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Principal: Mrs. Keira McCallan BA (Hons), PQH

Monday, 2nd September, 2024.

Dear Parent/Guardian,

- I would like to welcome back all staff and pupils. Welcome back also to all our parents and Governors. **Hello** and **Welcome** to our new **Year One** pupils and to **Kethlyn Rocha Da Silva** and **Cassie Mae McKeown**. **Good Luck** to last year's **Year Seven** pupils. We wish them all every happiness and success. I am delighted to report that our pupils have settled into school life brilliantly.
- Welcome also to our new Foundation Stage Classroom Assistant, **Mrs. Kelly McCrory**. We wish her many happy years working in our school.
- A fond **Farewell** and sincere **Thank You** to our SEN Classroom Assistant, **Mrs. Kelly**. We wish her a restful break and we hope to work with her again.
- Pupils and staff are delighted with our new state – of – the – art modular classroom which has replaced our old Year 1/2 mobile. A sincere thank you to **Gerry McCaffrey** and **Eskra Community Association** for providing the temporary classroom in the Community Centre and for all their support throughout the transition process.
- As a Catholic school our Catholic values are very important to us. **September** is the month of **Kindness** in our school. Pupils will be learning about the importance of showing kindness to others and will be completing work based on this value. Please speak to your child at home about how they can be kind to others. A display of their work is situated in the main school corridor outside the Year 6/7 classroom.
- Each month our teachers focus on a particular **Thinking Skill/Personal Capability** in their teaching. This month the focus is on **Self - Management**. Please refer to your child's Learning Support Sheet for September to see ways that you can help at home. A display of their work is situated in the main school corridor outside the Year 2/3 classroom.

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- Teachers have posted their **Learning Support Sheets** for **September** on their class pages of our school website. Please take a few minutes to read about all the wonderful learning that will be taking place in September.
- Our **Mindfulness Calendar** for **September** is available to view on our school website.
- Please complete the **Data Collection Form** that will be sent home with your child/children tomorrow and return it to school by **Friday, 6th September**. Please note that a separate form needs to be completed for each child.
- All pupils in **Year Seven** have been appointed **Digital Leaders**. This role will involve assisting Class Teachers and pupils in Years 1 - 6 with ICT activities and promoting ICT throughout the school.
- Our **Healthy Break Policy and Homework Policy** are available to view on our school website. Paper copies are available from our Parents' Noticeboard in the school foyer.
- A reminder that smoking is not permitted within the school grounds at any time. A copy of our school's **No Smoking Policy** is available to view on our school website. Paper copies are available from our Parents' Noticeboard in the school foyer.
- **Mrs. Barrett** will be sending a letter home tomorrow with **Year One** pupils regarding the **Tyrone Constitution's Primary One Souvenir Issue**. Please return the order form no later than **Thursday, 5th September**.
- We have an **Achievement Display** in our school foyer to celebrate achievements for the whole school community. If you, your child or any member of your family achieves something worth celebrating, e.g. work, exam or sporting success, please inform the school and we will include it on our display.
- Please note that our school day starts at **9.00am** for all pupils and ends at **2pm (Year 2)** and **3pm** for pupils in **Years 3 to 7**.
- Pupils in **Year 1** will go home at **12pm** from **Monday, 2nd September** until **Friday, 13th September (inclusive)**. From **Monday, 16th September** Year 1 pupils will remain in school **until 2pm**.
- Our Class Teachers deliver annual **Information Sessions For Parents** at the start of the school year.

The remaining sessions are as follows.

Year 4/5: Wednesday, 4th September @ 6.30pm.

Year 6/7: Wednesday, 4th September @ 7.00pm.

Class Teachers will display their PowerPoint Presentations on our school website for

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any parents who are unable to attend. These presentations will outline specific procedures and arrangements for each class. If you have any further questions, please contact the Class Teacher by telephoning or e - mailing the school.

- I am delighted to inform you that our school will be continuing to offer an **After School Nature Rangers Club** for all pupils.

We have teamed up with **Northern Ireland Forest School Association** to organise this exciting and innovative programme for our pupils where they spend the time outside, playing games, meeting new friends, learning about nature and above all, **having fun!** We are very fortunate to have such dedicated members of staff who are willing to deliver the programme to all pupils in our school.

We have expanded the number of classes that we provide so please make sure that you register your child for the correct club.

At present, the following **Nature Ranger Clubs** have been arranged.

Year 1: Friday (2.00pm – 3.00pm)

Year 2: Monday (2.00pm – 3.00pm)

Year 3: Thursday (3.00pm – 4.00pm)

Year 4 and Year 5: Monday (3.00pm – 4.00pm)

Year 6 and 7: Tuesday (3.00pm to 4.00pm)

Each session costs **£5** per pupil (to cover a subscription to NIFSA and the cost of training and materials.)

A full list of dates for each Nature Ranger Club for this term is available to view on our school website. If, for any reason, dates have to be changed, the Club leaders will inform you in advance.

Please click on the link below to register your child.

<https://www.forestschoolsni.com/shop/st-patricks-eskra-nrc-sep-oct>

Please click on the link below for further information on what to expect from our Nature Ranger Clubs.

<https://www.forestschoolsni.com/?r3d=joining-a-nature-ranger-club&>

Please note that parents have to register their child through the NIFSA website, not our school. If you experience any technical difficulties with the NIFSA website, please let us know and we can contact their administrator.

Please checkout **Forest School Families** on the **Forest School Website** – www.forestschoolsni.com and on our school website for fun ideas that all the family can get involved in in the evenings and at weekends.

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- **Mr. Darragh Maguire** will deliver coaching sessions to all classes on a **Monday instead of a Tuesday** from next week on as previously communicated. This week's sessions will take place tomorrow, as planned.

He will also be delivering **After - School Multisport** sessions on a **Thursday** afternoon, starting **Thursday, 12th September**. Further information to follow shortly.

- **Due to the change of PE day**, pupils in **all classes** are asked to wear their full school uniform on a **Tuesday and Friday** and to wear their **PE uniform** on a **Monday, Wednesday and Thursday**, starting **Monday, 9th September**. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.
- I am delighted to inform you that **Mrs. Tracey Scullion** has very kindly offered to continue to deliver her **Cross Country Running Session** every **Wednesday** to pupils in **Year 6/7**. This session will take place during school hours and all pupils are expected to attend as it forms part of their PE curriculum. Many thanks to Mrs. Scullion.
- If your child is absent from school at any time, please contact the school in the morning to inform the Class Teacher. On your child's return to school, please write a short note detailing the reason for your child's absence in his/her Home School Messages Book. This information is required to ensure that accurate and up – to – date attendance records are maintained.
- To aid speedy administration in the morning, please send in all monies in the money wallets sent home shortly. Additional wallets are available from the Parents' Noticeboard at the entrance to our school. Wallets must be marked with your child's name, class, date, what the payment is for, how much money is included for each item and the total amount of money enclosed. Pupils are asked to send the wallets into their Class Teacher each day. Alternatively all monies for the week can be sent into the Class Teacher in one money wallet each Monday morning.
- The school office will be open at the following times:

Monday:	8.30am to 4pm
Tuesday:	8.30am to 4pm
Wednesday:	CLOSED
Thursday:	8.30am to 4pm
Friday:	8.30am to 12.30pm
- School bags are not permitted in school as space is limited. Pupils will be provided with a red folder to carry all their books
- Teachers have requested that pupils do not bring pencil cases into school. All necessary stationery will be provided by the school. Pupils are asked to keep any

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stationery purchased for the start of the new year at home for completing homework tasks.

- To avoid distraction during teaching and learning time, pupils are asked to refrain from bringing in water or juice bottles into school. Pupils who take lunch may continue to bring water in as part of their lunch. Fresh water will be available in each classroom throughout the day. Pupils will be permitted to bring water with them when attending sports events outside.
- Please note that **chewing gum** and **football cards** are **not permitted** in school.
- I will be delivering an **Afterschool Transfer/Homework Club** for all pupils in **Year Seven** on a **Monday** afternoon from **3.00pm to 4.30pm**, starting on **Monday, 9th September** for approximately 9 weeks. Please note that this club is voluntary. Please complete the permission slip attached and return it to school by **Friday, 6th September** if you wish for your child to attend. Please send an extra snack in with your child if they are attending.
- A **PowerPoint Presentation** and a **Leaflet For Parents** entitled **How Children's Learning Is Supported In The Primary School** are available on our school website under **Parents - Pastoral Care**.
- We are hoping that all our **Annual Parent - Teacher Meetings** will take place on **Tuesday, 29th October**. These meetings will be **face – to - face**. More information to follow shortly. **Teachers will discuss your child's test scores with you at this meeting.**
- Our **Beginning Of Year Mass** will take place on **Thursday, 19th September @ 7pm** in **St. Patrick's Church, Eskra**.
- A copy of our **School Closures for 2024 – 25** is available to view on our school website under **Parents – Info – School Closures**.
- Dinners are priced at **£2.60** per day. If you think you may be entitled to **free school meals** please go to the **eani.org.uk** website to apply for this academic year. This process **must** be carried out **every** year as it is not carried over. The **Education Authority** have requested that **dinner money is paid for on a weekly basis**. Please use the money wallets provided. If you wish your child to avail of **school milk** please put a **note** in their **Home School Message Book**. Milk for Term 1 is priced at **£10 (September - December)**. A copy of our **School Dinner Menu** for September will be distributed once we receive it.
- **Canon McGahan** and the **Pastoral Council of St. Patrick's Church, Eskra** invite the children from **Year 6 and 7** to participate in **Sunday Mass** by saying the **Prayers of the Faithful**. Their names will appear in the **Parish Bulletin** several weeks before their designated Sunday. Prayers of the Faithful are located

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in the Church Foyer in a blue folder marked **Sunday Readings and Prayers of Faithful**. Please indicate on the reply slip attached if you wish your child to recite these Prayers at Mass and return it to school by **Friday, 6th September**. Thank you.

- The **Monday Note** will be available on our website by **5pm** every Monday. Parents will be texted if any additional notes or information is posted on our website throughout the week. If you would prefer a paper copy of the Monday Note and any additional information to be sent home, please contact the school office by **Friday, 6th September**.
- **September** is **Roald Dahl** month and **Friday, 13th September** is **Roald Dahl Day**. Pupils will be learning about Roald Dahl and his books during this month. Perhaps you could read a Roald Dahl book with your child or watch a film based on one of his novels. There is also a website dedicated to his life and works - www.roalddahl.com
- Application Forms for the positions of **Head Boy** and **Head Girl** will be issued to pupils in **Year Seven** this week and are due in by **12pm** on **Thursday, 19th September**. Interviews will take place on **Thursday, 26th September**.

Yours sincerely,

Keira McCallan

Mrs. Keira McCallan (Principal)



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Permission Slip
St. Patrick's Church, Eskra

I wish my Year 6/7 child to say Prayers of the Faithful at Sunday Mass.

Signed:

Date:

Permission Slip
After – School Transfer/Homework Club

Please circle/underline as appropriate.

I do/do not give permission for my Year Seven child _____ to attend an After - School Transfer Club delivered by Mrs. McCallan on a Monday.

Signed:

Date: