



April 2026

Well done to our Primary 4 children who celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation as they continue to prepare for their First Holy Communion on **Friday 1st May 2026** at **11.30am**.



Our Primary 7 children will be celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation on **Friday 24th April 2026** in St. Columb's Church, Chapel Road at **1.30pm**. We will be joined by some children from St. Columba's PS, Newbuildings.



**Our school community raised an impressive £200.00 for
Autism NI on Friday 27th February 2026.**

Thank you for your generosity!



**The school also donated £100 to Northern Ireland Cancer Fund
for Children having participated in their ReadOn Programme
as part of World Book Day.**





The school will be closed:

Wednesday 1st April at 12noon for Easter.

The school reopens on Monday 13th April 2026.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish our school community a Happy Easter. Thank you for your continued support of our school!

Important Reminders

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As directed by the Department of Education, our school has been allocated 2 additional staff development days, one to be taken this term with an additional one to be taken in the final term of the 2025-26 academic year.

The agenda for these days are to include any aspect of the **TransformED programme**, including:

- Curriculum including literacy and numeracy
- Qualifications
- Assessment
- School improvement
- Teacher professional learning
- Tackling educational disadvantage

Our school have allocated the following days which your children will not attend school:

- ~~Wednesday 18th March 2026~~
- **Wednesday 27th May 2026**

School will be closed for all pupils on these dates.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in relation to these two additional school closures so late in the academic year- this direction has come from the Department of Education.

TransformED NI
TRANSFORMING TEACHING AND LEARNING



Dinner Menu

Dinner Menu can be accessed here:

https://storage.googleapis.com/siteassetsswd/247/docletter/20260216030333_33_PS_Spring_Summer_2026_2_Choices.pdf




WEEK BEGINNING	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
16th February 16th March 13th April 11th May 8th June	Baked Fish Goujons with Lemon Mayo - Or - Classic Margherita Pizza Steamed Broccoli & Baked Beans Chipped Potatoes & Baked Potato Selection of Fruit Yoghurt Pots	Homemade Beef Bolognese - Or - Penne Pasta and Tomato Bake with Herb Crust Baton Carrots & Green Beans Fusilli Pasta & Fresh Seasonal Salad Mandarin Orange Sponge with Custard	Lunch Bunch Chicken Curry & Mini Naan Bread - Or - Cheese & Tomato Panini Melt with Coleslaw Garden Peas & Fresh Seasonal Salad Steamed Rice & Oven Roast Wedges Peach & Raspberry Traybake Trifle	Roast Pork with Stuffing and Rich Gravy - Or - Creamy Pepper Chicken Steamed Broccoli & Cauliflower Mashed Potatoes & Oven Roast Potatoes Chocolate and Pear Sponge Cake	Hot Dog with Tomato Ketchup - Or - Baked Potato with Butter Beans in Tomato Sauce & Cheese Melt Garden Peas & Mini Corn on the Cob Chipped Potatoes & Baked Potato Vanilla Ice Cream with Sliced Pears
23rd February 23rd March 20th April 18th May 15th June	Golden Baked Cod Bites - Or - Sweet Potato and Chicken Bake Steamed Broccoli & Baked Beans Chipped Potatoes & Baked Potato Frozen Strawberry Yoghurt and Fruit Tub	Mild Beef Chili - Or - Classic Margherita Pizza Sweetcorn, Fresh Seasonal Salad & Coleslaw Steamed Rice & Oven Roast Wedges Homemade Apple Sponge with Custard	Lunch Bunch Chicken Curry & Mini Naan Bread - Or - Oven Roasted Vegetable Sausages with Tomato & Bean Stew Garden Peas & Diced Carrots Steamed Rice & Mashed Potatoes Fresh Fruit Salad with Strawberry Yoghurt	Roast Turkey with Stuffing and Rich Gravy - Or - Roast Quorn Fillet with Rich Gravy Roast Carrots & Spring Cabbage Mashed Potatoes & Oven Roast Potatoes Fruit Muffin and Milkshake	Cheeseburger with Tomato Ketchup - Or - Chicken Caesar Wrap Mini Corn on the Cob & Crunchy Veggie Sticks Chipped Potatoes & Baby Potatoes Oatmeal Biscuit with Orange Wedges
2nd March 30th March 27th April 25th May 22nd June	Golden Crumbed Fish Fingers - Or - Mighty Mac 'n' Cheese Garden Peas & Spaghetti Hoops Chipped Potatoes & Mashed Potatoes Banana-flavoured Mousse	Homemade Beef Bolognese - Or - Spring Frittata with Coleslaw Steamed Broccoli & Fresh Seasonal Salad Fusilli Pasta & Herbed Baby Potatoes Summer Fruit Sponge Finger	Lunch Bunch Chicken Curry & Mini Naan Bread - Or - Chilli and Garlic Quorn Bites Green Beans & Baton Carrots Steamed Rice & Oven Roast Wedges Blueberry and Lemon Sponge with Custard	Roast Gammon with Stuffing and Rich Gravy - Or - Savoury Mince Cauliflower & Roast Butternut Squash Mashed Potatoes & Oven Roast Potatoes Jelly Whip with Mandarin Oranges	Baked Pork Sausages - Or - Cheese and Tomato Deli Roll with Fresh Seasonal Salad Sweetcorn & Baked Beans Chipped Potatoes & Mashed Potatoes Frozen Vanilla Yoghurt with Melon Wedge
9th March 6th April 4th May 1st June 29th June	Homemade Beef Bolognese - Or - Chicken Stroganoff Baton Carrots & Steamed Broccoli Fusilli Pasta & Oven Roast Wedges Melon, Mandarin and Pineapple Pot	Ham and Cheese Pizza - Or - Mediterranean Roasted Vegetable Quesadilla with Hummus Sweetcorn & Coleslaw Chipped Potatoes & Baby Potatoes Raspberry Jelly with Two Fruits	Lunch Bunch Chicken Curry & Mini Naan Bread - Or - Tex-Mex Beef and Veg Tortilla Boat Garden Peas & Roast Butternut Squash Steamed Rice & Potato Salad Pineapple Upside Down Cake with Custard	Roast Beef with Yorkshire Pudding, Stuffing and Rich Gravy - Or - Baked Salmon and Tomato Pasta Roast Carrot & Cauliflower Mashed Potatoes & Oven Roast Potatoes Chocolate-flavoured Mousse with Chopped Fruit	Oven Baked Chicken Goujons - Or - Tuna and Pasta Salad Garden Peas & Baked Beans Chipped Potatoes, Baked Potato & Fresh Seasonal Salad Homemade Flakemeal Biscuit with 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

Holiday list for Academic Year 2026-27

Holiday list can be accessed here:

https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/embed.aspx?src=https://storage.googleapis.com/siteassetsswd/247/docletter/20260317075156_36_School_Calendar_2026-27_Parent_Copy.docx

School calendar 2026/27

August 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January 2027						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2027						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2027						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2027						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May 2027						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June 2027						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Dates in green are when the school is closed to pupils.

Swimming for Primary 5 and 6

The Foyle Arena have been in contact to make changes to the dates of Primary 5 and 6 swimming lessons.

Swimming lessons will now start on **Thursday 16th April 2026** and will run for 10 weeks until the **Thursday 18th June 2026**

The cost will be £15.00 for 10 weeks and must be paid before the lessons start.

The children will be walking to and from so will require a sensible coat with a hood and comfortable shoes.



School Attendance



MISS SCHOOL = MISS OUT

WHY ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL IS SO IMPORTANT

If a child of compulsory school age is registered at a school it is essential that they attend their school regularly and maintain a pattern of good attendance throughout their school career.

Excellent attendance at school is important to allow a child or young person to fulfil their potential.

Below are just some of the key reasons why it is so important children attend school:

- To learn.
- To make new friends.
- To experience new things in life.
- To gain qualifications.
- To develop new skills.
- To build confidence and self-esteem.
- To have the best possible start in life.

Key Point

Young people who regularly miss school without good reason are more likely to become isolated from their friends, to underachieve in examinations and/or become involved in anti-social behaviour.

CAN ATTENDANCE MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO EXAM RESULTS?

Greater than 95% Attendance



77% of pupils achieved at least 5 GCSEs including English and Maths when they attended more than 95%

77%

Less than 90% Attendance



43% of pupils achieved at least 5 GCSEs including English and Maths when they attended less than 90%

43%

Less than 80% Attendance



32% of pupils achieved at least 5 GCSEs including English and Maths when they attended less than 80%

32%

Source: School Leavers 2014/15



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.

**Key
Point**

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.

The image shows the 'Report Pupil Absence' form on the school website. The form is titled 'Report Pupil Absence' and includes a small disclaimer: 'If a child is absent for any reason, parents/guardians should notify the school, explaining their absence by using the 'Report Pupil Absence' button on our school website.' The form contains five input fields: 'Your Name *', 'Name of Pupil *', 'Class *', 'Date(s) of Absence *', and 'Reason *'. A 'Submit' button is located at the bottom left of the form.

Clubs

Day	Club	Year Group&Time	Book/Pay
Monday	Multi-sports	P1&2 2-3pm P5&6 3-4pm	Restarts on Monday 20th April 2026
Thursday	RugbyTots	Primary 1 2-2.30pm Primary 2 2.30-3pm Primary 3/4 3-4pm	Restarts on Thursday 16th April 2026 for Primary 4 children only Free

Important Dates for April 2026

<p>Wednesday 1st April 2026</p>	<p>School closes at 12noon for Easter</p> 
<p>Monday 13th April 2026</p>	<p>School reopens following Easter Break</p> <p>P7 pupils will start the EA Transition programme 2-3pm which will run for 9 weeks.</p>
<p>Tuesday 14th April 2026</p> 	<p>P4&P6 Library Skills visit to Waterside Library</p> <p>P4 – 10.00-10.45am P6 – 10.45-11.30am</p> <p>Children will be walking to and from</p>
<p>Wednesday 15th April 2026</p> 	<p>Children of Fatima Prayer Group visits P4-P7</p>
<p>Thursday 16th April 2026</p> 	<p>Week 1 of swimming starts for P5 and 6 pupils.</p> <p>10.00-10.30 P5 10.30-11.00 P6</p> <p>Children will be walking to and from Foyle Arena</p>
<p>Monday 20th April 2026</p>	<p>From today onwards over the next couple of weeks; children in Primary 3-Primary 7 will be completing standardised tests in literacy, numeracy, reading and spelling to best</p>

	<p>inform future planning for their learning. Please ensure your child is punctual for school to ensure the smooth administration of these assessments.</p>
<p>Monday 20th April 2026</p>	<p>P7 pupils will start the EA Transition programme 2-3pm which will run for 9 weeks.</p>
<p>Wednesday 22nd April 2026</p>	<p>P7 will participate in Finesse Future Explorers, a fully funded early careers exploration programme for primary school pupils at 10am.</p>
<p>Thursday 23rd April 2026</p> 	<p>Waterside Credit Union will lead a session for P6 pupils on Financial Literacy as part of Financial Literacy month.</p>
<p>Friday 24th April 2026</p> 	<p>Confirmation- St. Columb's Church, Chapel Road at 1.30pm</p>
<p>Monday 27th April 2026</p>	<p>P7 pupils will start the EA Transition programme 2-3pm which will run for 9 weeks.</p>
<p>Thursday 30th April 2026</p> 	<p>Week 2 of swimming starts for P5 and 6 pupils. 10.00-10.30 P5 10.30-11.00 P6 Children will be walking to and from Foyle Arena</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 Romanian, see below:

Trebuie să nu duc copilul la școală?



Agencia
de Sănătate
publică (HSC)

Varicelă

Până când toate
petele au
dezvoltat crustă

Conjunctivită

Nu este necesară
absența, însă
școala sau
grădinița trebuie
informată

Diaree și vomă

48 de ore
de la ultimul
episod

Febră glandulară

Nu este necesară
absența, însă
școala sau
grădinița trebuie
informată

Boala gură- mână-picior

Nu este necesară
absența, însă
școala sau
grădinița trebuie
informată

Impetigo

Până când leziunile
au dezvoltat crustă
și s-au vindecat sau
la 48 de ore după
începerea
administrării de
antibiotice

Rujeolă sau rujeolă germană

4 zile de la
debutul erupției
cutanate

Oreion

5 zile de la
debutul
umflăturilor

Scabie

Până după
primul
tratament

Scarlatină

24 de ore după
începerea
administrării de
antibiotice

Boala obrazilor pălmuiți

Nu este necesară
absența, însă
școala sau
grădinița trebuie
informată

Tuse convulsivă

La 48 de ore
după începerea
administrării de
antibiotice

Răceală

Până
la revenire

Păduchi

Nu este necesară
absența, însă
școala sau
grădinița trebuie
informată

Oxiuri

Nu este necesară
absența, însă
școala sau
grădinița trebuie
informată

Amigdalită

Nu este necesară
absența, însă
școala sau
grădinița trebuie
informată



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.



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

belfasttrust.hscni.net/childrens-symptom-checker

@belfasttrust     



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@belfasttrust     



Meningitis - know the symptoms

Symptoms of meningitis develop suddenly and can include:



Fever (over 37.5C)



Vomiting



Headache /Stiffness



Confusion



Rash



Dislike of
bright lights



Fatigue



Seizures (fits)

If you become worried about yourself, your child, or a friend, particularly if symptoms are getting worse, seek medical help urgently.

MenACWY vaccine



Pupils in year 11 and 12, are offered the MenACWY vaccine in school. The vaccine helps protect young people against four different causes of meningitis and septicaemia: meningococcal groups A, C, W and Y disease. If you're aged 25 or under, at university and haven't yet had the MenACWY vaccination, you should ask your GP for the vaccine.

There are other types of meningitis that there are no vaccines against, so it is important to still watch out for the signs and symptoms.

www.pha.site/meningitis-nidirect

 HSC Public Health Agency

Safeguarding

Meet the Safeguarding Team

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



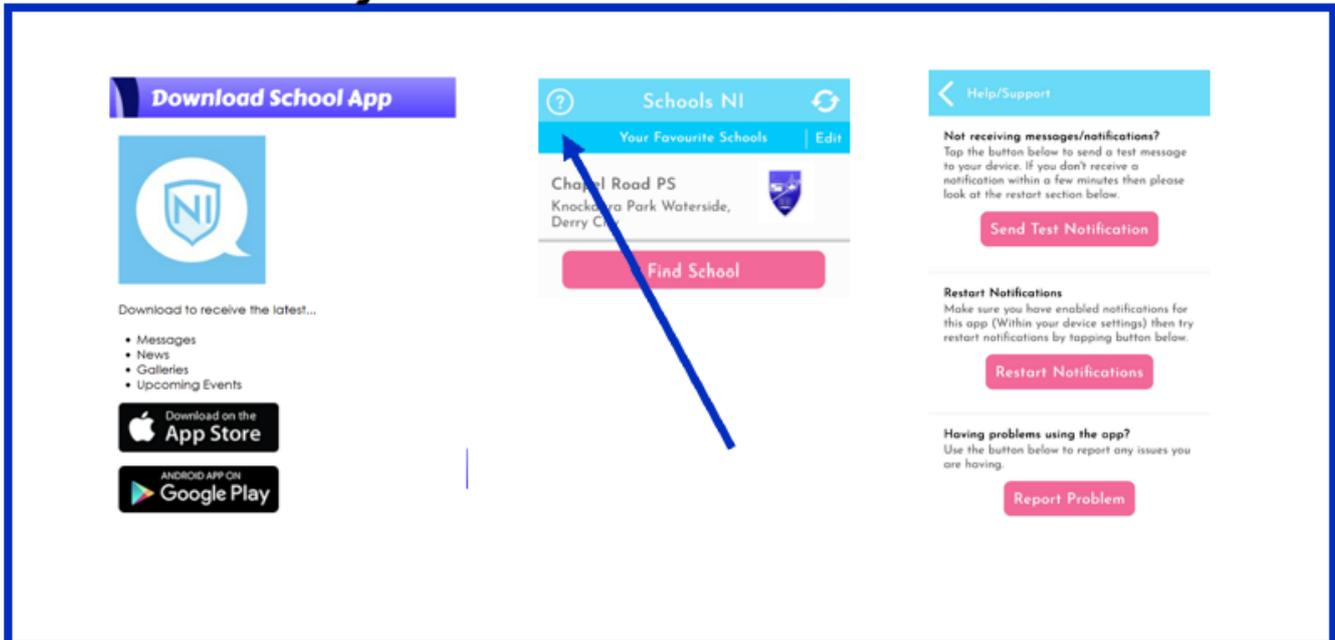
Mrs R. McLaughlin
Designated BOG
member in charge of
Safeguarding



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)



**"Educating For Generations,
Building Brighter Futures"**

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