

# Board of Governors Annual Report 2023/24



## Happy Children Achieve More

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#### Secretary to the Board of Governors

Miss D. Hawthorne

### Governors' Annual Report 2023/24

The Pupils, Staff and Governors would like to thank the whole school community for their support throughout this school year.

Staff returned to school in August to prepare for the new school year and undertake a series of professional development workshops, including SEN Provision mapping, Being well, doing well, Fire Safety and Anaphylaxis update.

Everyone was glad to be back to school and quickly got on with the business of being with friends, having fun and enjoying learning.

September – All children and Staff continued the Neuronimos programme – a daily programme aimed at recognising and managing mental health and well-being. Everyone very much enjoyed learning about the different parts of the brain and their functions and how to recognise our emotions and strategies we can use to manage how we react and deal with varying emotions.

Our wee Nuala, therapy dog in training, returned to school having been working hard all summer at her training classes — still more to do though!

6th September—After schools multi skills started—thank you to Robert from Mid & East Antrim Council for helping with this.

15th September—After school choir began.

9th September—Nuala's Big Nine - On a scorching hot day parents, friends, staff and children walked and ran nine miles to raise funds for the work of our therapy dog Nuala - £2,267.23 was raised. Thank you to all who contributed and took part.

22nd September - There was great excitement for the arrival of the letters for the House Sorting Assembly, when the P4s discover which House they have been sorted into.

28th September—P6&7 visited the Obex Story of the Bible at Larne Market Yard.

5th October—Campaign speeches and election of House Captains for 2023/24—the boys and girls made absolutely wonderful speeches, well done everyone!

6th October— House Captain Assembly—great excitement as the winning Captains were announced.

13th October— Scripture Union assembly visit.

On 20th October—All children with permission, received their flu vaccinations.

Harvest Assembly—thank you to everyone who contributed items for donation to Larne Food Bank.

27th October - With the dark nights approaching we had a Ditch the Dark day; we all wore bright and fluorescent colours that can be more easily seen when out and about on winter evenings.

10th November P5 had a home safety visit from the Northern Ireland Fire Service.

10th November—The Parents & Friends Association held a very well attended and enjoyable Quiz and Dessert night in the Village Hall—thank you to everyone who made the night such a success.

15th November —P5—7 children visited the Larne Museum & Arts Centre to enjoy tales from Janice Witherspoon, Storyteller.

17th November - Children in Need this year was— Let's wear spots and raise lots. £135.50 was donated to Children in Need.

17th November—Scripture Union assembly.

23rd November—We were delighted to welcome lots of boys and girls along with their Mums and Dads for our Annual School Open Night.

30th November—Glynn PS Football Team competed in the Inver Cup held at Inver Park.

## One Big Family #TeamGlynn PS

**Percentage  
attendance  
2023/24  
94.7%**

On leaving Glynn PS pupils transferred to Larne Grammar School, Larne High School & Belfast Royal Academy.



4th December— The P6 & 7 children had a visit from Mrs Irvine, who invited them to the Carrickfergus Academy Open Night.

7th December—We all enjoyed Christmas dinner together.

7th December—The whole school put on their coats and went outside to the big switch on of our very own Christmas Tree lights. We are all excited to watch our tree grow big and tall in the years to come.

4th December - The P7 wee shop was extremely busy with boys and girls buying gifts for their families. P7 set aside a day and spent it wrapping everything beautifully before sending them to homes across the land ready for Christmas morning.

15th December—Oh what a fabulous and exciting day! Santa set up his Grotto in our outdoor classroom (known as Jubilee Lodge), everyone visited Santa, had their photo taken and received a wee gift. Thank you Santa for taking the time to visit our school.

19th & 20th December—This year we put on our usual, fabulous Christmas Productions—Born in a barn AND When Santa got stuck up the chimney. Each Key Stage prepared and rehearsed their own production ready for the big day. The children thoroughly enjoyed the whole process; we were all a bit nervous when it came to the 'real' performance but everyone performed wonderfully. Thank you so much for the fantastic comments and feedback, we really loved doing the shows.

21st December We all went to the cinema for our special Christmas treat and had our own personal viewing of WISH.

5th January—We all wore little purple bows on our uniforms to celebrate our wee Nuala's first birthday.

9th January After school Board Game Club started.

10th January—After school Bible Club started.

12th January—Dr Reid and Mrs Stevenson visited P6&7 to invite them along to the Open Night at Larne High School.

25th January—We all enjoyed getting out and spotting birds in our local environment with Jo from RSPB.

25th January—Our Glynn PS Girls' Football Team took part in the Larne Primary Schools' Football Association Indoor 5s tournament in Larne Leisure Centre.

26th January—Arguably the best day of the year—P7 Chip Lunch—all P7's have a special lunch the day before the SEAG results. The dancing was Glynntastic!

1st February—Glynn PS Football Team took part in the Larne Primary Schools' Football Association Indoor 5s in Larne Leisure Centre.

6th February—Safer internet Day— Online Safety Assemblies—age and stage appropriate assemblies on keeping safe online.

9th February—We all dressed as Super Heroes to promote daily exercise as part of a Belfast Marathon competition.

17th February—Nuala and Miss Hawthorne were invited to Magheramorne Presbyterian Church to take part in the Christian Endeavour Church Service. Many of our boys and girls, who are members of CE, were also taking part.

Nuala and Miss Hawthorne had a really enjoyable time and were delighted to take part.

21st February—After school football started with Robert from Mid & East Antrim Council.

23rd February—Scripture Union Assembly.

7th March – World Book Day – We celebrated the wonderful world of books by bringing a favourite book to share with our friends and playing human scrabble.

11th March—The P7s took part in a huge basketball workshop at Larne Leisure Centre— with YMCA & The Peace Players; it was a fabulous day. Our William won a Golden Ball Award (and a golden ball) for enthusiasm, participation and attitude.



26th March—Nuala and Mrs Best visited the residents in Chester Nursing home, Whitehead. Everyone really enjoyed meeting our Nuala.

March—For Mothers' Day the P7 wee shop opened again with the children selling primrose plants which they gift wrapped, ready for presentation on the big day.

16th April—P7 Cycling proficiency began.

17th & 18th April—P1 Health appraisal with the school nursing team.

18th April—Glynn PS Football Team took part in the Larne Primary Schools' Football Association Clarke Cup tournament (Part1)

19th April—Nuala was invited to Greenisland Primary School as a Mystery reader (Mrs Best actually did the reading part). We were delighted to share the joy of our wee therapy dog with other boys and girls.

18th April—Larne Primary Schools' Swimming Gala—we really enjoyed taking part; our squad were fantastic.

25th April—Larne Music Festival—Our Choir performed magnificently in two categories—Small Schools' Own Choice and Hymn Singing. Well done boys, girls, Mrs McMaw and Mrs Thompson.

25th April—Glynn PS Football Team took part in the Larne Primary Schools' Football Association Clarke Cup tournament (Part2). For those in the Choir and the Football Team it was a very, very busy day!

3rd May—Glynn PS Kwik Cricket Team had a fabulous day competing at Sandy Bay—narrowly beaten in the semi-final, but a great time was had by all.

10th May Parents & Friends Association Colour Run—Our inaugural Colour Run turned out to be an absolutely fabulous day for the whole school community. Mrs Dougan set out an exciting course, which took participants the whole way around the school grounds where, at various points, they were doused with multicoloured powder paint (the throwers enjoyed themselves immensely too.) of course there was music, hotdogs and plenty of fun along the way. What a fabulous event and thank you very much to all those who contributed to the occasion in any way.

13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May -Fitness Frenzy week – each day this week the children, and Staff, took part in a different fitness activity. Thank you so much to the sports coaches who helped to make our week glynntastic. We enjoyed multi-skills with Robert from MEA and Tyler from Sports Skills Academy, Football with Ryan McNickle (Larne FC), Zumba with Avril Dingwall (always a favourite!), Weightlifting with Neil and Claire from Asylum Weightlifting Club and rugby with Lucy from Larne RFC.

20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> May -The P7's, Mrs Ingram, Miss Hawthorne, Mrs Ringland and Mrs Robinson set off for 'the best holiday ever' at the Lorne Estate. Our instructors took great care of us and the children learnt such a lot about their environment, themselves and each other. We did orienteering, zip line, high ropes, archery, the crate challenge, bushcraft, beach walk and had a campfire (I have probably left something out). We all loved the food and were royally looked after. Our bedrooms were amazing! We loved every moment of it, it was fantastic! Lots of snoozing on the way home in the bus.

23<sup>rd</sup> May – Larne Primary Schools' Football Association Outdoor 7's tournament at Inver Park.

2<sup>nd</sup> June—the Primary 6's went for a fun morning visit to Carrickfergus Academy.

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> June—Patricia from the Livestock & Meat Commission came along and gave P5 and P6/7 a cookery demonstration. We all loved it and learnt such a lot about the food we eat, how to prepare it and we tried some new foods. Thanks Patricia, it was brilliant.

6<sup>th</sup> June—the Primary 6's went for a fun STEAM day at Larne High School..

7<sup>th</sup> June Our girls had a great day and displayed fantastic skill and team work at the Larne Primary Schools' Hockey tournament.

7<sup>th</sup> June Thank you to the Parents and Friends Association for organising a fabulous summer fete, enjoyed by the whole community. The day closed with the famous and fantastic Duck Derby with the King Duck and friends, once again setting sail down the small Glynn river. Thank you everyone for making it such a fabulous and memorable occasion.

12<sup>th</sup> June—Aisling from Scripture Union, along with Gary and Lorna from Magheramorne Presbyterian Church CE, came along to begin a series of workshops with Primary 7 entitled, 'It's your move', to help the transition to post primary school.

14<sup>th</sup> June— The Primary 5 & 6 children had a great morning visiting Jubilee Farm – you'll be glad to know we didn't make them walk up the Brae! Luckily Jubilee Farm sent a bus for us. A great time was had by all.

19<sup>th</sup> June Larne Ladies Hockey Blitz – our teams performed fabulously and had a great day – we took two mixed teams and narrowly missed out on a podium finish. Well done boys and girls.

21<sup>st</sup> June Sports' Day – Our luck with the weather continued and we had a fabulous celebration of physical activities. It was a great success with everyone putting in their best efforts and enjoying the day.

26<sup>th</sup> June – the Glynnbury Festival – Well the inaugural Glynnbury Festival (like Glastonbury but in Glynn), a celebration for the outgoing P7's, was an out and out success. The next one is already being planned. All the boys, girls and Staff had the most fantastic day. There was the now famous Swiftie or Sheeren juice to try, s'mores to toast over our own campfire, tattoos, gems, music, games, bead making, tuck Shop (P7s wee shop) and so much more I can hardly remember it all. Thank you so much everyone for making it a day to remember.

27<sup>th</sup> June—Transition Day everyone looked a few months into the future and went to try out their classrooms/ teachers for the new academic year. The new Primary 1's also came to have a look at their new surroundings and get a flavour of being a big P1.

#### After School Activities

Children enjoyed a variety of after school clubs throughout the year—Football, Multi-skills, Bible Club, Board Game Club, Cycling proficiency, Choir, to name but a few.



**House competitions**—We have three Houses, named after prominent Ulster-Scots Families of the locality—Agnew, Johnston and Shaw.

In September the sorting process placed the Primary 4 children into their Houses – Letters were delivered to each child; very exciting for us all.

House competitions throughout the year included –

- \* vegetable creatures competition. There were some really fabulous, creative, extraordinary creations. Judging was very difficult!
- \* A handwriting competition; we have some beautiful writing in our school!
- \* Spelling Bee – we have great spellers in our school; the competition was quite tense at times.
- \* Baking competition—this year the baked and decorated items were cookies.
- \* Draw Nuala competition
- \* The Big House quiz.
- \* Activities throughout Fitness Frenzy week earned House points.





## STAFF

Principal

Miss D Hawthorne

Class teachers P6&7

Mrs C Thompson & Miss D Hawthorne

Class teachers P5

Mrs S McMaw & Mrs Best

Class teacher P3&4

Mrs L Reaney

Class teacher P1&2

Mrs M Dougan

Classroom Assistants

Mrs T Ingram, Mrs L Ringland, Mrs Z Wilson, Mrs E Robinson,

Miss K O'Lynn, Mrs M Elliott.

Senior Clerical Officer

Mrs N Allen

Caretaker

Mr M McRoberts

Dining Assistant

Mrs S Paisley



Miss DM Hawthorne  
MEd, BEd(Hons), DASE.  
Principal.

Please speak to me at  
anytime if you have  
a question or concern.



Local Management of Schools Budget Deployment 2023/24	
Total Staff costs	347,701.00
Premises and fixed plant	12,381.00
Operating costs	9,880.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>369,962.00</b>

Private Funds Account – 2023/24	
Opening balance as at 25th March 2023	7,586.62
Plus income lodged	12,710.77
Less expenditure	7,870.64
Closing balance as at 25th March 2025	12,426.75
(of which £5,736.53 Nuala Fund, ADNI)	







### Therapy Dog

The boys, girls, Staff and Governors absolutely adore our wee Nuala and she has been a great addition to our school family.

As a school we are witnessing the detrimental effects that a changing world is having on our children and young people. We recognise the changing needs of children with emotional regulation and resilience; ability to empathise; tolerate and compromise. The overwhelming digital and online nature of the world is affecting children's attachment and expectations in the real world. Without emotional equilibrium/ balance children and young people cannot fully access the learning opportunities provided for them. Our experiences have highlighted the need to take action to try and address these issues. In February 2023 we received the thrilling, and scary, news from Assistance Dogs NI, that a puppy was available FOR US! A few weeks of deep thought and intense discussions followed – could we make this huge financial, emotional and time commitment to train, manage and make best use of our own puppy? At the core of the decision, 'will our children benefit?'. The answer always came back as a yes, the benefits for all the children are so great that we could not pass up this opportunity.



Nuala arrived with us in April 2023 as a 14 week old puppy. Training started immediately and we went to training class every Friday after school, with lots of homework to do at home and school. We continued training through the summer as well. Nuala took her Public Access Certificate Test at the end of November 2023, in Sainsbury's at Forestside, which she passed with flying colours. Miss Hawthorne was quite terrified!

Passing the test is just part of her training, we are continuing to learn every day.

Everyone in school has been part of Nuala's training journey and we have had to change our behaviours too. For example the boys and girls are much better at picking things up off the floor because we don't want Nuala to get them or get hurt. Nuala's presence creates a calmness. We all know that we have a responsibility to help Nuala behave which means we have to be calm, not too loud or excitable. One child said she makes them feel calm, they can think better and work better. Children like to touch and hug her just in passing. Nuala is in the playground to greet the children in the mornings and can assist with any specific needs - easing tension and anxiety. Nuala listens to reading and other individual or small group activities – everything is much easier if you can stroke Nuala's fluffy head. Children go with a staff member to take Nuala for her 'hurry hurry'.

Nuala also attends Staff meetings and Board of Governors meetings – which I'm sure she very much enjoys! Nuala has been known to cuddle up to the Chairman of the Board of Governors!

I think everyone feels a sense of ownership and pride that Nuala is our special dog and that we are special because we have her.

Nuala's training (and our training) continues and we continue to investigate the best and most effective ways to make use of this fabulous, innovative resource. Thank you to the Governors and Staff of our school for taking on this huge challenge. Thank you so much to the parents, grandparents, friends, community and businesses who have supported and contributed to Nuala's initial and ongoing costs; your foresight and contribution is truly, greatly appreciated. One day canine therapy in schools will be commonplace and we will be proud that we took this leap of faith for our children's well being.



### Special Educational Needs

We are committed to the provision of a broad, balanced curriculum, which offers equal access for all children. As a school we recognise that some pupils during their school career may have special educational needs and/or a disability and we will make every possible arrangement to provide for their individual needs. We follow the three-stage approach for the identification, assessment and provision of special educational needs, as set out in the New Code of Practice. Responsibility for pupils within stages 1 – 2 lies with the school (with help from external agencies) and with the EA, NE Region and the school at stage 3. Throughout the year we liaised with parents and professionals providing, receiving and sharing information and advice and facilitated support within school. We also continued preparations for the New SEN Framework implementation.

### Sport

All pupils are encouraged to take part in the range of sports offered by the school and in keeping with the following aim: 4(b) "To develop and encourage every pupil's intellectual and physical potential". Sporting activities available to the pupils are as follows: Athletics, football, rugby, hockey, netball, swimming, cricket, dance. All children in Key Stages 1 & 2 participated in P.E. All pupils in P 5, 6 & 7 participated in the school swimming programme travelling to Larne Leisure Centre on Tuesday mornings throughout the year.

### Staff Development

All staff undertook on-going professional development both individually and as a whole staff, throughout the year. Training took the form of attending afternoon cluster groups, whole staff afternoon training, external courses and school development days, many of which were delivered remotely but with some face to face courses. Areas covered included Fire safety, ASD, SEND Framework – PLP's (Personal learning Plans), Calm Plans, literacy, numeracy, anaphylaxis, and Clevertouch. Staff attended the East Antrim Principals' Association conference led by the inspirational ICT with MrP .

### Building and Maintenance

Essential maintenance was carried out throughout the year as and when necessary.

### Arrangement for Safety & Security

There is a high perimeter fence around the whole school estate. The playground area is completely secured by high fencing and once the bell has gone in the morning the gates are locked. Children can gain access to the playground by pressing a button and electronically opening the door into the playground but they can go no further. All other doors can only be exited using a fob, which children do not have access to. No one can enter the school building without having the door electronically opened from inside or using a fob. Fobs have been issued to authorised persons and a record kept of who has fobs. Visitors to the school must sign in. The exterior of the school is monitored by security cameras which operate 24 hours a day. At night security lighting automatically comes on to ensure the security of the building.

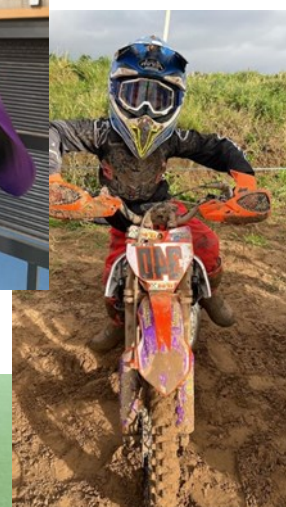
### ENROLMENT DETAILS

The enrolment number for the school was set by the Department of Education at 103 with an admissions number of 15. Enrolment in September 2023 88. We had 14 new children join us in Primary 1.





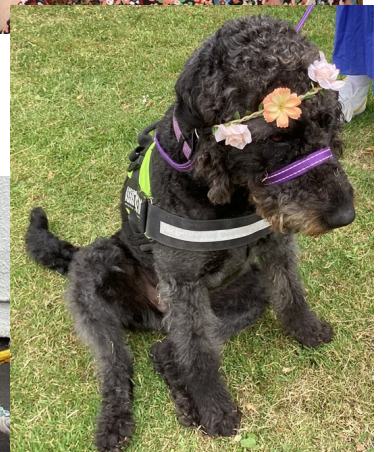
**We love to celebrate the achievements of our boys & girls in and out of school. What a wide variety of activities!**











## The Glynnbury Festival





