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November 2023



Admission of Children to Primary School

Children, who are four on or before 1 July 2024, are due to start school in September 2024.

The application is via the Education Authority's website; <https://www.eani.org.uk/>. The criteria for admission to primary schools will be published on this website on 12 December 2023.

If your child is starting primary school in September 2024, you can apply for their place online from 12 noon on Tuesday 9 January 2024. The closing date and time for primary one applications will be 12 noon on Friday 26 January 2024.

Mary's Meals

On December 6th we will have our Christmas Jumper Day when children can bring a voluntary donation of £1

for the Mary's Meals Charity.

Please note that these donations are voluntary, and parents should not feel under pressure to make the donation.

The Hallowe'en Dress Up day raised a total of £121.60 for St Vincent de Paul. Our local SVP are there to provide help to anyone in our parish who is struggling. If you need their help, then please call: 07563595868.



Open Night for Pre-School Children - Tuesday 5 December

The school will host a Christmas themed open evening at 7pm in the Tirkeeran site for pre-school pupils who are due to start Primary One next September.

Confirmation & First Holy Communion Dates

Sat	23 March	Confirmation at 11am St Mary's, Ballerin
Sat	18 May	First Holy Communion at 11am - Venue to be confirmed

P4 Assembly

Assembly will be performed for their parents by P4 on Friday 26 January. This is a great opportunity for our wonderful children to showcase their talents. We would ask that parents use the hand sanitisers on the way in.

Attendance

Pupils who have any sickness should remain at home until well enough to return to school.

Christmas Dinner

Wednesday 6th December
Roast Turkey, chipolata sausage

Stuffing and gravy
Roast and mash potatoes
Peas, Carrots & Sweetcorn
Orange squash and Ice Cream

Priced at £2.60



(Allergy and special diets required will be accommodated within nutrition guidelines)
Please indicate before 24 November if your child will be taking Christmas Dinner.

Song for the Month

The Rattlin' Bog

Chorus:
 Ho ro the rattlin' bog
 The bog down in the valley-o
 Ho ro the rattlin' bog
 The bog down in the valley-o

In that bog there was a tree
 A rare tree, a rattlin' tree
 The tree in the bog
 In the bog down in the valley-o

Chorus
 And on that tree there was a limb
 A rare limb, a rattlin' limb
 The limb on the tree
 And the tree in the bog
 In the bog down in the valley-o

Chorus
 And on that limb there was a branch
 A rare branch, a rattlin' branch
 The branch on the limb
 The limb on the tree
 And the tree in the bog
 In the bog down in the valley-o

Chorus
 And on that branch there was a twig
 A rare twig, a rattlin' twig
 The twig on the branch
 The branch on the limb
 The limb on the tree
 And the tree in the bog
 In the bog down in the valley-o

Chorus
 And on that twig there was a nest
 A rare nest, a rattlin' nest
 The nest on the twig
 The twig on the branch
 The branch on the limb
 The limb on the tree
 And the tree in the bog
 In the bog down in the valley-o

Chorus
 And on that nest there was a flea
 A rare flea, a rattlin' flea
 The flea in the nest
 The nest on the twig
 The twig on the branch
 The branch on the limb
 The limb on the tree
 And the tree in the bog
 In the bog down in the valley-o

Chorus
 And on that flea there was a flea
 A rare flea, a rattlin' flea
 The flea in the nest
 The nest on the twig
 The twig on the branch
 The branch on the limb
 The limb on the tree
 And the tree in the bog
 In the bog down in the valley-o

Chorus x4

Irish for the month



I rith na Samhna cuimhnimis ar na mairbh
 (I ree na sowna kivkneemish ar na marv)
 During November let us remember the dead

Classroom Instructions

Maidin mhaith a pháistí :
 Good morning children

Maidin mhaith a mhúinteoir :
 Good morning teacher

Trathnóna maith a pháistí :
 Good afternoon children

Trathnóna maith a mhúinteoir :
 Good afternoon teacher

Gabh mo leithscéal :
 Excuse me

An bhfuil cead agam dul amach? Tá/Níl :
 Can I go outside?

An bhfuil cead agam dul go dtí an leithreas? Tá/Níl :
 May I go to the toilet?

Cuirigi lámh in airde :
 Put your hands up

Maith thú :
 Well done

Le do thoil :
 Please

Go raibh maith agat :
 Thank you

Suigh síos :
 Sit down

Seas suas :
 Stand up

Bí ciúin :
 Be quiet

Éist le do thoil :
 Listen please

Oscail an leabhar :
 Open the book

Cuir ort do chóta :
 Put on your coats

Deanigi líne :
 Line up

Siúil amach :
 Walk out

Tagigi isteach :
 Come in

Bualadh bos :
 Clap hands

Irish can be accessed from <http://ccea.org.uk/curriculum/gaeoideachas/piasch> and then click on Language and Literacy.

Grammar for the Month

I was like walking

Incorrect X

I was walking

Correct ✓

I was like saying

Incorrect X

I was saying

Correct ✓

Rule: If you wouldn't write it don't say it!



Dates for Term One / Two

Thursdays	Ongoing	Swimming for the P7 class
Wednesdays	Once a month	Adoration for P4-7
Thursdays	Ongoing	Library visits
Monday	4 December	Children will sing at the Christmas Lights Switch in Garvagh 6.30-8.30pm
Thursday	7 December	P4, 5, 6 & 7 Christmas Show
Monday	18 December	P1, 2 & 3 Christmas Show
Thursday	21 December	School closes at 12 noon
Thursday	4 January	School reopens.
Friday	26 January	P4 Assembly
Friday	1 March	P3 Assembly
Saturday	23 March	Confirmation - St Mary's Ballerin at 11am

TOPICS

The children enjoy learning all about the world around them. In learning through their topics children are able to apply their learning and develop cross-curricular skills.



- Primary 1 - All About Me*
- Primary 2 - Wow Wee, Look at Me!*
- Primary 3 - Castles & Knights*
- Primary 4 - Mighty Me*
- Primary 5 - Where We Live*
- Primary 6 - Famine*
- Primary 7 - Rainforest*

Library Visits

Each class will have the opportunity to visit Garvagh library between now and Christmas. This is a great support and enhances the excellent provision for reading in the school.



During/Afterschool Clubs



Mondays	Ongoing	Choir P5 - P7 from 3-3.45pm with Mrs Bradley & Mrs McGill
Wednesdays	Ongoing	Gaelic with Gavin
Thursdays	9 - 23 Nov	Cookery Club with Miss Conway for P3 (Max 10)
Thursdays	30 - 14 Dec	Second group Cookery Club for P3 (Max 10)
Thursdays	9 Nov - 14 Dec	Handball for P6 pupils with Mrs Ball
Thursdays	9 Nov - 14 Dec	Camogie with Mr McCann for P4 & P5 girls

School Dinners and Free School Meals

School dinners cost **£2.60** per day, please send in an envelope. Please make cheques payable to the Education Authority.



The number of pupils who are on the free school meals' register affects the school budget. If you are in any doubt as to whether you are entitled to free dinners please complete a Free School Meals' form which is available via the EA's website, <https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants>, even if you do not wish your child to actually take dinner.

Child Protection and Safeguarding.

Children are encouraged to share any worries with their parents, and in school with any adult. The school will remind children regularly that Mrs Ball (Designated Teacher for Child Protection), Mrs McCloy and Mrs Heron (Deputy Designated Teachers) are always available to handle any concerns.

Collection of Children from EA Bus

It is important to note that, according to the EA Transport policy, our school bus driver cannot let children off the bus unless a responsible adult is there to collect them.

Mathletics

Mathletics is an excellent fun maths learning programme. Pupils thrive on the competitive element of obtaining points by competing against other pupils online or by completing tasks independently. Pupils are given appropriately levelled activities which are in line with the Northern Ireland Curriculum. 'Mathletics' will be used both in school and at home.

The cost per pupil is £5 (approximately 10p for 52 weeks / 25p if only used for 20 weeks) with a maximum payable of £15 per family. Parents who subscribe will ensure their child has access to unlimited tutorials for 52 weeks.

We would urge all parents, regardless of the age or ability of your child to support this initiative as we believe that it is a relatively inexpensive way of significantly improving your child's mathematical results.

New Mathletics Certificate System

Mathletics have recently updated their certificate system. There are now 8 certificate levels with 5 ranks within each certificate. This means that there are now 40 certificates in total that students can earn each academic year.

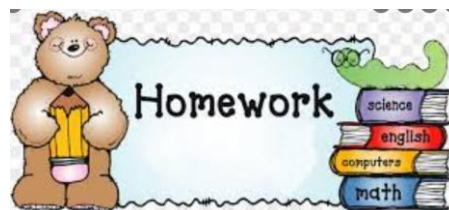
A certificate is earned by achieving 1000 points (or more) in a week. The Mathletics week starts from Monday morning and runs until midnight on Sunday evening.

The new certificate types are as follows:

- Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum,
- Emerald, Diamond, Epic and Legend

As a reward for their efforts and hard work, pupils will visit the shop when they achieve their 5th Platinum certificate and again when they achieve their 5th Legend certificate.

Certificates will now be reset each year, so that every year students have a chance of being able to achieve Legend status. We hope this will encourage pupils to engage with Mathletics regularly to ensure they are on track to earn the highest rewards possible.



We understand that on occasion it is virtually impossible and impracticable for your child to complete their homework. When this is the case simply send the teacher a dojo stating that, 'It is impractical for Sean to complete his homework tonight.'

No further explanation is necessary. It is optional if you the parent wants the child to complete the homework on a different night.

Allergies / Medical Needs

As you are aware a number of children within the school are allergic to nuts and or eggs. As an anaphylactic reaction to these foods can be potentially life threatening, we ask that all parents ensure that no nut products (e.g. Kinder eggs/ bars) or egg (such as egg sandwiches) be brought into the school.

Administering Medication



If your child has a medical condition and required medication, please ensure the medication is in date.



Boomerang Lunches

To encourage recycling and in order that parents can gauge what children have eaten for their lunch and break the school has a boomerang lunch policy. This means that all packaging or uneaten lunch will return home in the pupils' lunchboxes.