

NEWSLETTER

INSPIRE ~ SUPPORT ~ ACHIEVE

Public Consultation for School Enhancement Programme

We were delighted to attend the Public Consultation for our school extension in the Sixmile Leisure Centre last Monday. We had lots of interested parents and local residents who came along to see the plans and ask questions about the project. We are very excited to see this project progressing and we look forward to the day when we can open our new ten classroom extension, hopefully by 2026. The plans can be viewed at:

<https://www.gravisplanning.com/live-consultations/fairview-primary-school-ballyclare>

Take a look at the graphic below which shows where the extension will go. After removal of our mobile classrooms, that space will be used as a games area (area 3 on the map below). We are looking at installing a Multi Use Games Area if we can secure funding and support from local businesses. Exciting times ahead!



Parking at School Gates

We have had a few calls from local residents lately about inconsiderate car parking at pick up times at both Merion and Hillmount Avenue gates. Can I ask that as you park, ensure you are not blocking a driveway. If you are using Merion, please do not park or stop at the turning circle outside our gate. If you can avoid this area with your car altogether, this would reduce risk when staff are dismissing pupils at 2pm and 3pm. At the Front Gate, please make use of our car park and avoid parking along the exit to the car park as this again increases risk of a child being knocked down at pick up time. We would really appreciate your support with this going forward.



Infant Dinner Time

We are trialling a new approach to infant dinner time in the canteen. There will always be two options each day and this has not changed. To move pupils through the queue for dinners a little quicker, the canteen ladies are serving one main meal but the other meal is available if the main dish is not something the child likes. We now have our P6 buddies in the canteen to help with this. With the canteen becoming more and more popular, we have found this year children are getting very little play time before the end of lunch. This new approach is only a trial to see if we can get pupils fed a little quicker and then out to the playground for a much needed run around. We appreciate your patience with this. We do always encourage every child to eat their meal and will do all we can to ensure they get something they can eat within the parameters of a busy canteen.

PTA AGM

We had our first PTA meeting of the new year last week and what a great encouragement it was to see so many parents come along and show a desire to get involved in the life of Fairview Primary School. We said a huge thank you to Laura Nolan who has stepped down as chairperson, and we welcomed Emma Meikle and Ruth Livingston as our new joint chairs. Nichola Leese and Gina Beattie were reelected as treasurer and secretary respectively.

Can I say a huge thank you to our PTA team who raised an amazing £13000 last year. This money goes directly back into the school, purchasing interactive screens for all our classrooms, Accelerated Reader for P4-P7 and party food and presents at Christmas. The fund raising is essential to what we do in Fairview, but even more than that, the events organized are loved by the pupils and provide so many wonderful experiences.

We are looking forward to another wonderful year. Even if you are not involved with our PTA, I hope you will give some time at one or two events to ensure their smooth running. A couple of advance dates.... our Half Term Disco will be on Thursday 26th October and our Christmas Fair will be on Friday 1st December. No Award Winning Christmas Trail this year, we will run that on alternate years so it doesn't lose its magic!

If you would like to be involved with events such as the disco, or even going on school trips, we would like you to go through the Access NI process. If you have been checked before, the office will be in touch about your renewal. If you are a new parent and interested in getting involved this year, let us know and we will get the paperwork sorted.

P1 Parent Information Session

Many of our P1 parents attended the P1 information session last Wednesday evening. Staff were delighted to meet some new parents, and also a few familiar and friendly faces! We hope that all those who attended found the evening helpful and informative. It is a big step for all our P1s as they settle into school life, but hopefully the evening gave you an insight into what life will be like for them in the coming weeks and months.

Hola Language Leaders

Our friends from Ballyclare High School visited some of our year groups this week to share their language skills. The Language Leaders, including some of our own past pupils, taught some basic French and Spanish to P2, P4 and P5. The pupils enjoyed the experience – I hope they were able to share some of what they learnt at home! The Language Leaders, all A Level pupils, were most impressed with what our pupils knew already. This transition link with Ballyclare High School is well established and we are looking forward to working with them on other links over the course of this year.

Book Fair Update

We were delighted to have our most successful Book Fair a few weeks ago. We raised an amazing £2,574. This money now goes back into buying new resources for school. We have already started to put this to good use updating our Guided Reading books in Foundation Stage and freshening up our AR library with lots of new and exciting books.

Your support, as always, is very much appreciated.



Eco Chairperson Appointed

We are delighted to announce Alistair as the new Chairperson of our Eco Committee. He had strong competition for the role but his clear commitment to environmental issues, both in Fairview and outside in the community, shone through. Well done Alistair, we are all looking forward to your leadership.



Fairview Ambassadors

Last Monday our Fairview Ambassador chairperson candidates presented at all three assemblies. Each pupil spoke confidently and put across convincing arguments as to why they should be voted chairperson. After hearing their presentation each class had the opportunity to cast their votes. The results were extremely close, highlighting the strong performance by each candidate. We are delighted to announce that Tom (P7K) has been appointed as Chairperson of the Fairview Ambassadors for 2023-2024. Jacob (P7D) will take up the post as Deputy Chair this year.



The role of Chair will be to lead the Ambassadors in carrying out initiatives that are being implemented into school life. Last year this included the re-introduction of our breaktime boxes and lunchtime buddy scheme. Our chair will also play a key role in representing the school at Open Day, school concerts and other outside opportunities such as the May Fair Parade.

As the face of our Fairview Ambassador team, this is a position that comes with great responsibility, but one we know Tom will handle very well. Congratulations to both boys! We look forward to watching you lead our team along with your fellow ambassadors as you continue to promote the use of pupil voice in Fairview.



New House Captains

Congratulations to our new House captains Mia (Cogry), Jake (Collin), Hollie (Rashee) and Connor (Ollar). We wish the House captains the very best in their new role, we know they will make wonderful leaders who will encourage and support their fellow house mates in Primary 4-7 throughout the rest of the year.

Together the house captains will meet with Mrs McIvor and Mrs McQueen to plan house competitions and keep track of house points. We look forward to hearing their ideas for future competitions and exciting prizes for the winning houses! May the best house win!



RSE Public Consultation

There has been a lot of talk about RSE over the summer and in the early weeks of the new school year. I would like to make it clear that the change to legislation brought in by the Secretary of State from 1 July 2023 **does not apply to primary schools**. It applies only to specific elements of the RSE curriculum at KS3 and KS4 in post-primary schools. Our approach to RSE in Fairview Primary School will not change.

The Department launched a 12-week consultation on elements of the changes at KS3 and KS4 on 1 September 2023 which will run to 24 November. I want to re-emphasise that the consultation relates only to the circumstances in which a parent/carer can request to have their child excused from the specific aspect(s) of RSE associated with the change in legislation.

A copy of the consultation can be downloaded or completed online:

<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/consultations/relationships-and-sexuality-education-rse-consultation>

Please do take the opportunity to give your views to inform the Department in finalising the regulations it is required to make and in developing guidance.

In order to address the concerns of parents/carers, the Department has created an information leaflet. The attached information has been developed for parents/carers and includes Frequently Asked Questions; this will be kept under review and updated as required. This information is also available at:

<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/relationship-and-sexuality-education-rse-information-parents>

Would you like a job?

We are looking for a cleaner to join our team in Fairview. If interested, please contact the school office and Mr McAllister will be in touch.

After School Clubs

In Fairview, we feel we offer a wide range of clubs and it has been really encouraging to see so many of our pupils getting involved with these clubs over the last week.

In the past years at School Council and Fairview Ambassador meetings, members have discussed behaviour at After School Clubs. They felt the behaviour of some pupils was affecting the enjoyment of the majority of the club members. Following discussion, it was agreed that an extension of the 'Golden Rules' would be applied to After School Activities.

Staff and children have worked together to establish a '**Three Strike Approach**' to disruptive behaviour at After School Clubs.

Positive behaviour will be reinforced, as always, with praise and encouragement. Positive behaviour can be rewarded by Club teachers with House Points (P4-P7) and also passing on praise to class teachers.

Persistent and challenging behaviour will be addressed in a calm, firm and positive manner.

The following diagram details what was agreed at Fairview Ambassadors, following discussion through Class Councils.



The Three Strike Approach

One Incident of Misbehaviour

If a child consistently misbehaves the following action will follow:

- The child will be given a warning and given an explanation as to why behaviour is unacceptable

Second Incident of Misbehaviour

If a significant second incident occurs the following actions will be taken:

- The child will be removed from activity and will be asked to sit out for 5 minutes. The staff member will then discuss the reasons for the behaviour, why the behaviour is unacceptable, how the behaviour can be managed by the child and the consequences of their actions on others.

Third Incident of Misbehaviour

If another incident occurs the following actions will be taken:

- The child will be withdrawn from the activity and accompanied to the office.
- The child will not be permitted to attend the club the following week.
- This will be communicated to the parent/carer via a standard note. An HSL can be arranged, if required, to discuss the behaviour with the Club Leader and Key Stage Coordinator.

If all of the above happens a second time at the same club, the child will not be permitted to return for the remainder of the term. After School Clubs are there to be enjoyed by everyone, including the staff member leading.



Active Travel Week

We had another successful Active Travel Week this month as many of our pupils, and their parents/carers, got a bit of exercise and did their bit for the environment by walking, scooting or cycling to school. The week started with families identifying a safe route to school. Remember, it is ok to do a combi journey by driving from home but parking away from the school gates and walking the last part of the journey.

It was very encouraging to see so many of our pupils in their reflective jackets and coats as they travelled to school. This will become increasingly important as the darker mornings are upon us. We should say a huge thank you to a local business who once again supported our Active Travel initiative by providing all our P1 pupils with reflective jackets. The pupils loved 'Bling your Bike' and lots of prizes were given out for creative designs. And there was lots of extra Golden Time on Friday to reward all those active travellers who stuck at it all week.

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.

Diary Dates

P7 Wellbeing Session with Mr Thompson	Wednesday, 4 th October
Eco Committee Meeting	Wednesday, 4 th October
P6 Forest School Day 1	Friday, 6 th October
P1 children in school until 2:00pm	Monday, 9 th October
P6DH War Museum visit	Wednesday, 11 th October
School photographs	Wednesday, 11 th October – Thursday 12 th October
P6NMCI War Museum visit	Thursday, 12 th October
P6DH Digital Schoolhouse visit to BHS	Thursday, 12 th October
P6EJE War Museum visit	Friday, 13 th October
Harvest Assembly	Friday, 13 th October
Flu vaccinations	Monday, 16 th October – Tuesday 17 th October
P6DH Digital Schoolhouse visit to BHS	Thursday, 19 th October
P6 Forest School Day 2	Friday, 20 th October
Parent Teacher Interview week	Monday 23 rd October – Friday 27 th October
Parent Teacher Interviews early closing days (details to follow)	Wednesday, 25 th October – Thursday 26 th October
PTA Disco	Thursday 26 th October
Half Term Holidays	Monday 30 th October – Friday 3 rd November



Drama Group

PSDP (Pigeon Steps Drama Productions) is a new non-profit venture for confidence building, fun and putting on plays together. It is aimed at Primary School aged pupils and will meet 2-3.15pm in 2nd Ballyeaston Church Halls, starting on 7th October.

If anyone is interested in registering, you can contact Emma Hanna on 07920103981.



A safe place to feel heard

A nurturing space to make your own decisions

You lead the way....we can support you.

Remember, Parentline NI are #inyourcorner

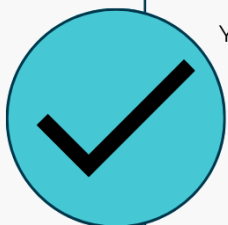
Opening Hours:
Mon-Thurs 9am-9pm/Fri 9am-5pm/Sat 9am-1pm
0808 8020 400

Applying for _____ Free School Meals & Uniform Allowance

If you require help...

-  www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants
-  028 9041 8044
-  mealsanduniform@eani.org.uk

1. Are you eligible?



You must be:

- in receipt of a qualifying benefit OR
- be an Asylum Seeker supported by the Home Office Asylum Support Assessment Team (ASAT).

Qualifying Benefits:

- Income Support;
- Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance;
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance;
- Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit;
- Child Tax Credit or Working Tax Credit with an annual taxable household income of £16,190 or less;
- Universal credit and have net household earnings not exceeding £14,000 per year.

2. What documentation do you need?

You will be asked to upload proof that you are receiving a qualifying benefit:

- Tax Credits Award Notice
- Universal Credit Payments breakdown or
- Proof of Benefit letter (if you are in receipt of Income Support, Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Related Employment and Support Allowance or the Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit).



3. What else do you need?



- National Insurance Number
- Children's names
- Dates of Birth
- Schools they will be attending
- Address
- E-mail and telephone number
- Bank or building society account and sort code details.

4. Where do you apply?

Visit the EA's Free School Meals and Uniforms page to start an application. As well as new applicants, parents/guardians who are currently in receipt of Free School Meals & Uniform Allowance will need to apply again for this year. You will need to register with an e-mail address and create an account to apply. You will then be able to log back in to check your application



5. What happens next?



Your application will be processed within 3 weeks. Please do not contact EA for an update on your application within the 3 weeks of submitting your application. If you have provided incorrect or insufficient supporting documentation, you will receive a tailored email advising you to resubmit your application with details of the correct documentation you need to provide.

You will receive an email from EA once your application has been approved and processed.