

NEWSLETTER

INSPIRE ~ SUPPORT ~ ACHIEVE

Diary Dates

Primary 1 in to 1:00pm	Monday, 15 th September
After School Activities commence (staff led)	Tuesday, 16 th September
SEAG (P7 transfer test) registration closes *	Friday, 19 th September
PTA AGM 7:30pm	Tuesday, 23 rd September
School closed – Staff Development Day	Friday, 26 th September
Individual and Family Photos	Wednesday, 15 th and Thursday, 16 th October
Fairview Pumpkin Patch	Saturday, 18 th October

*If you are a P7 parent of a child intending to sit SEAG, and you have not registered yet, please do so at your earliest convenience. If you require assistance, contact your child's teacher.

P1 Baselines and Meetings

The P1 staff would like to pass on their thanks to all the parents who took time to speak to their child's teacher over the last couple of weeks. The staff found the calls very useful and look forward to getting to know your child over the coming weeks and months.

Our Primary 1 pupils have settled so well into school life. Pupils finish their split sessions today, with Monday bringing the two groups in each class together for the first time up until 1pm. This will include having lunch together. A reminder also about a chance to meet with your child's teacher on **Tuesday 16th September at 1.15pm**. Do come along to hear about the year ahead for your child and what you can expect from their first year in school. Please note that this meeting is for adults only.

P2 – P7 Information Sessions

There has been a terrific turnout from our parents at the information sessions as the staff introduced themselves and shared with you what will be happening in your child's year group over the coming months. We hope you found the sessions useful and I know the staff appreciated the support. Our P7 year group had their information evening this week, including an update on SEAG. If you have any further questions around SEAG, please contact your child's teacher or myself and we will be happy to help.

PTA AGM

The first PTA meeting of the year will be held in school on Tuesday 23rd September at 7.30pm. We are looking forward to seeing many familiar faces returning but also welcoming many new parents who may not have come along before. There will be no pressure on any parent to take on a specific role on the Committee so please don't be put off!

Please do consider coming along. Our PTA is a great group and it is a wonderful way to become part of school life – your child loves to see you involved and they get advance viewings of all the events! We really need your support, ideas, enthusiasm and skills! Don't be shy, give PTA a try!

Our first event of the year will be our pumpkin patch on Saturday 18th October. It was a super morning last year, I know it will be even better this year! Make sure you save the date.



FAIRVIEW PRIMARY SCHOOL
PTA PRESENTS

FAIRVIEW PUMPKIN PATCH
SATURDAY 18TH OCTOBER

From 11am - last admission 12.30pm

Join us for a special themed trail, crafts,
games, marshmallow toasting and scarecrow
disco all included in your ticket price.

TICKETS PRICES:
CHILDREN £10
CHILDREN (NO PUMPKIN) £7
ADULTS £3
UNDER 2 GO FREE (NO PUMPKIN)

TICKETS COMING SOON!



Book Fair and Bedtime Stories

We have had a hugely successful Book Fair in school this week! There has been a rush of pupils and parents each morning and there has been such a positive buzz in the Assembly Hall. We had a tremendous response to our Tuesday evening 'Bedtime Stories' event and it was great to see so many pupils, and their little siblings, snuggling down for a bit of bedtime storytelling! This year, we introduced a 'book swap' for our older pupils...it was lovely to hear them talking about books with such passion! Lots of our parents enjoyed a cuppa and a chat too. Thank you to Sharen from Ballyclare Library who came along to read to our pupils. It was lovely to have you with us.

We would like to pass on our thanks to all those parents and carers who came to the fair and bought a book (or two) or gave of their time to 'man' the fair each morning or after school. As always, it is such a team effort. Thank you, and indeed thank you to our Literacy Leaders Miss Cooke and Miss Dickson for all their efforts in making the week such a highlight in the school year.

Blitz Day

We are lucky to have such extensive school grounds and we have worked hard over the last number of years to develop these grounds into an innovative and stimulating learning environment. At our Blitz Day last Friday, all pupils got to spend some time in the grounds, making sure our school is looking its best! Thank you to the many parents and grandparents who came along, we really do value your support.

If there are any parents or grandparents out there who could help us with projects on an ongoing basis, we would love to hear from you. Our vegetable garden, poly tunnel, raised beds and pond all need regular tending – maybe this is something you could get involved with at a time that suits you? Contact Mrs Davis or Mr McAllister if you are interested.

After School Clubs

Our external providers started their after school clubs this past fortnight. We are delighted to see so many boys and girls getting involved. Staff led clubs begin next week, and your child will have had the opportunity to sign up for these over the last few days. Dismissal will be from normal gates. If your child cannot make a club week, or they wish to withdraw, a note must be sent to the club leader.

Allergy Aware School

A number of our pupils have a severe allergy to various types of nuts. Therefore, it is school policy that nuts, of any form, are not permitted in school. This also includes the likes of a chocolate spread such as 'Nutella'. We appreciate your support with this. If there has been a change in your child's allergies, please inform school.

Any children who we know about as having allergies or a food intolerance will have been given a form from the canteen at the start of term to detail foods which cannot be eaten and suggest alternatives. Please complete this form and return to your child's teacher/office at the earliest convenience.

Pick Your Own Fruit

We have the apples for sale again this year, grown in our very own orchard. Pupils can pick their own for 20p. I can assure you, they are very tasty! If you are collecting at the front gate, do feel free to try one.

Breakfast Club and After School Provision

We are delighted to be able to offer our early morning Breakfast Club each day. Doors open from 7.45am (please do not arrive any earlier than this) and last breakfasts will be served at 8.30am. Pupils will be accompanied to their class at 8.45am. Parents are asked not to drive into the school grounds when dropping their child to Breakfast Club – we appreciate your support with this.

After School Provision runs from 3pm to 5pm Monday to Thursday, and 2pm to 4pm on a Friday.

Both Breakfast Club and After School Provision should be booked in advance using our School Money app. A separate note has gone out this week giving more details about both clubs.





Uniform

All our pupils are looking extremely smart at the start of the new school year. I have no doubt this high standard of presentation and pride in the uniform will continue. There have been a few boys and girls wearing earrings. Earrings are not permitted for safety reasons. If ears have been recently pierced, beige plasters may be worn but only until they can be removed. Plasters are not to be worn as a matter of course. Thank you for co-operating with this.

Pupils should now know their PE days. Pupils in P4-P7 may come to school in their PE uniform (plain navy tracksuit bottoms over navy shorts for boys or plain navy leggings for girls, red Fairview PE t-shirt and hoodie – all available in Sport 'n' Sound).

The Education Authority provide support with uniform costs for eligible families. If we can support you with this application, or indeed in applying for free school meals, please contact the school office and we will gladly assist. We would encourage you to apply, even if you do not intend for your child to avail of the support.



The infographic features a teal background with a white diagonal stripe. At the top right is the 'eacconnect' logo. The main title 'FREE SCHOOL MEALS & UNIFORM ALLOWANCE' is in yellow, and 'How do I apply?' is in white with a blue underline. A numbered list of six steps is on the left, each with a green circle containing the number. A circular inset on the right shows a classroom scene. At the bottom, there is a globe icon, the website 'www.eani.org.uk/fsm', and the Education Authority logo.

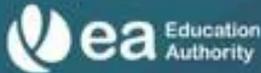
eacconnect

FREE SCHOOL MEALS & UNIFORM ALLOWANCE

How do I apply?

- 1 Log on to/register with EA Connect
- 2 Check your eligibility on EA Connect
- 3 Add each child you wish to claim for
- 4 Start your application
- 5 Upload supporting documentation
- 6 Confirm all info is correct and submit your application

For more info visit www.eani.org.uk/fsm

School Safeguarding

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

Designated Teacher -	Mrs Norris
Deputy Designated Teacher -	Miss Earls
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.



EXTERNAL NEWS

McConnell Shield Cross Country

This event by one of our local running clubs offers Boys and Girls races for U12, U14 and U16 with 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize awards for each.

UK athletics recommend 9 years and over for the distance covered on their junior events.

Entry is online at

https://www.sientries.co.uk/event.php?elid=Y&event_id=15727



McConnell Shield

Sixmilewater Park Cross Country

Event	Start Time	Fee
U12 (1/2 mile)	12:15	£3
U14 (1 mile)	12:30	£3
U16 (2 miles)	12:45	£3
Ladies / Vets / Male over 60 (3 miles)	13:15	£9 (registered) £10 (unregistered)
McConnell Shield (5 miles)	14:00	£9 (registered) £10 (unregistered)



Race permit number: ANI/0525/XC336

www.eastantrimharriersac.co.uk



"Can I get a phone?"



"My friend has a phone, please can I get one?"



Simple question, but what is your answer?

Are you debating this question?

Do you feel smartphones are to be avoided?

Has your child just got their first phone?

We understand your responsibilities & concerns.

Parentline has gathered information to help you to make this decision and help keep everyone informed, connected and safe.



Packed full of useful links, support & guidance. Helpful Q&A's to use with your child.

For your FREE PACK
Call us now 0808 8020 400



We are delighted to inform you that registration is now open for the next block of **McDonald's Fun Football** sessions.

This programme provides children aged 5 to 11 with a fantastic opportunity to try football for the first time in a fun and engaging environment. The emphasis is on participation, teamwork, and simply enjoying the sport. These **FREE**, four-week sessions will take place at 16 different venues this block across Northern Ireland.

To register your child, please use the link below:

<https://pitchbooking.com/book/event/825f5b85-bf95-4049-89f8-437150c390e1>

For more information about the programme, please visit:

<https://www.irishfa.com/irish-fa-foundation/grassroots-and-youth-football/mcdonalds-programmes/mcdonalds-fun-football-centres>





Online Safety Newsletter

Sept 2025

Coverstar

Coverstar say they are “the safe TikTok alternative.” They state, “there is no specific age limitation...however, if you are under the age of 13, you must obtain parental consent.” Users can post, comment and livestream.

Whilst Coverstar does not include private messaging, users can still interact via public comments. Coverstar does use moderation tools to scan all user-generated content. It is also important to be aware that Coverstar does allow in-app purchases ranging from £0.99 - £59.99.

If your child is using this app, ensure they know how to use the reporting tools. Bark provide a full review of Coverstar here, but they rate it as suitable for 10+:

<https://www.bark.us/app-reviews/apps/coverstar-app-review>.

Test your knowledge: Online Scams

Childnet have created a quiz for 9-13 year-olds that includes a range of potential online scams, as well as tips to help your child protect themselves online. Find out more here:

<https://www.childnet.com/blog/test-your-knowledge-about-online-scams-with-our-quiz-for-9-13-year-olds/>

Online Safety Act

What is the Online Safety Act?

The Online Safety Act 2023 is a set of laws introduced to protect children and adults online. Ofcom is the regulator for online safety in the UK, responsible for ensuring companies follow the new rules. As part of this role, Ofcom have designed the Children Codes of practice, which came into force in July



2025. The codes outline what all online services likely to be accessed by children must do to protect children online, for example:

- Enforce age limits.
- Protect children from accessing harmful or age-inappropriate content. This includes content relating to self-harm and eating disorders.
- Ensure users can easily report harmful content.

Ofcom has the power to enforce the rules as well as issue fines if companies fail to comply. You can find out more here:

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/online-safety/protecting-children/new-rules-for-a-safer-generation-of-children-online>

How will it help to protect my child?

One of the main purposes of the Act is to protect children online. Ofcom has published information on how they are helping children to be safer online. The first link is a guide for parents, which also includes a section on what you can do as a parent. You can access this information here:

• <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/online-safety/protecting-children/how-ofcom-is-helping-children-to-be-safer-online-a-guide-for-parents>

• <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/online-safety/protecting-children/how-the-online-safety-act-will-help-to-protect-children>

Further information

Online Safety Act: explainer:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/online-safety-act-explainer/online-safety-act-explainer>

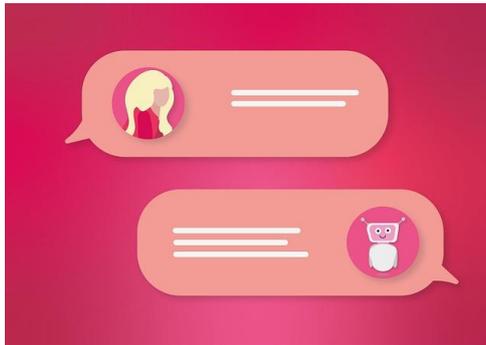
Would you like to read this newsletter in a different language? You can use the translate tool on our web version: <https://www.knowsleycitylearningcentres.org.uk/sept-2025/>

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

What is AI?

AI is when a computer/machine can learn and perform tasks like a human. Its popularity continues to grow, and examples include:

- **Search engines** such as Google now include an AI-generated overview as part of their results.
- **Virtual assistants** like Alexa, Meta AI and Siri.
- **Chatbots** such as ChatGPT and My AI from Snapchat.



Opportunities

AI can be an effective tool when used correctly, for instance:

- **Homework** – children can use AI to support and assist their learning.
- **Advice** – AI can be used to provide information and suggestions on a variety of topics.

Risks and concerns

- **Misinformation** – ensure your child understands that AI can sometimes provide incorrect or misleading information.
- **Privacy issues** – read any privacy policies before using.
- **Chat apps** - a simple search of “AI Chat” within the App store highlights the number of apps already available that are not suitable for children as many are rated as 17+.
- **Image manipulation** – there are AI tools that can be used to digitally remove clothes from photos, which clearly raises serious safeguarding and privacy concerns.
- **Deepfakes** – there are also AI tools that create realistic, fake videos that can be used to spread misinformation or cause harm.

How can I protect my child?

To help keep your child safe online, it is important to:

- Check age ratings of any apps or websites that your child accesses.
- Develop your child’s digital literacy by highlighting the risks of AI and showing them how important it is to verify what they see online.
- Set up appropriate parental controls on their devices/ broadband.
- Chat to your child regularly and ensure your child knows that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if anything concerns them.

Further information

- Overview: <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/by-activity/using-artificial-intelligence/what-is-ai-artificial-intelligence/>
- Should you worry if your child has an AI friend? <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/should-you-worry-if-your-child-has-ai-friend>

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date released 01.09.25. The inclusion of any links does not imply any affiliation with or endorsement of the linked websites, documents, or videos, nor are we claiming any ownership or copyright in the content of the linked materials.

Roblox: Grow a Garden

Roblox is a platform consisting of a collection of games. Grow a Garden is one of the latest games available on Roblox and is extremely popular. The game is labelled as ‘minimal’ for content maturity, which Roblox define as “may contain occasional mild violence, light unrealistic blood, and/or occasional mild fear.” Roblox believe that the game play is suitable for everyone. However, as the game is on Roblox, it is important to be aware of the following:

- **Chat** – strangers can interact with your child.
- **In-game purchases** – this game does include in-game purchases.
- **Screentime** – set limits for how long your child is playing.

A lot of the content on Roblox is user generated, which may mean not all games will be suitable for your child to view/play. If your child is playing Roblox, it is important to monitor what your child is accessing, ensure they know how to use any reporting tools and set up appropriate parental controls.

Further information

<https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/30428310121620-Parental-Controls-Overview>

Grooming online

Grooming is when somebody seeks to build a relationship with a child to exploit them or cause harm.

It is important that we teach our children how to recognise red flags. Childline have lots of useful information on their website, including where to get further support from:

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/online-grooming/>