

NEWSLETTER

INSPIRE ~ SUPPORT ~ ACHIEVE

Diary Dates

Open Enrolment begins for P1 2025 (12 noon)	Friday, 10 th January
Assessment Week	Monday, 13 th January – Friday 17 th January
P7 swimming commences	Tuesday, 14 th January
Visit from Belfast Giants to P6	Tuesday, 14 th January
PTA Meeting 7.30pm	Tuesday, 21 st January
Open Enrolment closes for P1 2025 (12 noon)	Friday, 24 th January
Healthy Living Week	Monday, 27 th January – Friday 31 st January
P7 parents – application for Post Primary place opens (12 noon) (closes 20 th February)	Tuesday, 28 th January
Parent/Teacher interviews (12:30pm finish for pupils)	Tuesday, 4 th February – Thursday, 6 th February
Hockey Blitz	Wednesday, 5 th February
PTA Valentine's Disco	Thursday, 6 th February
School Closes for Half Term Break (2:00pm)	Friday, 7 th February

Welcome Back

Happy New Year everyone! It is hard to believe we are in Term 2 already, never mind the fact it is 2025, but here we are. I hope you all had a restful Christmas break and pupils are back, recharged and ready for another busy term full of excitement, experiences and everything else that makes Fairview special.

As ever, this will be a busy term as you can see from the diary dates above. We look forward to speaking to all our parents again in February at the second set of interviews. Over the next couple of weeks in school, staff will be carrying out some testing on pupils to monitor progress and set targets going forward. This will, of course, be shared with you at the interviews in February.

As a school, we appreciate your support and look forward to working with you to ensure best outcomes for your child this year and throughout their time in Fairview.

Open Enrolment Process - P1 September 2024

The admissions process for children starting school in September 2025 opened today at 12noon. If you have a child with a birthday between 2nd July 2020 and 1st July 2021, or if you deferred their admission to primary school in September 2024, then it is important that you register your child before 12noon on Friday 24th January.

Please visit the EA website eani.org.uk to apply. Here you will find advice and support on how to apply as well as the admissions criteria for Fairview PS. The link below will take you directly to the EA site:

<https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/primary-admissions-guide>

If you have any problems with the admissions process or would like some assistance, please contact Mrs Craig in the school office.

If you know of any friends or neighbours who are still undecided on what school to send their child to, please do encourage them to join our family. If they missed Open Day and would like to visit school and see round for themselves, we would be delighted to facilitate this.



www.eani.org.uk/admissions

**CLOSES AT
12 NOON
24 JAN 2025**

**Pre-School & Primary 1
Online Applications for
September 2025 are
now open via
eacconnect**

<https://connect.eani.org.uk/parent/>



preschooladmissions@eani.org.uk
primaryadmissions@eani.org.uk



AR Updates

Congratulations to our latest AR word millionaires; Sophia P7K, Rebecca P7N, Jack P5P, Isaac P6H, Jacob P5McC and Matthias P5P!

Pizza Party Competition

Last term the boys and girls throughout P4-7 competed in an AR competition which gave their class the chance of winning a pizza party! We are so impressed with how invested the children were in their reading over the course of this competition with some classes improving their overall word score by over 2 million words, in just a few weeks!! Huge congratulations however must go to Mrs Boyd's P6 class for winning the competition by improving their word score by a phenomenal 3,059,359 words! They will receive their pizza party soon which they are sure to enjoy!

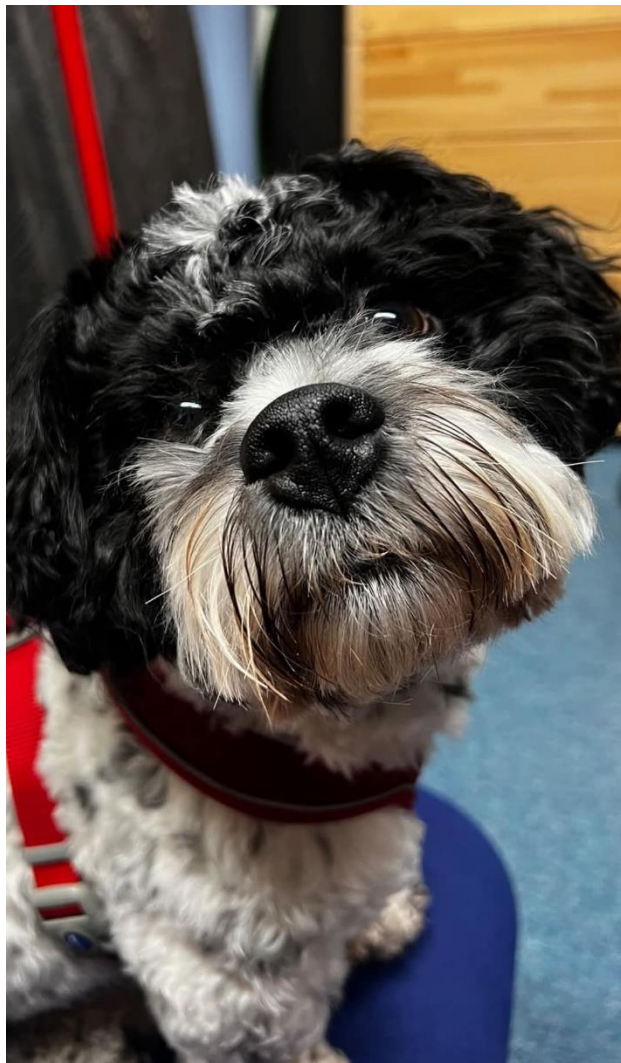
Meet Hugo

We are excited to introduce you to Hugo, our new therapy dog in-training. Hugo will be joining us on a special journey as part of our commitment to promoting pupil wellbeing at Fairview.

At Fairview, we understand that a happy, healthy mind is key to learning and growth. That's why we have a wide range of initiatives designed to support the emotional and mental wellbeing of everyone at Fairview. Hugo is here to be a friendly companion and a source of comfort for students.

Whether it's offering a calming presence during stressful times or providing a gentle ear for those who need it, Hugo will play an important role in supporting our positive, inclusive atmosphere at Fairview.

Stay tuned for more updates as we continue Hugo's training and integrate him into our wellbeing programs. We look forward to seeing the positive impact Hugo will have on our school community!



Visit to Ballyclare Nursery

We were delighted to share some festive cheer with Ballyclare Nursery School during the week before Christmas. Our Senior Choir loved taking part in the Carols and Coffee celebration with the Nursery pupils and singing alongside Ballyclare Primary School.

Mr McAllister, Mrs Norris and our choir pupils also enjoyed delivering some presents for our little friends. We hope everyone had a lovely Christmas!



Attendance and Uniform

Attending school regularly is important for all children because of the link between attendance and attainment. Regular attendance at school combined with high quality teaching and learning ensures that pupils get the best possible outcomes from their time in Fairview, and also avail of the most opportunities presented to them, academic and extra-curricular. There has been a lot of sickness this winter, leading to many school absences. If your child is ill, they should not be in school. But as far as possible, please endeavour to have your child in school ready to start at 8.55am, with doors open from 8.45am. When your child is late, it disrupts their start to the day and very often it disrupts the whole class. Homes can be busy places in the morning but please make every effort to have your child in school on time.

We pride ourselves on our uniform in Fairview. At the start of a new term, it is worth a reminder so standards remain high. On PE days, P4-P7 should wear their PE kit which consists of navy tracksuit bottoms or navy leggings for girls, the Fairview T shirt and hoodie (both available from Sport 'n' Sound). All other days should be normal school uniform with black shoes. A change should be brought if required for P5-P7 who are doing after school activities on a non PE day. Pupils **should not** have earrings in when at school and we would really appreciate your support with this.

Valentine's Disco – date for your diary

Our half term disco in October was a huge success and we are delighted to announce our PTA are running a second disco of the year, with a Valentine's theme, on Thursday 6th February. A note with further details will follow but for now, get the date in your diary!

Entry will be £2 donation and pupils should dress to impress!

School Safeguarding

If you have any safeguarding concerns, then the following is the school team:

Designated Teacher -	Mrs Norris
Deputy Designated Teacher -	Miss Earls
Deputy Designated Teacher -	Mrs Craig
Safeguarding Governor -	Mrs Victoria Woodside

The school's Safeguarding Policy is available to all parents on the school's website or from the school office, on request.





Online Safety Newsletter

Jan 2025

Social Media Influencers

What is an Influencer?

An influencer is somebody on a social media platform such as YouTube and Instagram, who have a high number of followers. Influencers share their opinions/ideas and may be paid to advertise/promote products through their account.

What should I be concerned about?

Whilst there are some great influencers, there are some that choose to share content that is for example, misogynistic, racist or misleading. These opinions can be expressed or interpreted as fact, so it is important to talk to your child and encourage them to fact check and critically analyse what they see and hear online.

What we see on social media

What we see is influenced by algorithms, which predict what type of content we are most likely to interact with. Whilst there are benefits of algorithms, it can mean that once we start looking at certain content, our social media feed can become more aligned with that opinion, creating an echo chamber and therefore we do not see a balanced picture. Find out more here: <https://www.childnet.com/blog/algorithms/>

What can I do to help my child?

Talk to your child about social media and who they follow. If there is anybody that you are unsure of, then check their feed and discuss with your child if you find anything worrying.

Further information

<https://swgfl.org.uk/topics/social-media/>

Fortnite Battle Royale



Fortnite Battle Royale is rated PEGI 12 due to moderate violence, meaning it is not suitable for children under the age of 12.

What is Fortnite?

There are different versions of Fortnite, including Fortnite Battle Royale, which is free to play (although it contains in-app purchases). In Battle Royale, up to one hundred players compete against each other until one winner remains.

What do I need to be aware of?

- **Chatting and inappropriate language:** Fortnite includes voice and text chat, which may mean your child encounters strangers and may hear inappropriate language. Ensure your child knows how to report/block any players that make them feel uncomfortable.
- **In app purchases:** Players can purchase V-Bucks so make sure you restrict purchases and do not store your card details.

Parental Controls

Fortnite provides several parental controls in your child's Epic account to help you create a safer environment for your child. The controls allow you to:

- disable voice chat
- filter language
- manage which experiences your child can access based on their age
- set a PIN to add friends
- set a PIN for purchases
- set time limits
- set appropriate privacy settings.

Also, remember to set up age-appropriate parental controls on the device your child is playing on.

Reporting/Blocking Features

As always, ensure your child knows how to use the reporting and blocking features and that they know they should talk to you or another trusted adult if anything concerns them.

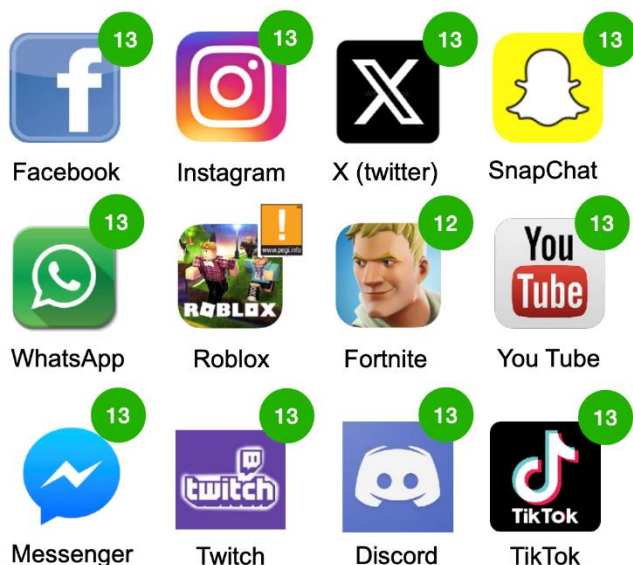
Further information

You can find out more here:

- <https://safety.epicgames.com/en-US/parental-controls>
- <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/fortnite>

Get to know age ratings

Age ratings exist to help protect your child, so we thought we'd provide you with a little reminder of how important it is to check the age ratings of what your child is accessing online. Here are the age ratings of some of the more popular apps that young people are accessing.



Whether your child is viewing films, accessing apps, playing games online or using social media – make sure you check the age rating first to see if your child is old enough. In addition, the likes of PEGI (Pan European Game Information) provide further content descriptors, which will give you an indication of the type of content that your child might view e.g. violence or bad language.

What else should I review?

It is important to note that whilst age ratings do allow you to see if something may be appropriate for your child, it is also important to review the content yourself. This will allow you to make an informed decision as to whether it is suitable for your child to access and if it would be beneficial to apply further parental controls. For example, does it include the ability to communicate with others and are in game/app purchases available?

What else can I do?

- Explain the importance of age ratings to your child and how they protect them.
- Go online together to see what your child is accessing.
- Set up parental controls on your broadband, devices and on any individual apps that your child is using. This will reduce the chances of them accessing or viewing anything unsuitable.
- Chat to your child regularly about what they are doing online and as always, remind your child that if anything is worrying them then they should talk to you or another trusted adult.

Further information

You can find out more here:

<https://eegamesmart.co.uk/articles/how-age-ratings-help-families/>

Smartphone Free Childhood



Smartphone Free Childhood is a parent-led movement whose mission is to protect children from the dangers of using smartphones too young.

The premise behind this movement is that all parents/carers of a class all agree not to give their children smartphones (therefore the level of peer pressure is reduced) for a set time or until a specific age. Are you ready to join? Find out more here:

<https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk>

Digital differences between men and women revealed

Ofcom have released their annual report into our daily habits. The findings show that women and teenage girls are more worried about online harms. You can read the full report here:

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/media-use-and-attitudes/online-habits/digital-differences-between-men-and-women-revealed/>

X (Twitter) Checklist

You should be at least 13 years of age to have a Twitter account. The SWGfL have created a free Privacy and Security checklist for you to download. The resource is available here:

<https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/introducing-the-x-checklist-keeping-your-profile-under-control/>