

NEWSLETTER

INSPIRE ~ SUPPORT ~ ACHIEVE

Diary Dates

Netball Blitz 1 – Ulster University Jordanstown	Monday, 2 nd February
CEF in Primary 3 and Primary 4	Wednesday, 4 th February
Parent/Teacher interviews (12:30pm finish for pupils)	Tuesday, 3 rd February – Thursday, 5 th February
PTA Valentine's Disco	Thursday, 5 th February
School closes for Half Term Break (2pm)	Friday, 6 th February
School returns following Half Term Break	Monday, 16 th February
Girls' Hockey NI Finals Qualifier	Monday, 16 th February
Women's Aid visit to Primary 7	Tuesday, 17 th February
Staff led after school clubs re-commence	Tuesday, 17 th February
Primary 7 parents – Application for Post Primary places closes	Thursday, 19 th February (12 noon)
Spelling Bee at Ballyclare Primary School	Thursday, 26 th February
Book Fair Week	Week commencing Monday, 2 nd March
Ulster Orchestra visit to school	Tuesday, 3 rd March
CEF in Primary 5	Tuesday, 3 rd March
Rugby and Hockey Blitz at Roughfort	Wednesday, 4 th March
World Book Day (more details to follow)	Thursday, 5 th March
Netball Blitz 2 – Ballymena	Friday, 6 th March
Ballyclare Musical Festival	Week commencing Monday, 9 th March
Primary 7 visit to Titanic Belfast	Thursday, 12 th March
School Development Day – school closed to pupils	Monday, 16 th March
St Patrick's Day – school closed	Tuesday, 17 th March
School Development Day – school closed to pupils	Wednesday, 18 th March
Music Exams at BHS	Wednesday, 18 th March
Scripture Union NI visit to Primary 6	Thursday, 19 th March
Primary 1 Places for September 2026 confirmed	Monday, 23 rd March
Netball Blitz 3 – Belfast	Tuesday, 24 th March
Primary 7 Evening of Entertainment 7pm	Tuesday, 24 th March
	Wednesday, 25 th March
School finishes for Easter break 12 noon	Wednesday, 1 st April

Parent Teacher Interviews

Interview week will be week beginning Monday 2nd February for most parents. School will finish at 12.30pm on Tuesday 3rd February, Wednesday 4th February and Thursday 5th February to accommodate interviews – please ensure pupils are collected promptly on these days.

- P1 - 3 pupils will start to leave from 12.15pm
- P4 & 5 pupils will leave at 12.25pm
- P6 & 7 pupils will leave at 12.30pm

Lunch will be served prior to dismissal. Our after school provision will be available from 12.30pm through to the normal time.

As with our parent teacher interviews in October, you will have chosen either a phone call or a face to face interview. Regardless, the interview will be a chance for staff to share assessment scores from January and map out the remainder of the school year. Interviews will last no longer than 15 minutes and, as ever, we have done all we can to accommodate parents with more than one child in school by coordinating times.



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 5th 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!

SEAG Results

Our Primary 7 pupils who sat the SEAG tests back in November received their results last Saturday morning. I know many were anxious in advance of the day and there may still be some nerves or worry about what lies ahead after receiving the scores.

As a school, we want to say to our wonderful boys and girls that what you got last Saturday will not change who you are, or what you want to be. You are all great children of whom we are very proud! You all did your best and that is what matters. Hard work and the correct attitude will take you much further than any one score.



After School Clubs

We offer a range of after school clubs each day from 2-3pm for our younger pupils. Details of all these clubs, including how to register your child, can be found on our website at:

[Parents – Fairview Primary School](#)

Dates for the next block of activities after half term are currently being updated. Details can also be found on our Facebook page.

Teacher led after school activities commence again week beginning 16th February. If your child would like to join a club, or move to a different club, please send a note in to your child's teacher. An overview of the clubs available is on the website via the link above.

Green bags

Please help us! Our stock of green food bags is depleting rapidly. We would really appreciate it if even one family in each class could request an extra roll on bin day or grab a couple from the Sixmile Leisure Centre on your visits. Just send in with your child. Many thanks!

Additional School Development Days in Spring Term

TransformED is the Department of Education's flagship programme to strengthen teaching and learning across Northern Ireland. Our education system has many strengths on which to build. We have a dedicated and highly skilled workforce in Fairview. We have a culture of community and service, visible in our response to need. Fairview has a strong tradition of innovation, collaboration and research-informed practice.

TransformED invests in these strengths, with the first sustained investment in professional learning for many years. As part of this investment, schools have been granted an additional TransformED Development Day each term in both the 2025/26 and 2026/7 academic years to support them in managing change. These will be additional non-contact days and will be in addition to existing School Development Days.

Therefore:

- School will be closed as planned on 17th March 2026 for St Patrick's Day holiday.
- Monday, 16th March will now be a School Development Day for staff in place of the exceptional closure on Monday, 5th January.
- Wednesday, 18th March will be a TransformED Development Day for staff.
- School will be closed to pupils Monday, 16th March to Wednesday, 18th March inclusive.
- Pupils will return to school as normal on Thursday, 19th March.

An additional TransformED Development Day will be take place in the summer term. This is yet to be confirmed.

Mathletes Competition

Congratulations to Emily Rose Lennon, Max Colgan, Natan Urbanski and Jack Clarke, who proudly represented P7 in a Mathletes Competition at Mossley Primary School. The event featured a range of challenging and exciting rounds, including Speed Times Tables, Musical Maths, Countdown, Game 24, and a quick-fire round of general maths facts and problem-solving activities.

The children demonstrated excellent teamwork and an impressive knowledge of maths facts throughout the competition. They performed brilliantly, finishing in second and narrowly missing out on first place by just four points. Well done to all involved on such a fantastic achievement!



Post Primary Applications

Post Primary applications opened for September 2026 via EA Connect on **Tuesday 27th January**.

For many parents/carers, completing the application will be a straightforward process. However, for others, you may wish to discuss your child's options based on the results of the SEAG examination. Please contact the school if this is the case and I will be happy to help. All parents/carers must complete the online application, except those with a child who has a statement of special needs. I wrote to P7 parents last week with further details around the transfer process.

Applications are open until **Thursday 19th February** and are **not** considered on a first-come, first-served basis. All schools require a birth certificate to be submitted with your application. Proof of address will also be required for many schools. Please ensure you read the published admissions criteria for each school you are considering, to confirm what supporting documentation is required.

For those applying to Ballyclare Secondary School and/or Ballyclare High School, we will provide a list of 'eldest child' directly to both schools.

Key dates for SEPTEMBER 2026

- 10 December 2025**
Admissions Criteria published
- 27 January 2026**
Applications open at 12 noon
- 19 February 2026**
Applications close at 12 noon

www.eani.org.uk

Robin Swann MP Visit to Fairview

A couple of weeks ago, we were delighted to welcome Robin Swann MP to Fairview Primary School.

Our School Ambassadors put him through his paces with some challenging and topical questions about his role and life at Westminster, which he answered with great enthusiasm. He was also treated to a very special sweet surprise from our P1 pupils, which was thoroughly enjoyed.

A huge thank you to Mr Swann for taking the time out of his busy schedule to visit our school and meet with our pupils. It was a memorable and inspiring experience for everyone involved.



Parking and Drop Off at School

Unfortunately, I have had a few complaints over the last couple of weeks about parents dropping off in the morning and picking up their child after school. A small minority of parents are showing little care for the safety of others by their inconsiderate driving. Can I ask all parents and carers to play their part in ensuring our school gates are safe places for pupils, parents and residents?

I realise all our school gates are busy places but the safety of the pupils in Fairview Primary School must take precedence over escaping the queue at the end of the road. Please engage in active travel where possible. If not, please use the car parking spaces available. Please avoid parking on the double yellow lines or where police cones have been placed as these areas need to be free for flow of traffic or the safe dismissal of pupils. Cars belonging to parents and carers should not be in the school grounds at any time, unless with prior permission from Mr McAllister.

Assessment Week

Well done to all our pupils on getting through assessment week this month. Whether it be quizzes with our younger ones or tests with our more senior pupils, assessment week is an invaluable opportunity to see where pupils are at and plan for next steps. Thanks to all you parents and carers who supported your child with some revision or revision homeworks, at whatever level your child is working at in school. Staff will share results and advise on ways you can partner with us in your child's education over the coming months at the parent interviews next week. You should have your date and time for the interview by now – if not, please look in your child's schoolbag as a first step, then contact your child's teacher if it is not there.

Wellbeing Week

Our Pupil of the Month target for January is Healthy Lifestyles. For some pupils, this is eating healthy foods, for others it is being involved in sports and activities. All our pupils in school will have been taking part in some extra training this month in PE, with the 'bleep test' and circuits challenging pupils and staff alike! Well done to everyone who pushed themselves to their limits achieving personal bests. I am told Mr Creighton was not too happy being beaten by some in his class at the plank challenge!

This week, we had a few special events to finish off the month:

Daybreak Dance was a wonderful way to start the day, especially when the weather didn't wreak havoc with our plans! Each morning at 8.30am, Mrs McQueen and Miss Dickson, with a few willing helpers, got us 'up and at it' in the front playground or assembly hall. Thanks to all the parents and staff who joined in.

Our **Awesome Obstacle Course** was a huge success! All our pupils got a chance to take on the challenge at some stage on Thursday or Friday.

Safer Internet Day 2026

This year, schools around the UK will celebrate Safer Internet Day on 12th February, with celebrations and learning based around the theme 'Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI'. Unfortunately schools in Northern Ireland are closed on this date for half-term but we know how important it is to use Safer Internet Day to promote good online behaviours with all of our pupils from P1 to P7. So, this year we will have our own Safer Internet Day on Thursday 5th February. On this day our pupils will engage in a variety of activities to promote the safe, responsible and positive use of the Internet and Digital Technologies, focussing, where appropriate, on safe and ethical uses of AI.

Pupils in Primary 7 will also be completing the new Digital Proficiency Course created by Safer Schools NI. It is designed to support teachers, pupils and parents to make good choices about online safety and digital wellbeing.

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.



RSPB Big Schools' Bird Watch 2026

P1 have been enjoying taking part in the RSPB Big School Bird Watch. They have been learning all about the birds that visit local gardens. The children have got really good at spotting and naming lots of different birds that visit our school grounds. They have been very excited to use our school binoculars. 🐦



Replenishing Stationery Supplies

At the start of each year, we ask you to provide some stationery items for your child's class and their own pencil case. We thank you for doing this and helping to provide much needed items which, unfortunately, school budgets can no longer stand to.

We are now half way through the school year and many of those essential items are greatly depleted. Can I ask you to top up your child's pencil case – items such as Pritt Stick, whiteboard pens, handwriting pens (P5-P7), red/blue biro (P5-P7), ruler (P3-P7), rubber, pencils and colouring pencils/crayons. If possible, we would appreciate a box of tissues and a ream of paper to see classes through to the end of the year.

It is unfortunate that schools are in a position of having to ask parents to provide these items. We try to maximise the impact of the budget we are allocated annually, purchasing equipment and resources to support the wide and varied curriculum we offer to all our pupils, as well as staffing to ensure the best possible education for your child. We greatly appreciate all the support you give us as a school. Should purchasing the above items provide a financial burden on your family, please do not feel under any pressure to do so. We understand and will ensure your child does not go without. As an alternative to re-stocking pencil cases, some parents may prefer to pay an amount on School Money to cover the costs. An option to make a donation of £5 will appear on your app early next week. We will use this money to bulk buy and distribute essential stationery around classes to be used in the remainder of Spring term and into the summer term. Thank you, as ever, for your understanding and support.

BIG BATTERY BONANZA



ECO CLUB HOUSE COMPETITION

Please bring in any old or used batteries to earn points for your house!

Collection point: Outside the office

Dates: Monday 19th January to Friday 6th February



EXTERNAL NEWS

Are you a parent, grandparent, or carer of a child or young person with Autism, ADHD, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, or another neurodiverse condition?

You're really welcome to join our Neurodiversity Support Group at Glenabbey Church.

This is a relaxed, friendly space to connect with others who "get it" — to chat, share experiences, encourage one another, and find support in a safe, judgement-free environment. Whether you're feeling confident, overwhelmed, curious, or just in need of a cuppa and conversation, you're welcome here.

📍 Upstairs in the House, Glenabbey

🕒 7:30–9:00pm

📅 Starting this Wednesday

No church background needed. Just come as you are.

Feel free to share this with anyone who might find it helpful.





PARENT
WORKSHOP



Worry to Wonder

Monday 2nd February, 10am-11.30am

Online via ZOOM

A workshop for parents of primary school aged children exploring why our children worry and ways we can support them.

CALL NOW TO BOOK
YOUR PLACE
0808 8020 400





Online Safety Newsletter

February 2026

CBeebies Parenting and Apps

CBeebies Parenting is full of useful information from creative activities, recipes and information about the CBeebies apps.

CBeebies apps are free to download with no in-app purchases. Their apps include:

- Playtime Island - Fun Games for Kids App. This app includes 40 free games.
- CBeebies Learn - Early Years Learning App. This app includes games and videos and is based on the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum.
- Get Creative - Open-ended Creative Activities App. This app is free and includes lots of drawing and painting activities.
- Storytime - Reading Stories App. This app includes interactive story books.

You can find out more here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/parenting>

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/february-2026-primary/>

Using AI to alter images

AI image generator and moderator tools are widely available and often used by children. Whilst these tools can be used for creative purposes, we need to ensure our children are aware of the appropriate way in which to use them and the circumstances when they should not be used, even if harm is not intended.

What are AI image generator and moderator tools?

It is when Artificial Intelligence is used to create or modify images, for example it could be used to swap faces, change expressions or for more sinister reasons, such as to remove clothes. These images are often very realistic and therefore difficult to see that they are fake.

Privacy concerns and consent

If your child is using these tools, they need to be aware of potential loss of privacy and the importance of consent. They should know that they should only use images of other people with consent.

What does my child need to know about using these tools?

- Children shouldn't use AI tools to manipulate images of school staff. Even if the child's intention is not malicious, children should not use AI tools to create or edit photos of teachers under any circumstances.
- Manipulation of images of friends or other children – if you are using images of other people, then consent **must** always be sought.
- The tools should not be used to create images that can embarrass or hurt others - this is a form of online bullying.
- Copyright issues – who owns the copyright? These images could be reused by others, which can affect their own digital footprint.

What should I do?

- Chat to your child if they are using these tools and ascertain the reason why. Ask them to show you the images that they have created.
- Check the age ratings of any apps/websites that your child is using and set up appropriate parental controls.
- Develop your child's digital literacy by teaching them to recognise online risks and to behave responsibly online

Further information

- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-to-children-about-ai>
- <https://oursaferschools.co.uk/2025/02/18/understanding-image-consent-at-schools/>

TikTok

You must be over 13 years of age to use TikTok. TikTok is a social media platform for sharing and watching short video clips. If your child is using TikTok then make sure appropriate security / privacy settings are applied.

Account set up

It is important that your child enters their real date of birth as accounts are tailored by age e.g., Direct Messaging is disabled for accounts aged 13-15. In addition, advertisements are tailored by age. By default, accounts for people under 16 are set to private. You can read more about the other settings available, such as switching off comments and restricted mode here:

<https://support.tiktok.com/en/account-and-privacy/account-privacy-settings/privacy-and-safety-settings-for-users-under-age-18>

Family Pairing

Family Pairing allows you to link your own account to your child's account. You can then set controls such as restricted mode or tailor your child's 'For You' feed by selecting keywords that TikTok will use to filter out posts. You can find out more here: <https://support.tiktok.com/en/safety-hc/account-and-user-safety/family-pairing>

What do I need to be aware of?

- **Inappropriate content and themes:** whilst against guidelines, explicit and inappropriate content can be found on this platform, for example nudity/sexual content and hate speech. Some of the songs available to lip sync to may contain inappropriate lyrics/themes.
- **Challenges:** We often see viral challenges on social media, some of which can be **risky/dangerous**. Sadly, there are reports that children have died whilst attempting online challenges. Children may not yet have developed the skills and ability to critically analyse that what they see online is not always safe for them to replicate.
- **Stranger contact:** chat to your child about how people may not be who they say they are when online.

Refresh your feed

You can refresh your "For You" feed to update the content recommended:

<https://support.tiktok.com/en/account-and-privacy/account-privacy-settings/refresh-your-for-you-feed>

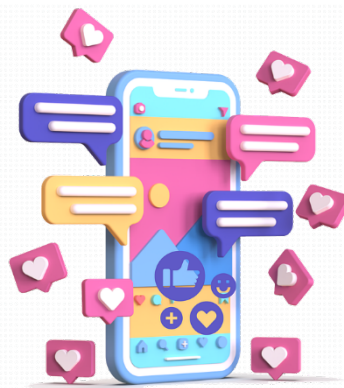
Blocking and Reporting

Show your child how to use the safety features available.

Further information

- <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/tiktok>
- <https://www.tiktok.com/safety/en/guardians-guide>

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Balance screen time tips

Internet Matters have created simple tips to help you develop healthy online habits for your child. They also answer key questions such as "how much screentime is too much" and "is gaming bad for children." Access this information here:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/creating-a-balanced-digital-diet-with-screen-time-tips>

7 Steps to Good Digital Parenting

The Family Online Safety Institute have created seven steps to assist you as a digital parent. Find out more here:

<https://fosi.org/program/7-steps-to-good-digital-parenting/>

Children's Commissioner launches new guide for parents and carers

The Children's Commissioner has released a new guide to help you in managing your child's digital life. The guide was written with direct involvement from children.

It includes advice on setting boundaries such as no devices in the bedroom and how to chat to your child. You can find the guide here:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/blog/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-childrens-commissioner-launches-guide-for-parents-and-carers-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives/>