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February 2026 Newsletter

School Closings: Spring Term

The school will be closed on Monday 9th, Tuesday 10th Wednesday 11th, Thursday 12th, Friday 13th for the mid-term break.

The school will be closed on Monday 16th March and Tuesday 17th March and Wednesday 18th March (please note this is an additional staff training date which DENI has told us to take for the implementation of the new curriculum, apologies for the late notice but we were only informed this week.)

Happy Valentine's Day from all of our Year 2 children who have been creating beautiful hearts for very special people.



Big Garden Birdwatch

We were taking part in the Big Garden Birdwatch. P3/4 went out all around the school and our gardens to see which birds we could identify. We were amazed at the amount of different species we found. House sparrows, starlings, blue-tits, robins, blackbirds and magpies. We found so many and we are so proud of our detective skills.



Outdoor Play

Our Year 1 and Two children have been out learning through play in our garden. We have wrapped up warm and got out into the fresh air. We have had great fun and lots of learning experiences. The P7 children helped us build lots of tall towers and houses. Thanks P.7.



Tin Whistle

Tin Whistle continues every Wednesday for P. 2-7 children who wish to do it. The cost will be £12. Thanks.

Grandparent's Mass

Thanks so much to everyone who came to our Grandparents Mass . We were delighted to see you all there. We really enjoying showing you our classrooms and our work. We hope you enjoyed the refreshments afterwards. It was wonderful to see so many grandparents there, familiar faces back again and new faces, you were all so welcome. Just a few photos of our Grandparents. Check out our website for lots more .

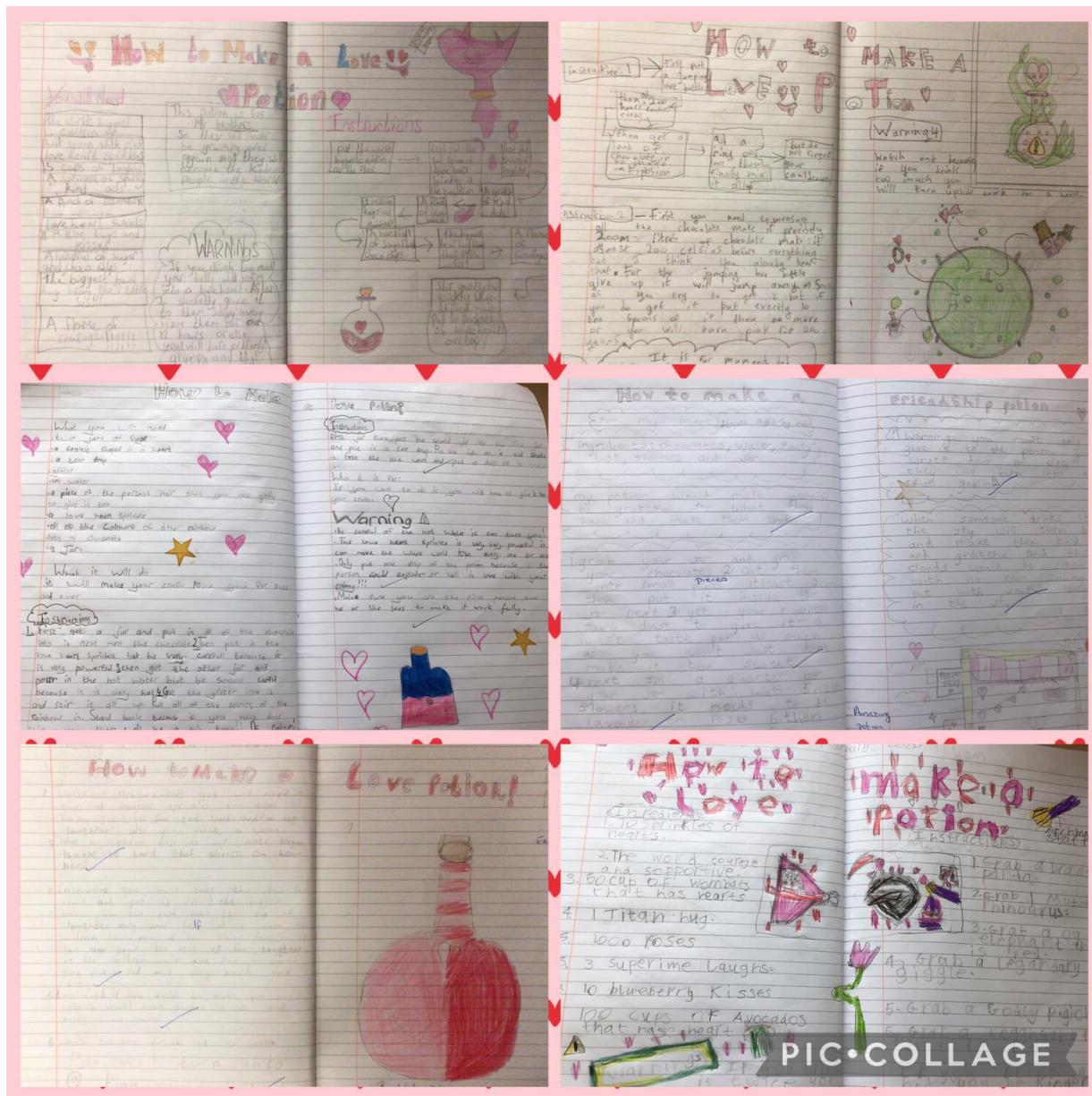


Children's Mental Health Week

Children's mental health week took place this week, we talked about how we can belong to our families, our friends and our communities. We did Yoga, some breath work, exercise, friendship walks and learned about growing our mind, challenging ourselves and being proud of everything we do.



Year 4/5 children have been working on spreading the love for a great friendship. We think we have found the perfect recipe!



P.6 visit the Folk Park with Shared Education

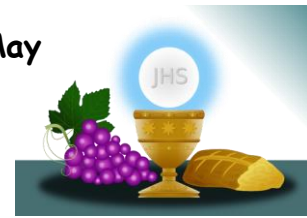
P.6 children visited the Folk Park as part of our Shared Education and Shared History work.



PIC•COLLAGE

First Communion

First Communion will take place on Saturday 9th May at 11.00 a.m in St Mary's Church Arney.



Confirmation

Confirmation will take place on Friday 27th March at 6.00 in St Patrick's Holywell.

School Uniform

Full school uniform should be worn every day except on P.E days or when children are staying over for after-school activities. Thanks.

Attendance

Regular attendance at school is extremely important if children are to make progress at school. Attendance levels have dipped across Northern Ireland post Covid and DENI has introduced new ways of monitoring attendance to try and combat this. It is essential that children come to school regularly. If your child is sick and is unable to attend school, we fully understand, sick children should remain at home until they are fully recovered.

Attendance will now be monitored as follows from January this year.

Tier 1a-Regular Attendance children missing 0%-4.9% (<1 day per month)

Tier 1b-At risk attendance-children missing 5%-9.9% (1+ day per month)

Tier 2-Chronic Attendance-children missing 10%-19.9% (2-3 days per month)

Tier 3- Severe Chronic Attendance-missing 20% or more of school (3+days per month)

For example:

- If your child has 90% attendance they are missing half a day of learning every week.
- In a year this would mean that they have missed four whole weeks/ 1 month of learning.
- Over five years they will have missed half a school year.

If your child has 80% attendance, they are missing a full day of learning every week.

In a year they have missed 8 weeks/ 2 months of learning.

Over 5 years this equates to a full year of learning lost.

As you can see, missing school regularly severely impedes children's progress both socially and academically thus impacting on their life chances.

Tier 1a and 1b attendance will be dealt with by the school.

Tier 2 and 3 attendance will involve other agencies such as Educational Welfare/Social Services if necessary.

You should ring the school to let us know if your child is going to be absent and the reason why, each day they are off.

