



EBRINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

February 2026 Newsletter -update

Parent-Teacher interviews

Thank you to all parents who have attended over the last two days of parent interviews. We trust that you have found the time very beneficial. For those still to attend, I am confident that you will find great benefit from them.



Fresh Fruit February!



We are hopeful that we will be able to extend our free breaktime snacks into a third week in school. This has been a great initiative and we would like to extend our thanks to those who voted for our project and to Tesco for giving us the opportunity.

TransformED additional training days

As many of you may already know, education in Northern Ireland is going through a significant change in the next number of years, with the introduction of TransformED.



Due to this, schools are required to take two additional staff development days-one this term and one in the summer term. Following consultation with DE, **we will be closing to pupils on Wednesday 18th March 2026.** This is in addition to being closed to pupils on 17th March (St Patrick's Day).

The second day in the summer term will be Tuesday 26th May 2026.

Apologies in advance for the disruption of these additional days, but it is crucial in allowing schools the time to plan the way forward with a changing curriculum.

PTA Events

There are a number of PTA events coming up the not to distant future-please check diaries for availability as, more than ever, we will rely on fundraising events to help support our 'extras' in school.

The first is the 'Smartie Challenge', going home this week. We are asking pupils over the next 4 weeks to **gather up 20ps and collect in their smartie tube** to be returned on 20 March. All pupils who return their tube by this date will get a treat.

They have also organised a 'name and find the bunny'. This will run from 2nd March, with the big reveal on 19th March.

They have also planned a very exciting BINGO night on 19th March. We look forward to seeing lots of our school family there.

UPCOMING PTA EVENTS

TEACHERS, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE PTA. HERE ARE THE FUNDRAISERS WE HAVE PLANNED IN THE RUN UP TO EASTER

FEB 23

THE SMARTIES CHALLENGE
WE'LL BE GIVING EVERY CHILD A TUBE OF SMARTIES AND INVITING THEM TO FILL THE EMPTY TUBE WITH 20P COINS FOR RETURN TO SCHOOL BY 20 MARCH

NAME & FIND THE BUNNY!

WE WILL BE ASKING THE LOWER SCHOOL TO GUESS THE NAME OF THE BUNNY WHILE OUR UPPER SCHOOL WILL SEE IF THEY CAN GUESS WHERE THE BUNNY IS HIDING. RUNS FROM MARCH 2 WITH THE REVEAL MARCH 19. £1 PER GUESS AND PRIZES FOR THE TWO WINNERS!

MAR 2

MAR 19

FAMILY BINGO NIGHT!
6:30 - 8:30PM - £5 PER BINGO BOOK
WE'LL BE SENDING OUT SIGN UP SHEETS 23 FEB FOR ADVANCE BOOKING BY 14 MARCH

Smartphone Agreement



Thanks to all who have returned their smartphone agreement. It was pleasing to see the level of support for this initiative, but we would be even more delighted if more wished to come on board.

Some of you may be interested in an event taking place in the Guildhall on Tuesday 24th March 2026, at 7:30pm.

This is an event with some key speakers, including Dr Claire Sinton, a paediatrician from RVH (and a past pupil of Ebrington PS & NU). Why not go along and join an open, non-judgemental conversation about the impacts of smartphones on childhood. Everyone is welcome!

Smoke Free School



Please remember that the whole site of Ebrington PS & NU and Foyle College is a **smoke free zone**. It has come to my attention that we have a small number of parents/ carers who are both smoking or vaping within the school grounds, including in their cars when dropping off and picking up.

I would ask all parents and carers to follow our policy and keep this a smoke free zone, including the use of vapes, thank you.

125 Celebrations

REMINDER:

If anyone has any artefacts, resources or photographs they would be willing to share, please send them into school (named), or email into school to bguthrie493@c2ken.net.

As well as sharing artefacts and items at our open morning in April, we plan to upload photos to our school Facebook page. This should hopefully spark happy childhood memories of Ebrington PS for many of our school community.



Playground and Buildings Update



After 7 years of 'negotiations', I am delighted to share that the first round of remedial works will be starting in the playground during March, with additional drainage being implemented, to help negate the flooding and ponding issues. This has taken a lot of energy from leadership and governors and has been supported by staff and parents-thank you for this.

I am also pleased to say that we have secured funding for solar panels at Ebrington PS & NU. They will also be fitted during March 2026. This will have a positive effect on our utility bills in future years, allowing more funding for pupil needs.

Obviously, this may mean some short-term disruption in the coming weeks, but will have long-term, lasting benefits.

