

# NEWSLETTER

INSPIRE ~ SUPPORT ~ ACHIEVE

## **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 they look forward to getting to know your child over the coming weeks and months.

P1 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 **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm**. 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 the evening 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; Ballyclare High School advise that information will be issued to parents registered with them to confirm arrangements for the familiarisation and test days, week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> October, by email. If you have any further questions around SEAG, please contact your child's teacher or myself and we will be happy to help.

## **Public Consultation**

There will be a Public Consultation on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September in Sixmile Leisure Centre regarding the extension to our school building. The planning team will be available to answer questions from 4pm to 8pm on this day. We would encourage you to visit, see the plans and get a sense of what our school could look like in the near future.

## **PTA AGM**

The first PTA meeting of the year will be held in school on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> 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! Our secretary and treasurer are both willing to stand for another year, and we have received nominations for the role of chair in advance of the meeting.

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!

## **Flu Vaccination**

You will have received a letter from the school nurse inviting your child to receive the annual flu vaccine. This is a simple nasal 'spray' and does not require parents to be in attendance. The vaccinations are due to take place week beginning Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October. Please ensure you return the letter as soon as possible to school in order for the nursing team to order the correct number of vaccines.

The Health Trust has asked us to share this link with you regarding the vaccination programme.

<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/publications/protecting-your-child-against-flu-vaccination-your-primary-school-child-english-and-tra>



### Cash for Clobber

Don't forget our collection of old clothes and shoes, bags and belts this Tuesday morning. Our first Cash for Clobber collection will take place on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September. This is an excellent way for us to raise necessary funds for our school. The programme is managed by Cookstown Textile Recyclers who will collect unwanted clothes, shoes (pairs only), handbags, hats, scarves, bed linen and curtains. Duvet covers and pillow cases can also be re-used. They sort the items to see what they can reuse or recycle. All you have to do is bag up some items and leave them in the bike shelter either on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September or before 9.30am on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September. There are incentives for the children who take part in this scheme and these have been shared within classes.

### Book Fair

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. Tuesday evening saw our biggest turnout in many years and it was great to see so many pupils snuggling down for a bit of bedtime storytelling, and some toast and juice! Thank you to Pamela 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 Mrs Norris for all her 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 few 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 parents 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 Miss Cooke, Miss Dickson or Mr McAllister if you are interested.

### After School Clubs

Our external providers started their after school clubs this week. 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.

### Macmillan Big Breakfast Morning

On Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September at 8:15am we will be hosting a Macmillan Big Breakfast. This is for our pupils only (due to the size of the hall), but parents are welcome to visit the adult coffee station situated in the main entrance. Please bring along a reusable coffee mug and for a small donation we will fill it for you!

All pupils who are coming along should come in via the main door into the assembly hall. P6&7 pupils should drop their school bags into their rooms before coming to the hall. All other pupils will have a space for their bags. There will be plenty of staff 'on the ground' to ensure all pupils have a breakfast!

Pupils will be able to have juice, fruit, toast or croissant for a minimum donation of £1. We look forward to seeing many of our pupils there!



## NSPCC PANTS Lesson

As part of the preventative curriculum all classes will be discussing the NSPCC's Underwear Rule. This is designed to teach pupils how to stay safe from sexual abuse, without giving explicit information or telling scary stories or even using the term "sexual abuse". In the lesson, children will learn about the 'PANTS' acrostic, which stands for:

- Privates are private
- Always remember your body belongs to you
- No means no
- Talk about secrets that upset you
- Speak up, someone can help

The lesson will be delivered in a way that's fully age-appropriate.

More information about the Underwear Rule, including a short film and a parent guide can be found at [www.nspcc.org.uk/underwearrule](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/underwearrule)

## Fairview Ambassadors

Our new Fairview Ambassadors had their first meeting this week. Two representatives from each P5-P7 class form the group which will play a lead role in making the views and thoughts of pupils known and working to improve the school experience for all.

Each member had an opportunity to share what they hope to achieve as a Fairview Ambassador this year. Ideas ranged from a pupil appreciation board to new equipment suggestions for our break time boxes. It was lovely to hear all the pupils speaking so confidently.

One of the first roles on Fairview Ambassadors is to elect a chairperson. A number of P6 and P7 pupils put themselves forward and we look forward to announcing our new chairperson after presentations are carried out and votes are cast on Monday.

Over the next few weeks, our Fairview Ambassadors will be working on producing a school wide leaflet on 'Being a Good Friend' for the upcoming Anti-Bullying Week, organising a lunchtime buddy rota and working towards an exciting new history trail project. It is going to be a busy year, but we are proud of the Fairview Ambassadors and can't wait to see how they represent Fairview throughout their time in office.

Mrs Davis and Mrs Norris



### **Board of Governors Annual Report**

The Annual Report from the Board of Governors is available upon request. Please contact the school office if you would like a copy emailed through.

### **Diary Dates September 2023**

Primary 1 in to 1pm	Monday, 18 <sup>th</sup> September
Public Consultation for school extension 4-8pm Sixmile Leisure Centre	Monday, 18 <sup>th</sup> September
PTA AGM 7.30pm	Tuesday, 19 <sup>th</sup> September
Cash for Clobber collection	Tuesday, 19 <sup>th</sup> September
Primary 1 Information Evening 7pm	Wednesday, 20 <sup>th</sup> September
SEAG (P7 transfer test) registration closes	Friday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> September
Macmillan Big Breakfast 8.15am	Friday, 29 <sup>th</sup> September

### **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.





# Online Safety Newsletter

September 2023

## The W App - Anonymous polls

The W App is rated as 12+ in the App store and as 'Parental Guidance' on Google Play. Once an account has been created, the user picks their school and participates in polls.

A user can choose any school (no verification takes place) and then you can see all users at that school (includes their name/year group and profile picture if that has been added). In the polls, users are asked a question (for example 'Hallway crush') and then the user selects one of four random people from that school. Whilst the app says that it is anonymous, users can purchase a membership that allows users to see who chose them in a poll.

You should be aware that this app does include in app purchases and can be linked to other social media accounts. You can block and report other users.

### Further information

Internet Matters have produced an article outlining what you need to know about anonymous apps in general and the risks your child might face in using them, including cyberbullying.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/anonymous-apps-guide-what-parents-need-to-know/>

## Back to school photos

With the excitement of a new school year and your child reaching a new milestone, many of us share photos of our child online without thinking about the associated risks. If you post online, then try following these basic rules:

- Don't post any photos of your child that show their school logo/name or recognisable places by where they live that can make it easy for people to find out their location.
- Never include your child's full name.
- Are there any other children in the pictures you share online? If yes, do you have permission from their parent/carer to upload it?
- Would your child be happy for your comment/photo about them to be online – remember what might be 'cute' now may be embarrassing to them in the future.
- Make sure appropriate privacy settings are on.



Alternatively, you could just share photos with those who you really want to share the photo with (grandparents etc.) via WhatsApp or iMessage rather than via social media.

### Further information

CEOP have published this article which includes advice on sharing photos of your child online:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/Sharing-pictures-of-your-children/>

## Meta introduces more parental supervision tools.

Meta have announced new features for some of their products. Firstly, they have added parental supervision to Messenger (users must be 13+), which includes the ability to see who your child interacts with. Also, Meta have added a feature to encourage teens to set time limits on Facebook (users must be 13+) and new parental supervision features on Instagram (users must be 13+). Find out more here:

<https://about.fb.com/news/2023/06/parental-supervision-and-teen-time-management-on-metas-apps/>

# Threads (13+)

Threads was launched by Meta (creators of Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp) in July and is similar in design to Twitter. As with Twitter, users can share text posts (with images and videos) and then other users can respond to create a thread. You need to have an Instagram account to login to Threads and **you must be at least 13 years old to create an Instagram account.**



For everyone 13 – 17 years old (in the UK), their account will automatically be set as private when they join Threads. As with Instagram, users can choose specific words to filter out of replies as well as hide comments that may be offensive. Users can also unfollow, block and report a profile. Any accounts that you have blocked on Instagram will automatically be blocked on Threads as well. Users can also change their settings on Threads so other users are unable to mention them in replies.

If you have supervision set up on Instagram for your child (aged 13 – 17) then it will automatically be set up for Threads and the same settings will be applied, such as time limits and scheduled breaks. You can find out more here: <https://help.instagram.com/658522825492278>

Threads is still being developed so new functions will be added but currently you are unable to direct (private) message other users.

You need to be aware that your child may come across content that is not appropriate for your child. If your child is using this app, then make sure they know how to use the reporting/blocking facilities, that appropriate privacy/safety settings are applied and they know to speak to a trusted adult should they need to.

## Further information

<https://www.childnet.com/blog/instagram-threads-a-guide-for-young-people-and-parents/>

# Roblox: new checklist

PEGI rate Roblox with a 'Parental Guidance' label (icon shown right), this is because of the huge level of user generated content within Roblox. It is rated for 'Teens' on Google Play and 12+ on the App store.



You can either use Roblox to create games or play games that other users have created. **As a lot of the content is user generated, it may mean not all games will be suitable for your child to view/play. It is important to set up Parental controls appropriate to your child.**

## New Roblox Checklist

The 2023 Roblox Checklist created by SWGfL and the UK Safer Internet Centre in partnership with Roblox is now available to download here: <https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/new-roblox-checklist-available/>

## Age ratings

There is so much that we can do online nowadays including playing games, chatting with others, watching TV or sharing our videos/photographs. One of the ways we can help keep our children safe online is by checking age restrictions/ratings as detailed below:

- **Films:** The British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) rate films. This page includes a link to a 'Parents' Guide to Age Ratings': <https://www.cbbfc.co.uk/resources/viewing-films-safely-online>.
- **Video games:** PEGI provides age classifications for video games. PEGI considers the age suitability of a game, not the level of difficulty. It is important to note that PEGI do not take into consideration the chat facilities within games.
- **Apps:** Check the individual age ratings within the relevant app store. We also recommend that you download any apps and use them yourself to check their suitability.
- **Social Media networks:** All social media networks have a minimum age rating; they are all at least 13+.



## Does your child have speech, language and communication needs?

Parent Zone understand that talking about life online with a young person who has speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) makes it difficult, so they have created a selection of visual and spoken resources to help you. You can find out more here:

<https://parentzone.org.uk/TalkTech>