



February 2026

SAFER INTERNET DAY 2026-Wed 4th Feb 2026



Theme: Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI

In anticipation of Safer Internet Day held on Wed 4th February 2026, we have invited Mr Harvey from Allstate Northern Ireland in on Monday 2nd February 2026 at 9.30am to talk to our KS1&2 pupils.



Schools of Sanctuary



FAO Primary 7 Parents/Guardians



The online portal for post primary admissions applications can be found here:

<https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/pupil-applications-and-grants/admissions>

Admissions criteria for all post primary schools in our locality can be found here: <https://www.chapelroadps.co.uk/for-parents/post-primary-admissions-criteria/>

The Application Process for Post Primary School:

- The 'Apply Now' link for Post Primary applications will be live on the EA website from **Tuesday 27th January 2026 at 12noon.**
- Applications will close on **Thursday 19th February 2026 at 12noon.**

*****Applications are not considered on a first come, first served basis*****

It is important to submit your applications by 12 noon on 19th February 2026 as an application received after this time will be treated as 'late' by the school and this may affect the chance of being offered a place in the school.

- It is recommended that parents use a supported internet browser e.g. Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge, Safari etc. The application will not work on Internet Explorer.
- It is the responsibility of parents to check that all relevant information is included on their child's application before submitting it.
- A number of resources are available online including tutorial videos, FAQs and quick reference guides, in multiple languages, to support parents with the Post Primary application process via EA Connect.

- **Parents can check if their child would be eligible for transport assistance to school on the EA website - Check Transport Eligibility.**
- **Parents have the right to express school preferences, but no child can be guaranteed a place at any particular school.**
- **More than half of Post Primary schools are oversubscribed and not all children who apply will receive a place at an oversubscribed school.**
- **To ensure a child has the best chance of being offered a Post Primary school place of their choice, it is strongly recommended that at least four schools are listed in the order of preference, including at least one nongrammar school.**
- **Up to 12 schools can be listed on the application and if more are needed these may be emailed to the EA Post Primary Admissions mailbox at postprimaryadmissions@eani.org.uk.**
- **It is important that parents read the admissions criteria of the schools they are considering. All admissions criteria can be found in the parent section of the school website or on the Education Authority website- read these carefully! This will help them to assess if their child is likely to be offered a place. The criteria informs how the school will decide which children will be selected if the school is oversubscribed. Parents should think about how well their child meets the criteria which can be found on the EA website. If parents have queries on a**

school's criteria they should contact the school for clarification. Information on the number of applications the school received in previous years and the number of pupils who were accepted are included in the school's criteria to let parents know if the school is usually oversubscribed.

If you require any help or assistance, please contact the school office to make an appointment with Mrs Barrett.

Reminder

The cost of school dinners has increased effective 01-01-2026 to **£3.10 daily/£15.50 weekly**



School Meals Update



“

The Education Authority (EA) recently set out a number of savings measures in response to a significant funding shortfall of around £300million.

As part of these measures, school meal prices will increase in January for the first time since 2017. Pupils entitled to Free School Meals will not be affected by this rise, and in pre-school, primary and special school settings will continue to receive a meal as before.

In post-primary, which operates on a cafeteria basis, the daily free school meal allowance will increase by 19.25% to £3.34 to mirror the price increase across all menu items.

For pupils who are not entitled to free school meals, new prices will come into effect in January 2026 and are reflected in the figures to the right.

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School Meal Prices Effective January 1 2026

Pre-School
£3.00

Primary
£3.10

Post-Primary
19.25% Price increase

Special
£3.10

Adult Meal
£3.99

New Student Teacher

We would like to welcome Miss Naomi McGinley on teaching practice from Coventry University.



Miss N. McGinley will be under the supervision of Mrs E.O' Hagan in Primary 7.



Dinner Menu

Dinner Menu can be accessed here:

https://storage.googleapis.com/siteassetsswd/247/downloads/20250923053613_50_PSAutumnWinterMenu2025-262Choices.pdf

| <div> <div>EAT SMART WITH</div> <div>THE LUNCH BUNCH</div> </div> | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| WEEK BEGINNING | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
| 6th October, 3rd November, 1st December, 5th January, 2nd February | Oven-baked Fish Fingers - Or - Spanish Chicken & Rice Garden Peas & Steamed Sweetcorn Chipped Potatoes & Baked Potato Chocolate Mousse & Mandarin Oranges | Beef Bolognese - Or - Homemade Healthy Margherita Pizza with Fresh Salad Steamed Broccoli & Coleslaw Pasta Spirals & Baby Potatoes Apple Sponge & Custard | Lunch Bunch Chicken Curry with Freshly Baked Mini Naan Bread - Or - Baked Chicken & Vegetable Wrap with Fresh Salad Baton Carrots & Garden Peas Steamed Rice & Mashed Potatoes Vanilla Ice Cream & Pear Chunks | Roast Beef & Yorkshire Pudding with Stuffing & Gravy - Or - Salmon with a Creamy Dill & Cheese Sauce Fresh Vegetables in Season Oven-baked Roast Potatoes & Mashed Potatoes Carrot Cake Slice | Hot Dog with Tomato Ketchup - Or - Cheesy Bean Burrito with Fresh Salad Mini Corn on the Cob & Baked Beans Chipped Potatoes & Baked Potato Yoghurt & Chopped Fruit |
| 13th October, 10th November, 8th December, 12th January, 9th February, | Oven-baked Fish Goujons with Lemon Mayo - Or - Creamy Garlic Chicken & Mushroom Pasta Diced Carrots & Garden Peas Crispy Herb Diced Potatoes & Mashed Potatoes Flakemeal Biscuit & Melon Wedge | Traditional Savoury Mince - Or - Homemade Healthy Margherita Pizza with Fresh Salad Broccoli & Roasted Butternut Squash Mashed Potatoes & Roasted Potato Wedges Chocolate & Pear Sponge Cake & Custard | Lunch Bunch Chicken Curry with Freshly Baked Mini Naan Bread - Or - Quorn Dippers Garden Peas & Sweetcorn Steamed Rice & Baby Potatoes Date Krispie & Orange Wedge | Roast Chicken with Stuffing & Gravy - Or - Vegetarian Cottage Pie Fresh Selection of Vegetables in Season Oven-baked Roast Potatoes & Mashed Potatoes Vanilla Ice Cream Roll & Peaches | Beef Burger with Tomato Ketchup - Or - BBQ Pulled Pork and Cheese Panini Baked Beans, Coleslaw & Salad Chipped Potatoes & Baked Potato Strawberry Yoghurt & Chopped Fruit |
| 20th October, 17th November, 15th December, 19th January, | Oven-baked Fish Fingers - Or - Kung Pao Chicken Roasted Peppers & Sweetcorn Chipped Potatoes & Steamed Fluffy Rice Apple and Winter Berry Crumble & Custard | Beef Bolognese - Or - Homemade Healthy Margherita Pizza with Fresh Salad Steamed Broccoli & Coleslaw Oven- roasted Potato Wedges & Pasta Spirals Strawberry Jelly & Mandarin Oranges | Lunch Bunch Chicken Curry with Freshly Baked Mini Naan Bread - Or - Breast of Chicken with Gravy Garden Peas & Baton Carrots Steamed Rice & Mashed Potatoes Homemade Chocolate Brownie & Custard | Roast Gammon with Stuffing & Gravy - Or - Vegetarian Sausages with Onion Gravy Fresh Selection of Vegetables in Season Oven-baked Roast Potatoes & Mashed Potatoes Popcorn Biscuit & Melon Wedge | Southern Fried Chicken Goujon & Salad Wrap with Taco Sauce - Or - Baked Potato with Beef Chilli, Cheddar and Coleslaw Mini Corn on the Cob & Baked Beans Chipped Potatoes & Baked Potato Frozen Fruit Smoothie & Fruit Tub |
| 27th October, 24th November, 22nd December, 26th January, | Cod Fish Bites with Mayo Dip - Or - Penne Pasta with Roasted Tomato and Red Pepper Sauce Garden Peas, Coleslaw & Carrot Sticks Chipped Potatoes & Mashed Potatoes Strawberry Mousse & Two Fruits | Traditional Irish Stew with Wheaten Bread - Or - Oven-baked Pork Sausages Broccoli & Baked Beans Mashed Potatoes & Baked Potato Steamed Chocolate Pudding & Custard | Lunch Bunch Chicken Curry with Freshly Baked Mini Naan Bread - Or - Roast Chicken Wrapped in Bacon with BBQ Sauce Sweetcorn & Ratatouille Steamed Rice & Champ Homemade Cookie & Orange Wedge | Roast Turkey with Stuffing & Gravy - Or - Quorn Fillet with Creamy Cajun Sauce Fresh Selection of Vegetables in Season Oven-baked Roast Potatoes & Mashed Potatoes Chocolate Cracknel & Fruit Tub | Homemade Margherita or Mini Meatball Pizza - Or - Veggie Nuggets with Tomato Ketchup Sweetcorn, Coleslaw & Salad Chipped Potatoes & Baked Potato Frozen Yoghurt Pot & Melon Wedge |

Holiday List

Holiday list can be accessed

here: https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/embed.aspx?src=https://storage.googleapis.com/siteassetsswd/247/docletter/20250429015510_23_Holiday_Calendar_for_Parents_2025-26.docx

School Attendance



EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS –

Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning.

Attendance percentages can be misleading.

| | | |
|-----------------|---|--------------|
| 100% Attendance | 0 Days Missed | Excellent |
| 95% Attendance | 9 Days of Absence 1 Week and 4 Days of Learning Missed | Satisfactory |
| 90% Attendance | 19 Days of Absence 3 Weeks and 4 Days of Learning Missed | Poor |
| 85% Attendance | 28 Days of Absence 5 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed | Very Poor |
| 80% Attendance | 38 Days of Absence 7 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed | Unacceptable |
| 75% Attendance | 46 Days of Absence 9 Weeks and 1 Day of Learning Missed | Unacceptable |

For some parents, 90% may seem like an acceptable level of attendance, but the reality is that 90% attendance means that your child will miss half a school day each week or 19 days of school during the school year – that's nearly 4 school weeks.



Give your child the best start in life – every school day counts.



HOW PARENTS CAN HELP –

- ☑ Establish a good routine in the mornings and evenings so your child is prepared for the school day ahead.
- ☑ Make sure your child goes to school regularly and follows the school rules.
- ☑ Ensure your child arrives at school on time – not late.
- ☑ Arrange dental and medical appointments outside school hours when possible.
- ☑ Always inform the school if your child is absent due to illness – this should be followed up with a written note when your child returns to school.
- ☑ Take truancy seriously – if your child is not attending school as you expect they may be putting themselves at risk – Who are they with? What are they doing?
- ☑ Take family holidays outside term time.
- ☑ Talk to your child about school and take an interest in their school work (including homeworks).
- ☑ Attend parent evenings and school events.
- ☑ Praise and reward your child's achievements at school.
- ☑ Always support school staff in their efforts to control difficult or challenging behaviour.
- ☑ Discuss any problems or difficulties with the school – staff are there to help and will be supportive.



Do not be afraid to ask for help if a problem arises.

Reporting Attendance

Parents can now report absence via the school website



Click on the Report Pupil Absence Button

Complete the form below and click submit. This will be emailed to the info@chapelroadps.derry.ni.sch.uk account. Mrs Hall will then forward the email to the child's teacher.

Report Pupil Absence

If a child is absent for any reason, parents/guardians should notify the school, reporting their absence by using the 'Report Pupil Absence' button on our school website.

Your Name *

Name of Pupil *

Class *

Date(s) of Absence *

Reason *

Submit

Clubs

| Day | Club | Year Group&Time | Book/Pay |
|----------|--------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Monday | Multi-sports | P1&2 2-3pm P5&6 3-4pm | Restarts on Monday 5th January 2026 05-01-26 until 02-02-26 £10 for 5-week block No Multi-sports during Mid-term break 16-02-26 until 30-03-26 £10 for 5-week block |
| Tuesday | Athletics | Primary 6&7 3-4pm | Couch to 5k 6-week block: Tuesday 27th Jan Tuesday 3rd Feb Mid Term Tuesday 17th Feb Tuesday 24th Feb Tuesday 3rd Mar Tuesday 10th Mar Free |
| Thursday | RugbyTots | Primary 1 2-2.30pm | Restarts on Thursday 22nd January 2026 |

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| | | Primary 2 2.30-3pm Primary 3/4 3-4pm | Primary 3 have two weeks left: Thursday 22nd January 2026&Thursday 29th January 2026 Booking will open then for our Primary 4 classes. Free |
|--|--|---|--|



Save the Date

**SEAG Information Session for P6 Parents will
be held on Monday 2nd March 2026**

at 3pm in our ICT Suite.

**Mr McLaughlin and Mrs O'Hagan will be on
hand to answer any questions you may have.**



Important Dates for February 2026

Monday 2nd February 2026

Mr G. Harvey (Allstate) will be in to deliver a Safer Internet Day 2026 workshop at 9.30am to all children in Primary 4,5 and 6 Assembly Hall



Theme: Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI

We welcome Miss Naomi McGinley from Coventry University to our Primary 7 class, starting teaching training in Feb 2026.



Bobby from Hope NW will be in to deliver our Primary 7 workshop








9.30am -12noon






Tuesday 3rd February 2026





Bobby from Hope NW will be in to deliver our Primary 7 workshop



9.30am -12noon

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|--|---|
| Wednesday 4th February 2026 | <p>Shared Education: Primary 7 children will visit Studio 2 along with our partnership schools.</p>  |
| Thursday 5th February 2026 | <p>Staff training from 3-6pm with Mrs Katrina Bradley from NumeraSee</p>  |
| Friday 6th February 2026 | <p>Waterside Credit Union Quiz 2026 @10am-12noon in the Everglades Hotel</p>  |
| <p>Monday 9th February – Friday 13th February 2026 Mid-term Break School Closed</p>  | |
| Monday 16th February 2026 | <p>School reopens following Mid-term break</p> |
| Tuesday 17th February 2026 | <p>Pancake Tuesday</p>  |
| | <p>P4&P6 Library Skills visit to Waterside Library P4 – 10.00-10.45am P6 – 10.45-11.30am Children will be walking to and from</p> |

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| <p>Wednesday 18th February 2026</p> | <p>Ash Wednesday</p>  <p>10am mass for Primary 3-6 P1&2 will go down at the end for their ashes.</p> <p>Shared Education: Primary 7 children will visit Studio 2 along with our partnership schools.</p>  |
| <p>Thursday 19th February 2026</p> | <p>P6 PAWSb Mindfulness Programme (6-week programme) 9.30-10.30am</p>  <p>FAO P7 Parents Post Primary Admissions Portal Closes at 12noon</p> |
| <p>Friday 20th February 2026</p> | <p>To be confirmed</p> <p>P5 attend the Foyle Science Festival in Foyle Arena as part of NI Science Festival week.</p>  |
| <p>Wednesday 25th February 2026</p> | <p>Shared Education: Primary 7 children will visit Studio 2 along with our partnership schools.</p>  |

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| <p>Thursday 26th February 2026</p> | <p>P6 PAWSb Mindfulness Programme (6-week programme) 9.30-10.30am</p>  |
| <p>Friday 27th February 2026</p> | <p>Autism NI Superhero Day Dress up as a superhero in support of our autistic community and promoting inclusion in Chapel Road. £1 per child donation £2 per family</p>  |
| | <p>Cumann na mBunscol Girls 5-a-side Gaelic Final Foyle Arena 12-2.30pm</p>  |
| <p>Sunday 1st March 2026</p> | <p>Our amazing School Choir will travel to the SSE Arena in Belfast for the Peace Proms NI event</p>  |

PHA information quick reference guide

Do I need to keep my child off school?

| | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| Chicken Pox Until all spots have crusted over | Conjunctivitis No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed | Diarrhoea & Vomiting 48 hours from last episode | Glandular Fever No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed | Hand, foot & mouth No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed | Impetigo Until lesions are crusted & healed or 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics |
| Measles or German Measles 4 days from onset of rash | Mumps 5 days from onset of swelling | Scabies Until after first treatment | Scarlet Fever 24 hours after commencing antibiotics | Slapped Cheek No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed | Whooping Cough 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics |
| | Flu Until recovered | Head Lice No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed | Threadworms No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed | Tonsillitis No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed | |

This document is available from:

**[Do I need to keep my child off school?
\(English and translations\) | HSC Public
Health Agency](#)**

It is also available in a variety of different languages, such as Arabic, see below:

القوباء

إلى أن تتكون قشرة على الآفات وتشفى أو 48 ساعة بعد بدء المضادات الحيوية

اليد والقدم والفم

ليست هناك حاجة للبقاء في المنزل ولكن ينبغي إخطار المدرسة أو المستوصف

الحمى الغدية

ليست هناك حاجة للبقاء في المنزل ولكن ينبغي إخطار المدرسة أو المستوصف

الإسهال و القيء

48 ساعة من آخر نوبة

التهاب الملتحمة

ليست هناك حاجة للبقاء في المنزل ولكن ينبغي إخطار المدرسة أو المستوصف

الجديري

إلى أن تتكون قشرة على جميع البقع

السعال الديكي

48 ساعة بعد بدء المضادات الحيوية

الداء الخامس (الحمى المعدي)

ليست هناك حاجة للبقاء في المنزل ولكن ينبغي إخطار المدرسة أو المستوصف

الحمى القرمزية

24 ساعة بعد بدء المضادات الحيوية

الجرب

إلى ما بعد أول علاج

التكاف

5 أيام من بداية التورم

الحصبة أو الحصبة الألمانية

4 أيام من بداية الطفح الجلدي

التهاب اللوزتين

ليست هناك حاجة للبقاء في المنزل ولكن ينبغي إخطار المدرسة أو المستوصف

الدودة الشريطية

ليست هناك حاجة للبقاء في المنزل ولكن ينبغي إخطار المدرسة أو المستوصف

قمل الرأس

ليست هناك حاجة للبقاء في المنزل ولكن ينبغي إخطار المدرسة أو المستوصف

البرد

حتى يتم الشفاء



Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
caring supporting improving together

When your child's unwell it can be unsettling.

The Children's Symptom Checker can help.



**When your child's unwell it
can be unsettling.**

The Children's Symptom Checker can help.

Before attending an Emergency Department
visit the Children's Symptom Checker for
advice from healthcare professionals.

belfasttrust.hscni.net/childrens-symptom-checker
[@belfasttrust](#)



Copies of all our policies can be obtained from

our School Website; they are password protected but the password can be obtained from the School Office.

www.chapelroadps.co.uk



Our Safeguarding Team



Mrs A McCallion
Designated Teacher



Mrs M. McCann
Deputy Designated
Teacher



Mr M. McLaughlin
Chair of the Board of
Governors



Mrs R. McLaughlin
Designated BOG
member in charge of
Safeguarding



Mrs C. Barrett
Principal

Keep in touch

Please ensure that you download the Schools NI App which is linked to our website. Click on the ? at the top left-hand corner to ensure that notifications are turned on. (See arrow)

