

# NEWSLETTER

INSPIRE ~ SUPPORT ~ ACHIEVE

## Diary Dates

Assessment Week	Monday, 15 <sup>th</sup> January – Friday, 19 <sup>th</sup> January
PTA Meeting 7.30pm	Tuesday, 16 <sup>th</sup> January
School Closed – Strike Action	Thursday, 18 <sup>th</sup> January
Hockey Blitz	Wednesday, 24 <sup>th</sup> January
Wellbeing Week	Monday, 29 <sup>th</sup> January – Friday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> February
Interview Week Commences	Monday, 5 <sup>th</sup> February
Safer Internet Day	Tuesday, 6 <sup>th</sup> February
Half Day Closure for Interviews (12:30pm)	Wednesday, 7 <sup>th</sup> February and Thursday, 8 <sup>th</sup> February
Valentine's Disco	Thursday, 8 <sup>th</sup> February
School Closes for Half Term Break (2pm)	Friday, 9 <sup>th</sup> February

## Welcome Back

Happy New Year everyone! It is hard to believe we are in Term 2 already, never mind the fact it is 2024, 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.

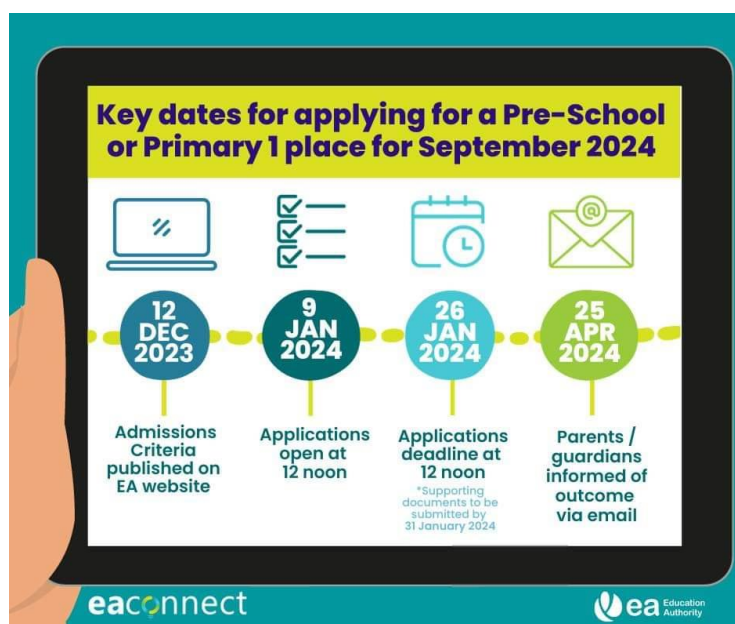
## Strike Action by Various Unions on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January

Please see letter sent by Mr McAllister on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January regarding full day school closure to pupils on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January (letter attached with email).

## Open Enrolment Process - P1 September 2024

The admissions process for children starting school in September 2024 opened on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January at 12noon. If you have a child with a birthday between 2nd July 2019 and 1st July 2020, or if you deferred their admission to primary school in September 2023, then it is important that you register your child before 12noon on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January.

Please visit the EA website [eani.org.uk](http://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.

### 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.

I had the pleasure of visiting P6 Mrs McIvor this week to present them with their attendance trophy for December, achieving an incredible 95% attendance. Well done to P1 Miss Dickson on winning the Junior School trophy with 93.3%. The Senior School trophy went to P7 Mrs Norris achieving 94.9% attendance.



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.

### Pupil of the Month

Our first assemblies of the new year saw Mr McAllister visit to present Pupil of the Month certificates. The target for November and December was 'Creative and Kind', something all our pupils display in abundance!

Keep an eye out on Fairview Facebook for pictures of our award winners for November/December. The target for January is 'Healthy Living'.

### Greater Ballyclare Wellbeing Week

We are delighted to announce our Greater Ballyclare Wellbeing Week which is running from Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January - Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February. We have a wide range of events on offer for everyone in the community from a wellbeing jamboree evening open to all, Coffee Hub for our parents and the return of Daybreak Dance and the Awesome Obstacle Challenge for our pupils! Check out our poster on Facebook for all the details and we look forward to seeing you all there!

### Support for Local Charity

We were delighted to welcome Michael from Hope 365 (<https://www.hope365.co.uk/>) into school this week to present him with a cheque for money raised at the P6 Hot Chocolate and Buns break time sale just before Christmas. Thanks to the generosity of all our pupils, P6 raised £500 which will go directly to support street children in Shashemene, Ethiopia. Our Primary 6 pupils will learn about Ethiopia and the charity through their 'Hope for the Future' topic and Michael will come back into school to tell the children how the money we raise has an incredible impact on the lives of so many in Shashemene.



### 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 8<sup>th</sup> February. A note with further details will follow but for now, see the poster for date and times:

Fairview Primary  
School PTA

# VALENTINE'S disco!

**Thursday 8th February 2024**

**Sensory Disco : 5.15 pm - 5.35pm**      **P3 & P4 : 6.45pm - 7.30pm**  
**P1 & P2 : 5.45pm - 6.30pm**      **P5, P6 & P7 - 7.45pm - 8.30pm**

*£2 admission. Tuck shop available*

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
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.





# GREATER BALLYCLARE WELLBEING WEEK

Monday 29th Jan -  
Thursday 1st Feb

## MONDAY

**Parental Workshop  
Building Resilience -**  
Fairview Primary School  
7pm

## TUESDAY

**Love & Light Yoga -**  
Fairview Primary School  
7pm - 8pm

## WEDNESDAY

**Wellbeing Jamboree -**  
Fairview Primary School  
7pm-9pm  
stalls and interactive sessions

## THURSDAY

**Coffee Hub -**  
Fairview Primary School  
1:30pm  
Children's craft corner to  
keep your little ones  
entertained



Developing  
**Healthy**  
Communities



**Fairview**  
Primary School

## **EXTERNAL NEWS**

### **Templepatrick Cricket Club**

TCC are delighted to be entering Girls and Ladies teams in to the League and Cup Competitions in 2024 which is building on the good numbers attending last season.

TCC Girls and Ladies indoor practices will be starting in January for **girls in P6 upwards and including adults.**

These sessions are for everyone who wants to give cricket a go, no matter how experienced you are.

To book in to attend TCC Girls & Ladies indoor cricket training, please complete the form on the link below so that we can prepare sessions for the correct numbers attending.

No equipment is required as TCC will provide all of this.

New members are very welcome.

**The link to the google form is -**

<https://forms.gle/ayL9wVdDS7oQ4jzF8>

TCC Youth and Senior Sessions will be starting in January.

Please see the info below for the individual sessions and how to book in using the Google forms below.  
As with the girls' cricket, new members are more than welcome at sessions.

**P4, P5, P6, P7**

**Please use this link**

<https://forms.gle/n3NYyVA9kiRxM68UA>





# Online Safety Newsletter

January 2024

## WhatsApp

**You must be at least 16 years old to register for and use WhatsApp.**

WhatsApp is a free messaging app that allows you to send messages, voice notes, photos and videos.

### What should I be aware of?

**Group chats:** One of the key features is the group chat function. Everybody in the group, even if they are not one of your child's phone contacts, will be able to see all messages within that group. If your child is added to a group with someone that they have previously blocked, that person can still see their messages and send them messages within the group chat. In settings, you can change who can add your child to groups. You can leave a group chat at any point so talk to your child and encourage them to leave any chat that makes them feel uncomfortable.

**Location sharing:** you can share your location on WhatsApp. Talk to your child about when this would be appropriate to use but also the potential danger of sharing their location, for example with strangers.

**Blocking/Reporting:** Show your child how to block and report other users or inappropriate content. You can find out how to do it based on your child's device here:

<https://faq.whatsapp.com/1142481766359885/>

### Further information

NSPCC provide further advice and tips to help keep your child safe:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/2023-01-12-is-whatsapp-safe-for-my-child/>

## New devices

If your child has a new device, have you set up parental controls?



### Consoles

All consoles offer parental controls such as limiting the time spent on the device or restricting who your child can communicate with. Find out the specific settings below:

- **PlayStation:** <https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/support/account/psn-safety-parents-guide/>
- **Xbox:** <https://www.xbox.com/en-GB/family-hub>
- **Nintendo Switch:**

<https://www.nintendo.co.uk/Hardware/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls-1183145.html>



### Mobiles/Tablets

You can set up parental controls and restrictions on most mobile devices, which can limit what your child can access. Additionally, make sure appropriate settings are applied on the apps your child is using.

- Apple devices: <https://www.apple.com/uk/families/>
- Android devices: <https://families.google/familylink/>

### Further information

Internet Matters provide a checklist here:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/e-safety-checklist-getting-your-kids-tech-devices-set-up-safe>

## LEGO Fortnite – PEGI 7

Lego Fortnite is free to play (in game purchases are available though). The game has been rated as PEGI 7, meaning that the content is suitable for children over the age of 7. However, you should be aware that this game can be played with up to seven people (or solo). Lego Fortnite is only accessible on Fortnite, so you must download the main game. When setting up an account, if your child is under the age of 13, then they will be given a 'cabin account', therefore certain features will be disabled (such as communicating with other players) unless you override them.

Please ensure you set the parental controls as appropriate for your child, we also recommend setting the appropriate settings on the console itself.

There are two worlds available - Survival or Sandbox, you can find out more about each world here so you can decide which would be best for your child:

<https://www.lego.com/en-gb/themes/fortnite/lego-fortnite-parents-guide>

# YouTube

**YouTube is intended for users over the age of 13** (however, children of all ages may use the Service and YouTube Kids if enabled by a parent/legal guardian).

## What if my child is under the age of 13?

If your child is under the age of 13 then your child should use either YouTube Kids or a Supervised Account. Which option you choose, will depend on your child's age and your requirements.

- **YouTube Kids** – this is a separate app that includes a smaller selection of videos based on the age you select:

- Preschool (ages four and under)
- Younger (ages 5–8)
- Older (ages 9–12)

- **Supervised accounts** – this is a parent-managed version of YouTube. You can select one of the following options, again depending on your child's age and your requirements:

- **Explore** - Generally for viewers aged 9+.
- **Explore more** - Generally for viewers aged 13+
- **Most of YouTube** - This setting includes almost everything on YouTube except for videos marked as 18+ and other videos that may not be appropriate for viewers using supervised experiences.

Google have created a table to show the differences between YouTube Kids and a Supervised account to help in your decision:

<https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/10315420>

## Posting videos

**You should be over 13 to post videos.** If your child does post videos on YouTube, ensure they understand what information they should keep private and what to do if they receive negative comments. Talk to them about the different settings available -

1. Public: anyone can view the video.
2. Private: video can only be viewed by users that you select.
3. Unlisted: only people who have the link to the video can view it.

YouTube have produced these safety tips for teens when posting content:

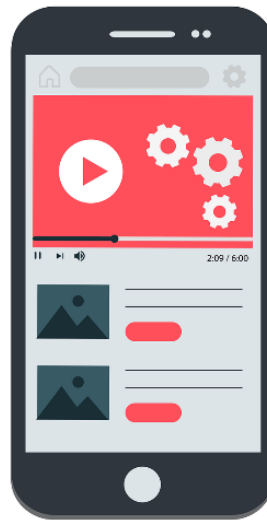
<https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/2802244>

## How can I make YouTube safer?

- **Explore YouTube together** and see what they like to watch. Make sure your child understands that they can **talk to you** if they see anything that makes them feel uncomfortable online.

- **Restricted mode** - is an additional setting (when logged in via a Google account) to restrict the availability of mature content.

- Ensure your child knows how to **report inappropriate content/comments**. Find out more here: <https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/2802027>.



## A Guide to the Online Safety Bill

The Online Safety Bill is a new set of laws to protect people online. The laws will make social media companies more responsible for the safety of their users on their platforms. The Government have created a guide to the new laws detailing how the laws will protect children and adults. For example, the new laws mean social media companies will have to show how they are enforcing age limits.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/a-guide-to-the-online-safety-bill>

## YouTube Content Warning

The INEQE Safeguarding Group have published a report warning about the YouTube cartoon series called Jeffy. Due to the content being animated, viewers may believe that it is suitable for children to watch when in fact the content is inappropriate. You can find out more here:

<https://ineqe.com/2023/11/09/safeguarding-update-youtube-cartoon-jeffy>

## World Events

There are a lot of distressing events happening around the world, which your child may see online. Childnet have published an article discussing how you can support your child when they see something worrying or upsetting online. The article also directs you to other organisations that you can contact if you require further help and support:

<https://www.childnet.com/blog/navigating-violent-online-content-from-global-events/>



Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you about forthcoming strike action by the five teaching unions in Northern Ireland.

You may have seen coverage of this in the news, and I wanted to inform you about the impact this is likely to have at our school, if as expected, the strike action goes ahead.

## **How will strike action affect Fairview Primary School?**

When a strike takes place, those taking strike action stop work and withdraw their labour. Staff members involved in this industrial action will therefore not undertake any duties on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024. A detailed risk assessment has been conducted which considers the impact the action will have on the health and safety of pupils, staff and visitors, and whether the school can run a full or amended curriculum, to determine whether it is possible to operate the school safely during the strike. The Board of Governors has determined that on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024** we will be **closed for all pupils** and all **will reopen** as normal on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024**.

## **Why are staff striking?**

- *Education in Northern Ireland has been systematically defunded in recent years, resulting in decimating reductions in support, resource and capacity.*
- *The teaching profession has filled in the growing gaps, holding the fragmenting system together and protecting children from the impact of the cuts.*
- *Pay paralysis, when set alongside the working conditions of the teaching profession in Northern Ireland, is having a devastating impact on the profession, with clear evidence that we will not be able to recruit or retain teachers and school leaders in the future if these issues are not resolved. Education is in crisis.*
- *Taking strike action is the last resort. This could have been avoided and, indeed, can still be avoided.*
- *The responsibility to resolve this dispute lies squarely with the employing authorities and the Department of Education.*

Clearly this is a difficult situation, which will cause some disruption. I would ask you, however, to be understanding. This is a very unusual circumstance and is the direct result of the failure to take into account the very real concerns expressed by teachers and school leaders. Taking strike action is not something that anyone would undertake lightly. Those on strike will have thought long and hard about their decision and will also lose pay for the period that they are on strike.



# Fairview Primary School



02893352094



[www.fairviewps.co.uk](http://www.fairviewps.co.uk)

## PRINCIPAL

Mr N McAllister BEd (Hons) MCCT

## CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Mr S Lewis

## FAIRVIEW PRIMARY SCHOOL

Hillmount Avenue  
Ballyclare  
BT399HS

This strike is about protecting your child's education and ensuring education in Northern Ireland as a whole remains a priority for our government and is funded accordingly. The staff in Fairview go over and above to ensure your child gets every opportunity to succeed, be it academically, socially, musically or through sport. Budget cuts and constraints, as well as an unsustainable work load, make this increasingly challenging. We want the best for your child and we always aim to provide that in Fairview.

The information regarding the strike is ever changing. If anything does change, then I will update you further in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Kind regards,

Mr N. McAllister  
Principal

