



ANAHILT

Primary School



29 August 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome Back!

I hope you and your family had a restful summer and are ready for another exciting year at Anahilt Primary School. Staff and pupils alike are looking forward to a positive and productive term ahead.

Apart from our new P1s we also welcome 10 new pupils throughout the school. We would like to extend a warm welcome to all the families, and I know our community will make them feel very welcome.

This short first week is designed to help pupils settle back into routine and reconnect with their peers and teachers. On Tuesday 2nd September at 6:30pm, we invite you to our 'Meet the Teacher' evening, where staff will share classroom plans, the curriculum for the year ahead and expectations.

New Pupils

A special welcome to our new P1 class! We hope your journey at Anahilt begins smoothly. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or Mrs Brush in the office. We are here to help.

Uniform

Pupils should wear full school uniform daily, except on PE days when P4–P7 may wear their PE kit. P1–P3 only need to change shoes for PE. Please ensure all items are clearly labelled.

Uniform arrangements have not changed. Details are:

- Grey trousers/skirt/pinafore (if shorts are to be worn under the skirt or pinafore they must be plain black in colour)
- White polo shirt
- Anahilt sweatshirt/cardigan
- Black/grey socks (trousers) or white socks (skirts)
- Black school shoes or plain black trainers (no coloured logos)
- P4–P7 should have a white shirt and school tie for special occasions (available from the office for £4).



- Please note that PE kit for P4-P7 pupils is white polo shirt (they can use their school one) and plain black bottoms. These can be in the form of shorts of suitable length, leggings or jogging bottoms but must be plain black. Examples of kit are pictured below.



Staff Updates

We welcome Miss Carson to P2, Mr Shields to P5 and Miss Smyth who will be teaching P7 alongside myself. Mrs Reid will be joining us as classroom assistant, and we are grateful to our volunteers supporting us this year.

Pastoral Care & Safeguarding

Pastoral care remains a priority. I am the Designated Teacher for Child Protection, and Mrs McCune is the Deputy. Please raise any concerns with your child's teacher or me. Our policy is available on the school website under the 'Policies' tab in the Parent section.

Site Improvements

Thanks to our PTA, the resource room has been transformed into a new P5 classroom. It has been refreshed with new paint, shelving, and storage. This is a great space for the new P5 class to start their journey in the senior end of the school.

Academic Progress

We received our data from GL Assessment over the summer and the teachers have been busy using this to plan their year ahead. Based on GL testing we are delighted that all classes are above the NI Average in both Literacy and Numeracy with the majority significantly above. This is fantastic. Today I have sent a link home for parents of pupils with SEN to come and see me so we can plan the year ahead. Parent-teacher interviews will take place the week beginning 14 October. If you have concerns before then, please contact the office to arrange a meeting.

Communication

We are trying to use less paper as part of our eco drive in school. The school website once again will be our main communication hub. Key updates will be posted under Latest News, Calendar, and the Parents tab. Please also follow both the school and PTA on Facebook.

Please use the answer machine for absence messages if Mrs Brush is away from her desk.

Important Reminders

- **Nut-Free School:** Please avoid sending any nut products due to severe allergies.
- **Plain water** (unless for medical reasons)
 - If a child has a medical condition, which prevents them from drinking water, then this is treated as an exception to this policy and will be approved by school where medical evidence is provided.
 - The water-only policy will also be applied to Early Birds and AfterSchool Club.
 - Water only should be provided in lunch boxes. Fizzy, high sugar, squash and fruit juice are **not** permitted.
- **Lost Property:** Label all belongings and check with the office if anything is missing.
- **Traffic:** Drive carefully and avoid blocking neighbours' driveways. **No cars should enter the school site without prior arrangement.**
- **Start Times:** Pupils should arrive no earlier than 8:45am unless attending Early Birds (from 8:00am). Drop off and pick up is from the front pedestrian gate. There will always be a member of staff on duty at the gate. School starts at 9:00am sharp. Any child after this time should come to reception as the side gates will be locked.
- **Entrances:** Use designated gates—details remain unchanged from last year. P1 parents will receive separate communication from the class teacher as this changes over the next few weeks.
- **School Dinners:** Cost is £2.60. We are now a cash free school and all monies for dinners, Early Birds and Afterschool will be paid via the School Money app.
- **External After school Clubs:** Begin the week of 15 September (details to follow).
- **Free School Meals:** Contact Mrs Brush or visit the EA website for eligibility and application info.
- **Healthy Breaks:** We encourage fruit, vegetables, bread-based snacks, and milk or water.
- **Attendance:** Notify the school of absences and return the absence form upon your child's return.

Wishing you and your child a successful and enjoyable year at Anahilt Primary School.

Warm regards,

A Smyth
Principal