



8th January 2026

Dear Parent(s)

As we begin another busy term, on behalf of all the staff in St. Tierney's, I would like to wish you a very Happy New Year and to offer sincere thanks for the generosity of parents, families, businesses and the wider community before Christmas. Very thoughtful cards, messages, gifts and donations to our charities and fundraisers were beyond all expectations and again we would like to express our gratitude. As well as supporting Team Hope Shoe Box Appeal and raising £150 for St. Vincent de Paul, we have raised almost £2000 for our school funds through our cinema night, family and pupil raffles. This money will be used to pay off our Climbing Frame and to start working towards updating ICT equipment.



Key Dates for January & February & March

Tuesdays - Music with Pat. All pupils should have a tin whistle. Other instruments from P5 up. £5 per month.

Wednesdays - PE with Core NI - Focus on Gymnastics for 6 week block then Dance for following 6 weeks.

Friday's - P.E with Fermanagh GAA for P5-P7. Dates for Cumann na mBunscoil Quizzes and Blitzes are being confirmed and we will communicate these by letter or text.

January

Wednesday 7th - P5 Trip to Armagh Planetarium

Wednesday 7th - P1 Primary Admissions open online.

Please remind any prospective parents within your family.

Monday 19th - Catholic Schools Week begins.

Tuesday 20th - P3/4 Open Assembly - Grandparents Day at 10am.

Wednesday 21st - P1 Primary Admissions close.

Tuesday 27th - Online Portal Opens for Secondary School Applications.

Thursday 29th January - P7 Shared Education begins for 4 weeks.

Friday 30th - January - Walk to School - Ditch the Dark - weather permitting

Open Nights for local Post Primary Schools will commence this week and run through January. Please check websites and social media of any schools you may wish to view with your child for specific dates and times.

February

Safer Internet Day.

Tuesday 3rd - LaFayette Photography will be here for school photos.

9th - 13th inclusive - MID TERM BREAK - school closed for all.

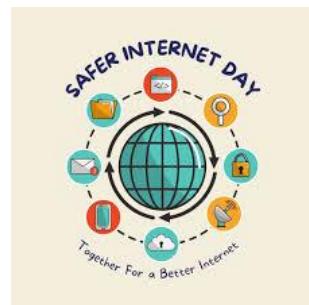
Thursday 19th - Swimming lessons will commence for P5/6/7

lesson for 6 weeks (5 weeks for P7).

Thursday 19th - P7 Post Primary Admissions close.

Tuesday 24th - P1/2 Assembly. This is not an Open Assembly.

Friday 27th - Walk to School - weather permitting.



March

Sunday 1st - Peace Proms in SSE Arena Belfast.
Friday 6th - World Book Day. Pupils may come to school dressed up.
Friday 6th - Family Quiz Night hosted by PTFA in Tierney's School
Monday 16th March - St Patricks Day Concert - Open to all families.
Tuesday 17th - School closed for St Patrick's Day.
Wednesday 18th - Non-Contact Day (Staff Only)
Thursday 26th - P7 Pilgrimage to Lough Derg.
Friday 27th - Walk to School.
Monday 30th - Love for Life P7 Programme. Information to follow.
Tuesday 31st March - Cake Sale TBC



ROOTS OF EMPATHY PROGRAMME

This is ongoing in P5 from now until June. We are looking forward to continuing our weekly sessions with Mrs Beacom and monthly visits from mummy Catherine and Baby Paudí.

MUSIC

Thank you to all pupils who attended and Mrs Trotter for the excellent accompaniment at our Christmas Eve mass. Thanks also to Master McCabe for joining our P7 pupils who sang for the Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner and all the extra preparation for our Christmas Concert.

Music money for January & February is now due. £10 covers both months. All pupils should participate.

MILK

Milk Money for term 2 is now due £13. If your child took milk in Term 1 and doesn't want to take it any longer, please let the school office know.

DINNER MONEY THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE IN THE PRICE IT IS NOW £3.10 PER DAY (£15.50 WEEK) - PLEASE PUT MONEY IN ENVELOPE WITH CHILD / CHILDREN'S NAME AND THE DAYS THEY ARE TAKING DINNER, THANK YOU.

TERM 2 AFTERSCHOOLS

There will be a 6-week block of Afterschool's arranged for all classes starting Tuesday 27th January or Thursday 29th January. Details to be confirmed. There will be a small cost of £1 per session weekly. Core Kids will also resume their Wednesday Afterschool Club later in the term.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Catholic Schools Week takes places week beginning Sunday 18th January 2026. It is important that we continue to nurture the faith of our children and community in these changing and challenging times. This year's theme is: 'Catholic Schools - Normal Lives, Called to Holiness'.

Daily themes that we will celebrate through the week are as follows:

Monday: *Called to Holiness through Prayer.* Tuesday: *Called to Holiness through Love and Friendship.*

Wednesday: *Called to Holiness in Family Life - Grandparents' Day.*

Thursday: *Called to Holiness through Service and Courage.*

Friday: *Called to Holiness through Joy and Mission.*



HOLY SACRAMENTS FOR 2026

Preparation continues in school this term for the celebration of the Holy Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. We encourage families, particularly those with children preparing for Sacraments, to attend mass on a regular basis. Dates for First Confession and Service of Light to be confirmed. Fr Chester has very kindly arranged a 1-day retreat to Lough Derg for Confirmation classes from the parish on Thursday 26th March. P4 will also attend weekday mass at least once a month in preparation for celebrating First Holy Communion. Dates for this and any other changes or notices will be communicated by text.

LAUNCH OF READING EGGS

We were delighted with the participation of parents and pupils in our Paired Reading Programme in term 1. The time spent reading one on one with your child is invaluable and we would encourage you to continue to implement aspects of the programme as much as you can moving forward.

To further develop improvements in pupil literacy skills we are introducing Reading Eggs, which runs alongside our online Mathletics Programme to support phonics, fluency and comprehension skills. All pupils should have the opportunity to complete Mathletics and Reading Eggs at home and in school. Please try and incorporate this into weekly homework. See some information on Reading Eggs below:



Reading Eggs and Reading Eggspress is a unique reading package for children from four to 13 years. Reading Eggs builds on and consolidates the five key reading pillars: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. It supports learners by offering personal one-to-one lessons that children complete at their own pace and children won't even realise they are learning as they play. Their journey then continues onto Reading Eggspress where they discover a range of texts and tackle more complex comprehension, emerging as confident, aspirational readers who are secure in their learning.'

Key Features & Benefits:

- Engaging & Fun: Uses interactive games, animations, and rewards (eggs for arcade, avatar customization) to keep children motivated.
- Educationally Sound: Designed by educators, based on scientific research, and builds on five core reading pillars.
- Personalized Learning: Children learn at their own pace through individual lessons.
- Comprehensive: Takes children from learning letters to reading full books, with progress tracking for parents.
- Accessible: Works on computers, tablets, and phones, supporting classroom or home learning.

How it Works (The Journey):

1. Start with Basics: Kids learn phonics, letter sounds, and sight words through fun, short lessons.
2. Earn Rewards: Completing activities earns "eggs" to spend in the Reading Eggs world.
3. Build Skills: Progress through lessons that cover phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension.
4. Advance: Move onto Reading Eggspress for more complex texts and comprehension.

The four levels in Reading Eggs provide a healthy coverage of early reading skills. Level 1 begins at a pre-school level, starting children off by focusing on the alphabet, letter sounds, first words and short vowels. Further levels help children learn to read and write simple sentences covering short vowels, blends, sight words and word building. Golden eggs are rewarded for every activity completed and these can be spent on games or items for online avatars. The range of activities motivates pupils to return regularly to complete lessons, share their work with others, earn rewards and expand their knowledge.

In short, Reading Eggs makes learning to read an exciting adventure, turning reading practice into playtime 😊.

© PLEASE KEEP FREE ©

FRIDAY 6th MARCH for PTFA Family Quiz Night
&
SUNDAY 7th June for PTFA FUN RUN

New members for Parent Teachers Association are always welcome, or if you are able to help out at any of our events please speak to one of our members.

Have you a child starting primary school in Sept 2026? Online applications are now open.

The opening & closing date and time for primary one applications is Wednesday 7th January @ 12.00 noon until Wednesday 21st January @ 12 noon.

If you need any advice or have any queries, please contact the school and we will be happy to help. Admissions Criteria and School Prospectus are available on our school website or from the office.

1. Read the admissions criteria
2. Apply online <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions>

Transferring to Secondary School - September 2026

Transfer Test Results Out on Saturday 24th January

The opening & closing date and time for secondary school applications is Tuesday 27th January @ 12.00 noon until Thursday 19th February @ 12 noon.

If you need any advice or have any queries, please contact the school and we will be happy to help.

Admissions Criteria and School Prospectus are available on the school website's & on www.eani.org.uk.

1. Read the admissions criteria
2. Apply online <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions>

A FULL LIST OF SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR TERM 2 AND 3 ARE AVAILABLE ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

Don't forget to check out www.sttierneyspsroslea.com for the latest news and photographs.