils from P1 to P7 are very welcome to attend.

# Matilda

The Musical

Having been involved in numerous school plays both as a pupil and a teacher, I am delighted to announce that our school production is back. This will be our first school production since Cinderella back in 2020.

School productions will now happen on a biannual basis with each child in Millisle having the opportunity to star in the show in either their P6 or P7 year. The shows are due to take place in late April with ticket information announced in due course.

## Guided Reading Book REFRESH

Our guided reading book stock within school has been becoming tired and depleted over the past number of years. I am delighted to announce that in the past fortnight we have invested **£6000** in brand new reading materials for our pupils. Pupils from P1 through to P3/4 will be reading from a new Oxford Scheme with our KS2 pupils reading from a new Collins scheme. Our older book stock such as Story World and Literacy World will continue to supplement the new schemes where appropriate.

## School Calendar

February – April 2024

February 9 <sup>th</sup>	Non-Uniform day & N-P3 Valentine's Disco
February 9 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Gillespie begins career break
February 12 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>	Half-Term Break
February 19 <sup>th</sup>	School re-opens after half-term break Mrs Gowan (New Vice Principal) starts in P3
February 19 <sup>th</sup>	'BEE Safe' P7 visit
February 20 <sup>th</sup>	P6 'Our Wee Country' Trip – Windsor Park
February 22 <sup>nd</sup>	FMPS Valentine's Disco – Rearranged
March 11 <sup>th</sup>	Mobile Zoo visit to school
March 13 <sup>th</sup>	Last swimming date for P7
March 18 <sup>th</sup>	P6 Parents SEAG meeting at 4.00 pm
March 18 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup>	Parent Teacher consultations. School closes at 1.00 pm / 1.15 p.m. Monday to Thursday for P1 to P6. (P7 will remain in school to the normal finishing time all week)
March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	School closes for Easter Holidays at 12.00 noon / 12.15 pm
March 25 <sup>th</sup> – April 5 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Holidays
April 8 <sup>th</sup>	Term 3 begins
April 23 <sup>rd</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup>	Matilda the Musical – School Production

WHAT'S THE PASSWORD?



When submitting online forms, please use the password sent to you on Dojo. This will indicate that the form has been completed by a member of our school community with access to the appropriate password.

## CONTACT & SOCIAL MEDIA

Email: [info@millisleps.newtownards.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@millisleps.newtownards.ni.sch.uk)

Website: [www.millisleprimary.co.uk](http://www.millisleprimary.co.uk)

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