



296 Foreglen Road  
Dungiven  
BT47 4PJ  
T: 02871 338536  
E: nmccloy387@c2kni.net  
w: [www.stpetersstpaulsforeglen.com](http://www.stpetersstpaulsforeglen.com).  
Principal: N Mc Cloy B.Ed, M.Ed, PQH(NI)

## **MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Please keep this newsletter in a safe place. It will only be issued to the eldest or only child. A copy of this Newsletter can be found on our school website:

<https://www.stpetersstpaulsforeglen.com/>

### **School Closures**

School will be closed on Friday 13<sup>th</sup>, Monday 16<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March for St Patrick's Day.



### **ADDITIONAL SCHOOL CLOSURES**

As part of the Department of Education's TransformED rollout, schools have been allocated two staff training days. St Peter's & St Paul's will be closed to pupils on:

- Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2026
- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2026

### **REMINDER: SACRAMENTAL DATE FOR THE DIARY**

The following date has been agreed for the celebration of First Holy Communion.

First Holy Communion: Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May @ 11am in St Peter's and St Paul's Church



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## WEAR IT GREEN DAY: THURSDAY 12<sup>th</sup> MARCH

'Wear Green Day' will be a non-uniform day on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March. All children are encouraged to wear an item of green clothing or green accessory. We ask for a contribution of £1 per child towards School Council.



## HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR NUMBER AND/OR ADDRESS SINCE THE START OF THE YEAR

If so and you haven't already done so, please let Siobhan know so that it can be changed at school. This is very important incase we have to contact you for any reason regarding your child. It is also important so that you receive school text messages and correspondence.



## SAFER INTERNET DAY IN ST PETER'S AND ST PAUL'S

Well done to all our children who all took time to find out about how we stay safe online as part of Internet Safety Day.

Click the link for useful information and lots of tips on how we can stay safe:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/safer-internet-day/>

## LENT 2026

Lent began on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February. Lent is the 40 days preparation for Easter Sunday when we recall Jesus rising from the dead. This is our faith. This is what we believe. Lent is a time when we try to make small sacrifices, pray more and give money to the poor.

It is a special opportunity to open ourselves to the grace of God. It is not easy to go off sweets or crisps. It is not easy to give up the playstation or watching television.

This Lent let us all make a big effort to allow ourselves to be changed into better people, happier, holier and healthier.

## COIN CHALLENGE IN AID OF TROCAIRE

Beginning Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March and running throughout Lent until Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April we will operate a coin challenge between each of our classes.

Each class will have a jar and we would like them to fill it with as many coins as possible, with all money raised going to support Trocaire. Hopefully everyone will join in and we can raise as much money as possible to support this worthy cause. The class who raises the most money will be rewarded with a movie afternoon, with a film of their choice and treats.

Please take a look in pockets and purses and look down the back of the sofa. All coins whatever their value will be greatly received.

## SCHOOL COUNCIL EARLY BIRD CLUB - 6 WEEK PILOT AFTER EASTER

Our School Council has proposed an Early Bird Club and based on family feedback we will run a 6-week pilot after the Easter break. The club will operate from 8:30am-8:50am each morning, offering a calm and supervised start to the school day.

The pilot will run until Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, after which we will review how it is working. Further information and booking details will be shared closer to the time.

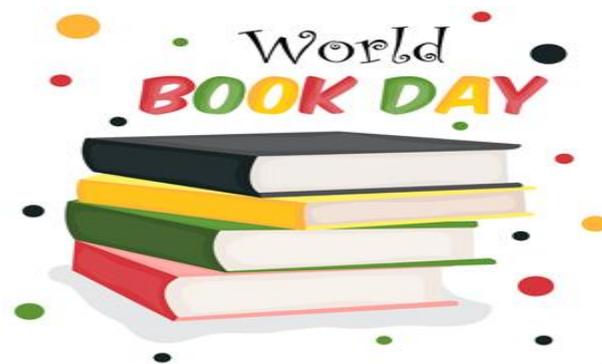
## HEALTH AND WELL BEING DAYS

Each month we continue to have a 'FEEL GOOD' day. On this day all children are encouraged to wear their own clothes and they can bring a treat for break time. Our next 'FEEL GOOD' day is Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March.





# Thursday 5th March



Let's share a story..  
older classes reading  
to younger classes

Dress as your favourite character  
Visit [www.bookaid.org/worldbookday](http://www.bookaid.org/worldbookday)  
for all your ideas!

**Plus... Designing book covers...Fun word searches...**

**Accelerated Reader Challenges....**

**and...The Great Big book Quiz...**



## Family Activity Sheet – Watching online videos

This activity sheet has been created to help you to learn more about what your child watches online, take some actions to stay safe, and have some fun together exploring the internet.

### Conversation starters

**Here some questions you can ask to start a conversation:**

- What videos have you watched online recently? Do you have a favourite? Why is it your favourite?
- Apparently most children and young people watch videos online now, rather than on TV – is this true for your friends?
- Do you have a favourite YouTuber or online creator? What do you like about their videos?

### Online safety action

**Pick one of these actions to do as a family:**

- Visit our [Thinkuknow website](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk) and look for tips on how be safe when watching videos.
- Watch BBC Own It video [Has something online scared you?](#) Talk through the steps to take if they come across content that is not OK.
- Visit [Internet Matters Parental Controls](#). Pick a device a set up the safety controls together.

### Fun family task

Ask each family member to write their favourite video (which would be suitable for everyone to watch) on a piece of paper. Fold the paper up and put it in a bowl. Each day, choose a time to pick one, and watch together.

**Or**

Ask each family member for a favourite subject or something they want to learn more about. Together, search YouTube for a suitable video about the topic, you can watch as a family. Remember to set up [YouTube in safe mode](#) if you have children under 13.

### More information for parents and carers

For more information about viewing online, the risks and what you can do to support your child, you can visit [www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents).

You can also read our article [Parent’s guide to watching videos online](#).



Parents and carers

# My VOICE MATTERS

Place2Be's  
**CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK**

## TALKING TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH

**Are you a parent or carer who wants to talk to your child about mental health?**

This Children's Mental Health Week we want all children and young people, whoever they are, and wherever they are in the world, to be able to say - and believe - "My Voice Matters".

We visited primary and secondary schools to ask students what they wanted from the week - to help shape the activities we create for schools, the messaging we give to teachers, the tips we give to other children, and the advice we give to parents, carers and families.



### LOOKING FOR FREE PRACTICAL ADVICE TO HELP YOU SUPPORT YOUR CHILD?

Parenting Smart, Place2Be's site for parents and carers, is full of expert advice and tips on supporting primary-age children, and managing their behaviour, and act on their views.

[PARENTINGSMART.ORG.UK](https://parentingsmart.org.uk)

### Here's what children and young people told us they need from you:

- 1** We don't need to have 'one-off' conversations about our mental health - sometimes a chat on a journey or at bedtime is enough.
- 2** I need to know it's okay to talk to you about any and all of my feelings. Please hear what I have to say, without interrupting me.
- 3** Please listen to me carefully and acknowledge how I am feeling - it might seem silly to you but what I am going through is important to me.
- 4** Playing with pets can make me feel better. Same with playing football, basketball or whatever type of sport I am into.
- 5** Don't compare my experiences to your own when you were a child.
- 6** Sometimes I just need you to listen and hear what I'm saying - I don't always need answers (or lectures)
- 7** Please don't worry about trying to fix things for me - I often just need to know you are there for me and understand what I am going through.
- 8** If you are open with me about your feelings, this can help me to be more open about mine.
- 9** Sometimes I don't want to talk. Please trust that I will come to you (or another grown-up or someone my own age) when I'm ready. Sometimes it's easier for me to talk to someone nearer my own age - my siblings, cousins, friends, younger teachers at school - because they 'get it'.
- 10** Sometimes a hug is all it takes to make me feel supported.



### WHAT MATTERS TO YOU? CREATIVE VIDEO ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES

These wellbeing activities can help children and young people think about and share what matters to them.

[For primary children: bit.ly/3PzCG18](https://bit.ly/3PzCG18)

[For secondary children: bit.ly/3LBD2wK](https://bit.ly/3LBD2wK)

[CHILDRENSMENTALHEALTHWEEK.ORG.UK](https://CHILDRENSMENTALHEALTHWEEK.ORG.UK)



**St Peter's & St Paul's  
Primary School**

# School Council

## Fundraising Event

### CAN YOU HELP?

**We are updating our ICT resources.**

**School Council have come up with the idea "Sponsor an iPad" We are asking local businesses if they would be interested in helping us to do this.**

**If any parents or parents with businesses are in a financial position to help 'Sponsor an iPad' please get in touch with the school.**

### OUR GOALS

- **Replace broken iPads and buy more**
- **That every child has access to an iPads during ICT lessons**
- **Get new charging stations for every classroom**



**How to contribute:**  
Call the school office  
on 02871 338536  
to make a donation or  
pledge your support.



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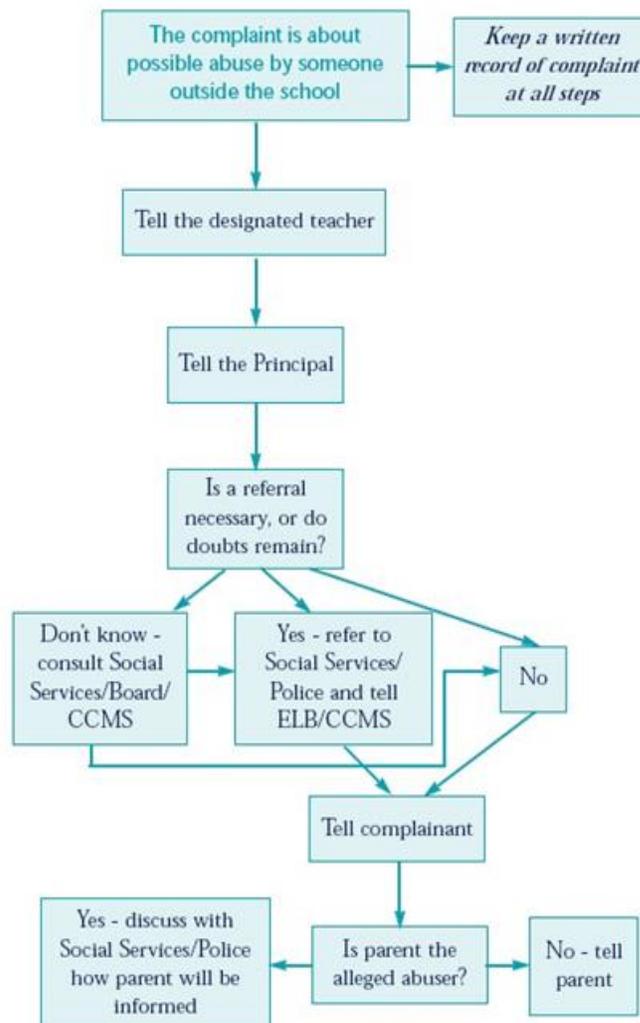
# HOW TO RAISE A SAFEGUARDING CONCERN

Talk to the class teacher via Showbie/Seesaw. This communication is not public.  
Talk to the DT (Mr Mc Cloy) or DDT (Mrs Mc Ateer)  
Talk or write to the Chair of Governors (Mr Lynch)

## Pastoral Care in Schools: CHILD PROTECTION

Figure 1

Procedure where the school has concerns, or has been given information, about possible abuse by someone other than a member of the school's staff





Dear Parents and Carers,

## Re: AI generated and manipulated images involving young people

There is growing concern about the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and other digital tools to create or manipulate images of children and young people in sexualised or harmful ways. You may have heard of terms like 'AI CSAM' 'deepfakes' or 'nudify' apps and websites in the news recently. These tools are now widely available and often free to access via devices such as tablets, laptops and smartphones. This involve altering existing photos or creating entirely new AI generated sexual abuse content. These images can look very real even when they are fake, and this can be extremely distressing for those involved.

Some young people may misuse AI to create nude or sexualised images of others, sometimes thinking it is a joke, trying to embarrass someone, or not realising the harm it can cause. Taking, possessing or sharing nude or sexualised images of anyone under 18, including images created using AI, is illegal and is classed as child sexual abuse material. Please remind your child not to create or share any images that could harm someone or break the law, to think carefully before posting online, and to speak to you if anything worries them.

If your child has been affected by harmful or manipulated images, or has been involved in creating or sharing them, please speak to your school, college or youth club safeguarding lead, or contact the police for advice.. If an offence has been committed, the police will respond sensitively and consider all circumstances. The law is there to protect all young people from harm.

Steps you should take:

### Talk to your young person

Avoid assuming they know the risks. Have an open conversation and remind your young person to pause and think carefully before posting, sharing or accepting images online. Discuss the use of AI, respecting others and what the law is.



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## Support and Reassurance

Encourage your young person to speak to you or another adult they trust immediately if they see anything online that worries them.

## Seek help if needed

If your young person has been affected by harmful or manipulated images or has been involved in creating, sharing or being in possession of an image, remain calm and seek support:

Contact your school, college or club safeguarding lead or the Police for advice.

Non-Emergencies: Call 101 or report online via <https://www.psni.police.uk/report>

Emergencies: If a child is in immediate danger, always dial 999

## Further support and advice is available:

Further advice is available on the [Online Safety Hub](#), which includes a [guide on AI and Emerging Technologies](#) explaining the key safeguarding concerns to be aware of and how to respond. Additional information is available from the [NSPCC](#) and [Safer Schools NI](#).

A young person can also use the [Report Remove](#) service provided by [Childline](#) to help young people under 18 in the UK to confidentially report sexual images and videos of themselves and remove them from the internet.

Thank you for working with us to help keep children and young people safe.

Yours faithfully,

**Eve Bremner, Chief Education Officer Education Authority**

**Ms Bernie McNally, Independent Chair Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland**

**Detective Superintendent Jordan Piper, Police Service of Northern Ireland**



# ST PETER'S & ST PAUL'S P.S.

Online Safety Newsletter - March 2026

## CBeebies Parenting and Apps

CBeebies Parenting is full of useful information from creative activities, recipes and information about the CBeebies apps.

CBeebies apps are free to download with no in-app purchases. Their apps include:

- Playtime Island - Fun Games for Kids App. This app includes 40 free games.
- CBeebies Learn - Early Years Learning App. This app includes games and videos and is based on the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum.
- Get Creative - Open-ended Creative Activities App. This app is free and includes lots of drawing and painting activities.
- Storytime - Reading Stories App. This app includes interactive story books.

You can find out more here:  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/parenting>

## USING AI TO ALTER IMAGES

AI image generator and moderator tools are widely available and often used by children. Whilst these tools can be used for creative purposes, we need to ensure our children are aware of the appropriate way in which to use them and the circumstances when they should not be used, even if harm is not intended.

### What are AI image generator and moderator tools?

It is when Artificial Intelligence is used to create or modify images, for example it could be used to swap faces, change expressions or for more sinister reasons, such as to remove clothes. These images are often very realistic and therefore difficult to see that they are fake.

### Privacy concerns and consent.

If your child is using these tools, they need to be aware of potential loss of privacy and the importance of consent. They should know that they should only use images of other people with consent.

### What does my child need to know about using these tools?

- Children shouldn't use AI tools to manipulate images of school staff. Even if the child's intention is not malicious, children should not use AI tools to create or edit photos of teachers under any circumstances.
- Manipulation of images of friends or other children - if you are using images of other people, then consent **must** always be sought.
- The tools should not be used to create images that can embarrass or hurt others - this is a form of online bullying.
- Copyright issues - who owns the copyright? These images could be reused by others, which can affect their own digital footprint.

### What should I do?

- Chat to your child if they are using these tools and ascertain the reason why. Ask them to show you the images that they have created.
- Check age ratings of any apps/websites that your child is using and set up appropriate parental controls.
- Develop your child's digital literacy by teaching them to recognise online risks and to behave responsibly online.

### Further Information

- <http://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-to-children-about-ai>
- <http://oursaferschools.co.uk/2025/02/18/understanding-image-consent-at-schools/>

# TikTok

## You must be over 13 years of age to use TikTok.

TikTok is a social media platform for sharing and watching short video clips. If your child is using TikTok then make sure appropriate security/ privacy settings are applied.



## Account Set up

It is important that your child enters their real date of birth as accounts are tailored by age eg: Direct Messaging is disabled for accounts age 13-15.

In addition, advertisements are tailored by age. By default, accounts for people under 16 are set to private. You can read more about the other settings available, such as switching off comments and restricted mode here:

<http://support.tiktok.com/en/account-and-privacy/account-privacy-settings/privacy-and-safety-settings-for-users-under-age-18>

## Family Pairing

Family Pairing allows you to link your own account to your child's account. You can then set controls such as restricted mode or tailor your child's 'For You' feed by selecting keywords that TikTok will use to filter out posts. You can find out more here: <http://support.tiktok.com/en/safety-hc/account-and-user-safety/family-pairing>

## What do I need to be aware of?

- **Inappropriate content and themes:** whilst against guidelines, explicit and inappropriate content can be found on this platform, for example nudity/sexual content and hate speech. Some of the songs available to lip sync to may contain inappropriate lyrics/themes.
- **Challenges:** We often see viral challenges on social media, some of which can be **risky/dangerous**. Sadly, there are reports that children have died whilst attempting online challenges. Children may not yet have developed the skills and abilities to critically analyse that what they see online is not always safe for them to replicate.
- **Stranger contact:** Chat to your child about how people may not be who they say they are when online.

## Refresh your feed

You can refresh your "For You" feed to update the content recommended:

<http://support.tiktok.com/en/account-and-privacy/account-privacy-settings/refresh-you-for-you-feed>

## Blocking and Reporting

Show children how to use the safety feature available.

## Further Information

<http://parentzone.org.uk/articles/tiktok> & <http://tiktok.com/safety/en/guardians-guide>

## Balance screen time tips

Internet Matters have created simple tips to help you develop healthy online habits for your child. They also answer key questions such as "how much screentime is too much" and "is gaming bad for children". Access this information here:

<http://www.internetmatters.org/resources/creating-a-balanced-digital-diet-with-screen-time-tips>

## 7 Steps to Good Digital Parenting

The Family Online Safety Institute have created seven steps to assist you as a digital parent. Find out more here: <http://fosi.org/program/7-steps-to-good-digital-parenting/>

## Children's Commissioner launches new guide for parents and carers

The Children's Commissioner has released a new guide to help you in managing your child's digital life. The guide was written with direct involvement from children.

It includes advice on setting boundaries such as no devices in the bedroom and how to chat to your child. You can find the guide here:

<http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/blog/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carer-knew-childrens-commissioner-launches-guide-for-parents-and-carers-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives/>



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