

Education Authority Western Region



STRABANE CONTROLLED PRIMARY SCHOOL

43 Derry Road

Strabane

Co. Tyrone

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7th January 2026

Principal Mrs. C Thompson

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Wishing you all a Happy, Healthy and Safe New Year

TERM 2

Monday 5th January – Thursday 2nd April 2026

Pantomime

Thank you again to everyone involved in our performance of 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. The children did a wonderful job. Thanks to the pupils, staff, you the parents and the PTFA for all their hard work behind the scenes. Downloads are available to purchase on the PTFA website.

<https://ptfa.strabaneps.co.uk/>

Milk money

Year 1 – Year 7 Milk money for the new term (Jan – April) is now due **£11**. If you want your child to receive milk in school please send this amount, in a labelled envelope, to Mrs. Dalzell by Monday 12th January. Thank you.

Dinner money

The cost of school meals has increased to **£3.10** per day for **Year 1-7** and **£3.00** per day for **Nursery**, effective from 5th January 2026.

Staffing

We wish to thank Mrs. Bateman who taught Year 2 during Term 1. After a selection and recruitment drive, the BOGs have appointed Miss. Hamilton as the Year 2 teacher until Miss Finlay's return from maternity leave.

We are also delighted to announce that Miss Sayers and Miss Gailey have been made permanent in their posts as Nursery teacher and Year 3 teacher respectively.

Mr. McElhinney will continue to teach Year 4/5 until further notice.

Nursery and P1 Applications - Digital Admissions Applications

Nursery

Children born on or between 2 July 2022 and 1 July 2023 (inclusive) or who come under the deferral circumstances, are eligible for a place in our nursery unit.

Year 1

Any child whose fourth birthday falls on or before 1 July 2026 will have reached compulsory school age in September 2026. Children who are currently in our nursery or the playgroup will need to apply for a place.



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EA has the published admissions criteria on the EA website below.

If your child is starting pre-school or primary school in September 2026, you can apply for their place online from **today, Wednesday 7th January 2026**.

The closing date and time for pre-school and primary one applications will be **12 noon on Wednesday 21st January 2026**.

Further information on the admissions procedure will be available on the EA website under Admissions: www.eani.org.uk/admissions

Transferring from Year 7 to Year 8 in September 2026

Information on the procedures for post primary school admissions in September 2026.

EA has published admissions criteria for post primaries from the 10th December 2025.

The online portal opens on **Tuesday 27th January 2026 at 12 noon** until **12 noon on Thursday 19th February 2026**.

Further information on the admissions procedure is available on the EA website under Admissions: www.eani.org.uk/admissions

School App

Please ensure you have downloaded the School's website App as this is a free service.

Facebook

We are delighted that our Facebook page is now regularly active and that there has already been lots of engagement with it. Thank you for your interaction and for sharing our posts. This platform will provide regular updates and important communications for your convenience. Please follow us to stay informed and connected with school news and events.

Breakfast club

Breakfast club continues 8.15 – 8.45am everyday Monday – Friday with Mrs. Dalzell and Mr Martin. Please remember, unless your child is attending breakfast club, school supervision does not commence until 8.45am in the playground.

Dates for Your Diary – Term Overview

January

- **Tuesday 13th Jan – Tuesday 24th February:** Robbie's Core Skills Coaching (Year 6)
- **Week Beginning 12th Jan:** After School Clubs commence (letters to follow)
- **Monday 12th Jan:**
 - Rugby Tots starts (Years 4/5 and 5/6)
 - 6-week NWR Cricket Programme begins (Year 7)
 - Year 4 & Year 6 Reading Programme begins (runs until 27th Feb)
- **14th, 21st, 22nd & 23rd Jan:** Year 1 School Nurse Screening
- **Thursday 22nd Jan:** Strabane Academy Open Night @ 6.30pm
- **Friday 23rd Jan:** Lego Mindstorm Programme starts (Year 7)



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- **Saturday 24th Jan:**
 - SEAG Test Results released

February

- **Week Beginning 2nd Feb:** Year 6 & Year 7 Swimming Blocks commence (letters to follow)
- **Tuesday 3rd (individuals) & Wednesday 4th (families) February:** School Photographer
- **Monday 2nd – Friday 6th Feb:** Health & Wellbeing Week
- **Thursday 5th Feb:** Year 7 Confirmation @ 3.30pm
- **Friday 6th Feb:** PTFA Valentine's Disco
- **Tuesday 10th Feb:** Internet Safety Day
- **Monday 9th – Friday 13th Feb:** Half-Term Holiday
- **Monday 23rd Feb:** Year 1 Neurodiversity Sessions commence

March

- **Thursday 5th March:** World Book Day
- **Tuesday 17th March:** School Closed for St. Patrick's Day
- **Friday 27th March:** Tempest Whole School Photograph @ **9am**

April

- **Thursday 2nd April:** School closes Half Day (11.30am) for Easter Holidays
- **Monday 13th April:** Term 3 commences

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. C Thompson
Principal