

NEWSLETTER

INSPIRE ~ SUPPORT ~ ACHIEVE

Diary Dates

School Closes for Half Term Break (2pm)	Friday, 9 th February
Hope 365 visit to P6	Monday, 19 th February
Staff Led After School Activities recommence	Tuesday, 20 th February
Post Primary enrolment portal closes 12 noon	Thursday, 22 nd February
P7 footballers at NI U18 Match	Friday, 23 rd February
Fair Trade Week commences	Monday, 26 th February
Book Fair Week	Monday, 4 th March – Friday 8 th March
Road Safety Quiz NI Final	Monday, 4 th March
World Book Day	Thursday, 7 th March
School closed for St Patrick's Day	Monday, 18 th March

Parent Teacher Interviews

Just prior to the half term break, staff held their second set of Parent Teacher Interviews. Thank you to all our parents/carers for ensuring you were available to come and speak with your child's teacher or to take the call. We hope the meeting was beneficial in terms of informing you as to how your child is doing in school and the progress that they are making.

Car Parking and Pick ups

I continue to receive complaints each week from local residents and parents about parking at drop off and pick up times. Please be considerate with your parking, whatever gate you are using.

A couple of things to note:

- Please do not park on the grass at the front turning circle
- Parents/carers should not be parking inside the school gates at pick up time unless you have permission from school
- Drop off in the morning, for school and Breakfast Club, is **strictly** outside the school gates
- Education Authority regulations state dogs, unless they are working dogs, are not allowed on school sites. If you have your dog with you for drop off or pick up outside the school gate, please keep it on a lead .

As you know, we hand pupils in P1-P4 over to a parent / carer at the end of each day. It is important school staff know who this will be. Please inform school if there is a different person collecting your child. We cannot hand your child over to someone who is not on the collection list. This is to ensure your child's safety at all times.

Attendance

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. Going beyond Fairview, research has shown the vast majority of pupils with attendance of 95% or above achieve 5+ GCSEs (A*-C) including English and Maths. Get your child into good habits now #MissSchoolMissOut.



There has been a lot of sickness this winter and this inevitably leads 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.

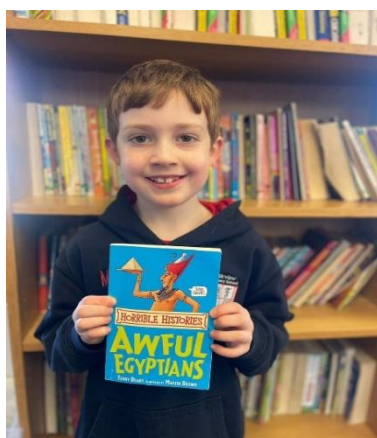
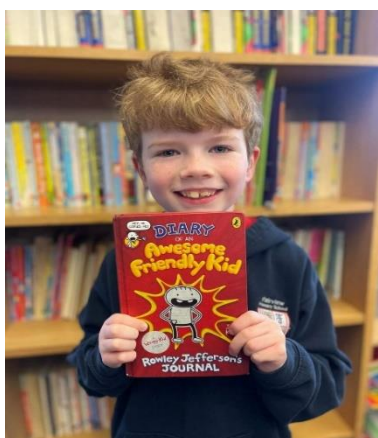


I had the pleasure of visiting P6 Mrs Houston this week to present them with their attendance trophy for January, achieving an incredible 97.7% attendance. Well done to P2 Mrs Penney/Mrs Hyndman on winning the Junior School trophy with 95.9%. The Senior School trophy went to P5 Mr Cherry achieving 96.3% attendance.

AR Update

Our pupils continue to devour books across P4-P7. Well done to all the following pupils who have hit a milestone recently:

- Triple word millionaire:
 - Orin P6D
- Double millionaires:
 - Eva P5P
 - Olivia P5P
- Word Millionaires:
 - Isla P6E
 - Jacob P4D
 - Luke P4D



Some of our millionaires are pictured above. The pupils above will get their picture on a star displayed for all to see on our Millionaire Board down the library corridor. There is still plenty of space for a few more millionaires...so keep reading!

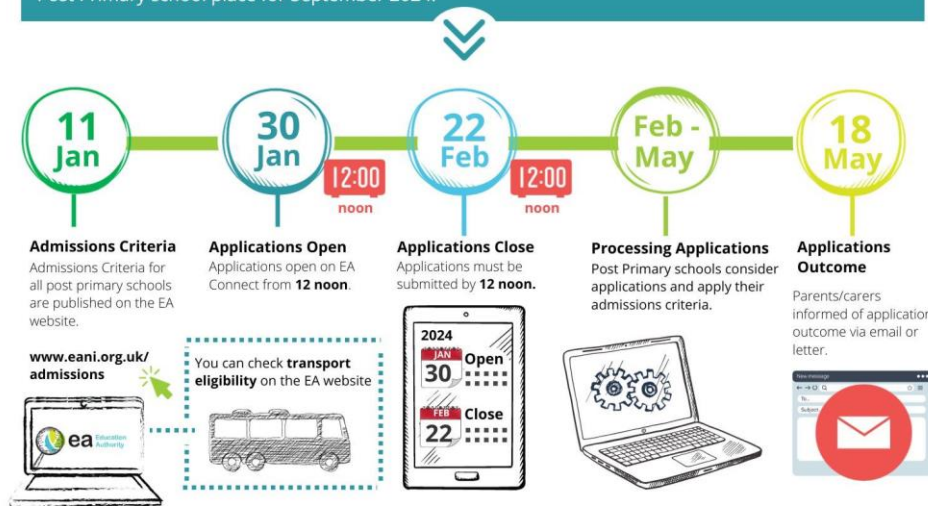
Post Primary Applications

Our Primary 7 parents will be finalising Post Primary school choices for their child over the next couple of weeks, if not already done so. The timeline below will give you a guide for dates. If you require any help with the application or some support with your choices, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or Mr McAllister directly. All staff in school will be happy to assist.



Key Dates for Parents: Applying for a Post Primary place 2024

If your child was born between **2 July 2012** and **1 July 2013** you will need to apply for their Year 8 Post Primary school place for September 2024.



<https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/post-primary-admissions-guide>

After School Activities

Our teacher led after school activities will begin again after half term and will run for 5 consecutive weeks until week beginning 18th March. There will be a final 2 weeks of clubs after Easter. We appreciate the continued support of Mr Lewis, our Chair of Governors, in assisting with Eco Club and Carolyn Stewart, a past parent, who is one of our Scripture Union leaders. We also want to say a huge thank you to Mr Wilson, in his role with Ballyclare Rugby Club, who comes back each Thursday to coach our rugby squad and to Ballyclare High School who make Hollinger Park available for our rugby training and enable senior pupils to support with our Thursday after school programme, as well as Mrs Ennis who helps with Orchestra.

We continue to offer a range of externally led after school clubs and dates for these will vary to our teacher led clubs. Details for these clubs have been emailed previously.

Please remember that if your child is unable to stay for an after school club for any reason, please let the teacher in charge know as a roll is taken each week.

Staff House Competition

This morning, our staff took part in a Staff vs Staff House Competition! Our Primary 4 – Primary 7 staff were each put into a house and they competed against one another in a game of four-corner hockey in the playground. There was an electric atmosphere as pupils cheered us on and encouraged their house to win! The pressure was certainly on for staff to not let their house down! It was **COGRY HOUSE** that came out on top, winning points for their house and earning a deafening cheer. Great fun had by all, and no injuries as we all head into our half term break!! A huge thank you to Mrs McIvor for organising the event. Take a look at our Facebook page for some pictures of the event.



Netball League

Our netball team finished January on a high by taking part in the Belfast Netball Blitz organised by Netball N.I. recently. They travelled to the Shankill Leisure Centre and got to play on a full sized adult court with a range of other primary schools. They showed great adaptability and rose to the challenge. Everything felt bigger, the nets felt taller, even though they're the same size as our 10ft posts, but because it was their first time playing on a double open court, it was a totally new experience. The girls worked really well up the court and showed some excellent defence. They encouraged one another and showed true teamwork.

We came away with two wins, two draws and two very close losses. A really excellent day of play and learning more about the sport!

Huge thanks to Mrs McQueen and Miss Dickson who have invested so much time this year giving our girls more competitive game time, all part of the amazing opportunities and experiences our pupils get in Fairview.



Pupil of the Month

Each month our pupils have the opportunity to be recognised for their efforts with the focus for that month. January was all about being committed to a healthy lifestyle, and our Wellbeing Week last week gave everyone a chance to show how fit and active they were! It was amazing to see so many pupils, and even a few parents, take part in Daybreak Dance. And I know from speaking to a few parents, there were plenty of tired bodies over the weekend after our pupils took on the Awesome Obstacle Course!

Mr McAllister visited all the classes this week and presented Pupil of the Month certificates and rewards.

Throughout the month of February, staff will be focusing on the 'Great Mental Maths' their pupils are displaying. No doubt there will be a wide range of strategies and processes in operation!

Greater Ballyclare Wellbeing Week

Last week we hosted the annual Greater Ballyclare Wellbeing Week. This was a brilliant week which saw a great turn out over the week.

On Monday we had our 'Building Resilience' workshop. This was a very informative evening with lots of brilliant strategies for parents to help build resilience and confidence in their children. Thank you so much to Lauren for leading this evening.

On Tuesday we were delighted to welcome back Cheryl from Love and Light Yoga for an evening of relaxation. Everyone definitely left the evening feeling rejuvenated and refreshed.

Wednesday evening, we hosted our giant jamboree evening which had lots of stalls, demonstrators and treatments on offer. This was a brilliant evening and the turn out was amazing from our school community but also the wider Ballyclare area. We were delighted to welcome the Mayor of Antrim and Newtownabbey, Councillor Mark Cooper BEM, to this evening.

On Thursday, we finished off our week with our coffee hub for parents. This was well attended by both parents and younger children. It was lovely for our parents to take time out of their busy days to have a chat and a cuppa with other parents.

This was a brilliant week for our school community with lots on offer for parents. We would like to thank everyone who came along and supported the events. We look forward to planning our Wellbeing Week for 2025.



We had lots planned for our pupils as well....

- **Day Break Dance**

Last week, from 8:30 to 8:45 each morning, we had the excitement of daybreak dance. Taken by Mrs McQueen and Miss Dickson, this was a great start to the day. Mrs McQueen and Miss Dickson definitely made us all smile with their energetic and fun dance moves.

'The songs were all happy and enthusiastic and made us all feel good and ready for the rest of the day. At the end, I really enjoyed the song "Unstoppable" which we cooled down to with some fun stretches. I'm sure everyone left the front playground with a smile; I certainly did!'

- **Obstacle Course**

For our healthy living week, we set up a super fun and active obstacle course in the hall. It had loads of different stages and really got me puffed out! There were lots of exercises too, like push ups, plank, burpees, high knees and loads more as well.

'I really felt like a gladiator when swinging from rope to rope after making my way over a big climbing frame ladder. Not only was it fun but it made me feel fit and active and got us all moving.'

by Hollie and Hayden P7

Valentine's Disco

We had another wonderful half term disco this month. It was well supported again and many of our pupils did dress to impress! There was a definite feeling of romance in the air throughout the evening as a few gifts were exchanged, including roses and teddy bears! A huge thanks to Emma and her PTA team for organising the evening, and especially to Chris Armstrong for being DJ again. Judging by the amount on the dance floor and the singing along, I think the choice of music was spot on! The evening raised £1000 for PTA funds which will go directly back into resources for our pupils.

Poppy Appeal

We received a lovely letter from the Royal British Legion Ballyclare Branch, thanking us for our contribution to the Poppy Appeal this year. The letter tells us how the people of the Ballyclare area raised over £19,000 for the Poppy Appeal in 2023. This is a phenomenal amount, which is all down to the amazing efforts and generosity of you all. This amazing amount will certainly go a long way in helping the Royal British Legion provide lifelong support to serving and ex-serving personnel and their families.

Rugby Blitz at Roughfort

Our rugby team took part in a rugby blitz hosted by Ben Madigan Prep School on Wednesday afternoon. This was full contact and was a great way for our boys to get some further match action before the Ulster Schools' Competitions later in the year. All the matches were extremely competitive and played in a great spirit.



School Book Fair and World Book Day

We are delighted to announce that our Book Fair arrives back shortly after half term. It will be open on Tuesday 5th March - Friday 8th March from 8.45am-9.15am and 2pm-3.30pm. We look forward to seeing you all there. Pupils will receive their £1 voucher which they can use towards books.

Thursday 7th March 2024 is World Book Day. This year our theme is based around 'Book Heroes'. Pupils can dress up as a character from their favourite book. Please do not go and buy costumes – just be creative with what you have at home.

Non Uniform Day for Stand By Me

We finished our half term today with a non-uniform day, encouraging pupil donations of £1 for our sponsorship of Sifan. We support Sifan through the charity Stand By Me. Sifan is a 10 year old girl who lives in Ethiopia and attends Bethany Bekoji School. Stand By Me adopted the school in 2005 and provide the children with education, daily food and health care.

Safer Internet Day

Fairview recognised Safer Internet Day 2024 on the 6th of February, with celebrations and learning based around the theme '**Inspiring change? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online**'.

P1 – 7 pupils engaged in different activities which promoted the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology. Key Stage 1 pupils listened to stories from 'Digi-Duck' and 'Smartie the Penguin' which reminded them about important messages such as 'pop-ups' and 'in-app' purchasing, cyber-bullying and talking to strangers online. Key Stage 2 pupils participated in an online safety assembly led by Google to learn more key online safety skills – as well as focusing on digital wellbeing and how being online makes us feel. The PSNI visited our P7 classes to talk about Online Safety and the importance of being responsible online citizens.

"I enjoyed taking part in the 'Be Internet Legends' online assembly and learned that not everything we see or read online is true. We also discussed how important it is not to put our personal details online and to make sure our profiles are private." Megan Weir, P7K

"I enjoyed watching Captain Kara and the Smart Crew, we learnt that if someone sends you a message that you are unsure about, we should tell an adult so they can check it out." Holly Vance P5P

"We found out that it was important to be careful which emojis we send to people because they may misunderstand and think you are being unkind." Rosanna McNeilly P5P

"It is really important that we are careful not to give away personal information online." Daliah Davidson P5P

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

Safer Internet Day

Established by the UK Safer Internet Centre (UKSIC), Safer Internet Day is celebrated around the world. This year, on Tuesday 6th February 2024, it will be celebrated with the theme:

Inspiring change? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online.

How can I get involved?

UK Safer Internet Centre Resources

As usual, the UKSIC have created some fantastic resources, which includes top tips, help and advice and a short film to help you start a conversation with your child. Find out more here:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2024/parents-and-carers>

My child keeps asking to play a game, or download an app that I don't know about, what can I do?

The UKSIC answer this question and provide links to useful websites to help you decide what is suitable for your child:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2024/parents-and-carers/my-child-keeps-asking-to-play-a-game>

Who influences your child?

An influencer is somebody prominent on social media such as YouTube and Instagram, who have a high number of followers. Influencers share their opinions/ideas and may be paid to advertise/promote products through their account. The NSPCC have created an article detailing what you need to know about online influencers here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/2023-05-16-the-influence-of-influencers/>

Digital futures

As Safer internet Day is all about change, Internet Matters have published advice on new and emerging technologies:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/tech-and-kids-digital-futures/>

Making a difference: being kind online

The BBC have curated a host of videos and articles incorporating ideas and advice to help make the online world a kinder place:

<https://www.bbc.com/ownit/collections/being-kind-online>

Apple online event: Thurs 8th Feb 3.30pm – 4.30pm

Apple will be hosting an online event to celebrate Safer Internet Day. They will be joined by Will Gardner (from Childnet and UKSIC) who will provide an overview of the importance of Safer Internet Day and then Apple will provide a demonstration of their controls. Find out more here:

https://events.apple.com/content/events/pst/gb/en/default.html?token=xww6uj7woR0X9A3f9q4OQk9VdH60MurN7MAvJSY75sHQxWqaTEhMjEmalXqC7MMJuZhb5cjK2_RsJEnGDWirXhcGlvVfbeOSca2wjYDoLAT3GkRLh-DcTmEHQI72rxQfFw&a=1&Locale=en_GB&l=e