



EDENDERRY
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Spring Term 2024 - 2

THE ECHO

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THE EDENDERRY ECHO

Welcome to the second edition of the Edenderry Echo Newsletter, our new digital newsletter!

P6 RESIDENTIAL TO CASTLEWELLAN

Our P6 children head off on their annual residential to Castlewellan from Wednesday 20th to Friday 22nd March. Needless to say, they are all very excited to spend some quality time with their friends and try some new and exhilarating activities. A huge thank you to the teachers who will give up so much of their personal time to ensure our P6 children have this very special opportunity. Keep an eye out for our daily posts on the school website during the residential!

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

We have now opened the booking process for the activities available in the first half of the summer term. The schedule of activities which includes, P4/P5 multi-sports, P6/P7 girls hockey, P6/P7 boys hockey, P6/7 boys football, P6/P7 girls football, P6/P7 mini-rugby, P7 girls coding, P4/P5 scripture union, P7 boys woodlands club, are available to view on the school app. Cycling Proficiency and cricket will also be added at a later date. The booking links below are also available on the school website. Only new participants are required to book P6/P7 girls and boys hockey and P6/P7 girls and boys football.

[Click here to request a place for P4/P5 boys or girls multi-sports](#)

[Click here to request a place on the P7 boys' Woodland Club](#)

[Click here to request a place at P6/P7 Mini-Rugby](#)

[Click here to request a place at P7 girls' Coding Club](#)

[Click here to request a place at P4/P5 Scripture Union](#)

[New participants can click here to request a place for P6/P7 girls football.](#)

[New participants can click here to request a place for P6/P7 boys football.](#)

[New participants can click here to request a place at P6/P7 boys hockey](#)

[New participants can click here to request a place at P6/P7 girls hockey](#)

EDUCATION AND TRAINING INSPECTORATE VISITS

This week we have welcomed inspectors from ETI into school to meet with a small number of P3, P5 and P7 pupils. Their discussions with the children were filmed for use in ETI staff training relating to the process of primary school inspections going forward. We are delighted to advise you that the children engaged superbly with the inspectors, although that is absolutely no surprise to us!

Our district inspector, Mrs Gray will also visit the school this week to meet with Mr Blevins. We look forward to sharing our new and collective vision with her and providing her with a tour of Edenderry.

PTA EASTER DISCO

The PTA met again on Tuesday night to discuss plans for a pre-Easter school disco, a P7 leavers 'Big Picnic' and a summer celebration. The pre-Easter discos will be held in school on Tuesday 26th March. From Monday all children can purchase a ticket (from their teacher) to attend either a classroom film show, or to attend a disco in the assembly hall. The P1-P3 disco will run from 9.30 am to 10.15 am and the P4 to P7 disco will run from 10.45 am to 11.45 am. Tickets for the event are £2 and with this ticket they will also be given a small bag of treats and a drink. Those watching the film can eat theirs during the show and those at the disco will be given theirs when they return to the classroom. Most of the ticket money will be used to fund the DJ and the treats but any additional money will be presented to Autism NI. A huge thank you to the PTA for helping us to organise this event to celebrate the end of term.

PTA UNIFORM EXCHANGE SHOP

As the term draws to a close, the PTA will also be helping the school to prepare for a uniform exchange shop. During the week commencing Monday 25th March, parents are encouraged to donate undamaged, unnamed and clean items of uniform. All items donated will be sorted by the PTA on the afternoon of Wednesday 27th March and the exchange shop (staffed by teachers) will run from 10.00 am to 12 noon on Wednesday 10th April. This is the last day before the children return after the Easter holidays. All items will be sold at a cost of £1 per item. We will also run an exchange shop on the afternoon of the very last day of the June as we aim to help parents in their uniform planning for September.

SCHOOL MEALS PARTY BOX DAY

Our kitchen staff will be also adding to our Easter fun on Tuesday 26th March by providing a party box dinner. A dinner for that day can be booked, as usual, on the school app.

WORLD BOOK DAY

We enjoyed a wonderful World Book Day last week. A huge thank you to local author Lynda Haffey and to Heather and Tony (who came with Keith from the Killycomain Residents Group) for their brilliant contribution to the day. Please take a minute to log onto the school website to see what we got up to.

BIG SPRING CLEAN

Next week, our P1, P3, P5 and P7 children will be engaging in the ABC Council's Big Spring Clean. This event encourages schools, sports clubs, community and church groups, as well as family and friends to take aim with their litter pickers and don their hi-vis jackets for the annual Big Spring Clean campaign. Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council is supporting us to participate in the hugely successful initiative which is run by Live Here Love Here. Keep an eye out for our children and staff around Killycomain as they help tackle the rubbish which blights our roadsides, parks and green spaces.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

We have a packed schedule over the next number of weeks. Here are some of the key dates for your diary.

15 Mar	ETI District Inspector Visit
18 – 22 Mar	Big Walk and Wheel Challenge
20 Mar	ABC Big Spring Clean (P1, P5 and P7)
20 – 22 Mar	P6 Residential to Castlewellan
26 Mar	PTA Easter Film and Disco Day
27 Mar	Final day of term (early finish)
27 Mar	PTA uniform shop set-up (1pm)
28 Mar – 10 Apr	Easter Holidays
10 Apr	Staff training day
10 Apr	Uniform Exchange Shop (10am to 12pm)
11 Apr	School re-opens for summer term
11 Apr	P7 Residential payment due
26 Apr – 1 May	School Book Fair Visit
7 – 9 May	P7 Residential to Dublin
4 June	Provisional P1 – P3 sports day
11 June	Provisional P4 – P7 sports day
21 June	PTA Summer Celebration Day
25 June	P7 Parents' Coffee Morning
27 June	P7 leavers' assembly
28 June	Final day of term (early finish)
28 June	Uniform Exchange Shop (1pm – 2pm)



Heather, who came with the Killycomain Residents Group, seen here leading our P1 to P4 sing-song on World Book Day!

A BLITZ OF HOCKEY

Congratulations to the boys' and girls' hockey teams who, despite very little previous experience, competed brilliantly at the recent Ulster Hockey Union primary school blitz events.

The boys also performed admirably in recent friendlies against Waringstown PS and Seagoe PS. A big thank you to: our hockey coaches, Mrs Bates, Mrs McCullough, Mrs Knox and Mrs Neville for preparing the children at short notice; Mrs Herron for accompanying the boys to their blitz; and to the parents who came along to cheer them on. Photographs from the events can be viewed on the school website.

SCHOOL SPORTS KITS

All of our school sports teams are in need of new school kits, and this is a real priority for us. Being selected to represent the school should be a really big deal for our children, but when the kit presented is old and worn, it significantly reduces the pride they should have in wearing it. If you or someone you know might be interested in helping us to finance replacement school kits for either the boys' or girls' teams, please contact one of the PTA members or speak to our office staff. We would be more than happy to have local business names on the kit to acknowledge any support given.

ZARA'S FUNDRAISING DISCO

After a successful regional qualifier, P4 pupil, Zara McKee will represent Ireland in a diamond pageant in Wigan in August. If successful there, Zara would head to Orlando! As part of the pageant, Zara is fundraising for the charity 'Young Minds' and she is hosting disco between 4.00pm and 5.30 pm in the Killycomain Community Centre on Thursday 9th May. Tickets for this event are available through Zara or her mum Joanne. [Click here to read all about Zara's success.](#)