



171, Newtownsaville Road,
Eskra,
Omagh,
Co Tyrone.
BT78 2RJ

Phone: 028 82 841067

Fax: 028 82 841067

email: info@stpatrickseskra.omagh.ni.sch.uk

www.stpatrickspeskra.co.uk

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

Monday, 30th September, 2024.

Dear Parent/Guardian,

- Congratulations to **Caiden Quinn** who has been appointed as our new **Head Boy** and **Carly Beattie** who has been appointed as our new **Head Girl**. We wish them every happiness and success in their new roles of responsibility and leadership. We thank last year's Head Boy, **Thomas Cullinan** and Head Girl, **Lucy O'Hagan** for the wonderful example they have shown to younger pupils and for their commitment to the post.
- A sincere **Thank You** to our parent, friend and Managing Director of Western Emergency Skills Training Limited, **Dr. Kevin Moore**, who delivered **Heart Start Emergency Skills First Aid training** to our **Year 6/7** pupils on Friday. Pupils learned life saving skills including - the Recovery Position, CPR, how to use a defibrillator and how to respond if someone is having a severe allergic reaction or choking. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the session and the lovely treats that Kevin brought. Each pupil received a special certificate on completion of the course.
- **Eskra Community Association** have asked for our support in participating in a survey which could lead to exciting new play provision in Eskra.

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council approved a new **Play Park Strategy 2021 - 2030** in February 2021. The strategy aims to guide the future provision, upgrade, development and sustainable management of play parks across the district.

This project is a key deliverable of the **Council's Corporate Plan 2020 - 24** in relation to Action 15 - 'Develop and deliver a sustainable action plan for inclusive and accessible play spaces and play provision across the district that meets the play needs of children and young people.'

'We learn to love and love to learn.'

A specialist **Play Team** has been recruited to deliver on the Play Strategy and an indicative **Play Plan** has been devised. As part of year five works for the strategy, the **Newtownsaville Ward** has been identified as a priority.

Current play provision within this ward includes 2 play parks in the following areas:

- Seskinore
- Clements Bungalows

Please complete the survey and add the following into the **Q 9. Other Comments** box:

We strongly urge you to consider establishing a play park on the grounds of Eskra Community Centre, located on the Newtownsaville Road, Eskra. With 117 children enrolled at our local school and 250 registered at Playtime Childcare, there is a pressing need for outdoor recreational space. Both the school and childcare facility are landlocked, preventing any expansion of outdoor provisions. Furthermore, Eskra ranks in the top 3% within the deprivation domain for access to services. The benefits of outdoor play are evidence-based and well-documented. Children's mental, emotional, and physical health are improved, while their social skills and ability to analyse risk are enhanced as they learn to cooperate, negotiate, and enjoy the company of others. They become connected to and proud of their community, and through play, they are developing the skills necessary to become effective contributors to society. Our children deserve these facilities and the opportunities they would provide.

Please click the link below to access the survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8GGSFHB>

This survey will close on **Wednesday, 23rd October, 2024** at **5.00pm**.

A meeting is also being held in **Seskinore Young Farmers' Hall** on **Wednesday, 16th October @ 8.00pm** for anyone who is interested in attending.

- **Canon McGahan** will be coming into our school **tomorrow** to bless our new modular classroom. Check out our website next week for photographs of this special occasion.
- **Donnie McGale** will be coming to our school on **Friday, 18th October** to take **school photographs**. Please make sure that you have completed the electronic form sent to your phone on **Monday, 9th September** to select your choice of photographs. Please make sure that your child is wearing their grey school uniform on that date.

The electronic form can also be accessed by clicking the link below.

<https://forms.office.com/e/ddFYh9sHq3>

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- Our **Advent Carol Service** has been arranged for **Thursday, 12th December @ 7.00pm in St. Patrick's Church, Eskra**. Everyone is welcome.
- Our **Christmas Dinner** for pupils and staff is planned for **Friday, 13th December**. As usual, school will close at **12.45pm** on that day. The cost per pupil for Christmas dinner is **£2.60**. Pupils and staff are invited to dress up in their Christmas Clobber e.g., Christmas jumper/dress. There will be a prize for the most creative festive fashion. Participation is free.
- **Parents of pupils in Year Four:**
The **Sacrament of the Eucharist (First Holy Communion)** will take place on **Saturday, 17th May, 2025** in **St. Patrick's Church, Eskra** at **12pm**.
- **Parents of pupils in Year Seven:**
The **Sacrament of Confirmation** will take place on **Sunday, 23rd March, 2025 @ 3pm** in **St. Patrick's Church, Eskra**.
- Our **Annual Parent - Teacher Meetings** will take place on **Tuesday, 29th October**. These meetings will be **face – to - face**. Miss Devine issued her letters with details of times to parents by e-mail on Friday. Mrs. Mulligan issued her letters today by e-mail. Please reply promptly so that Mrs. Barrett and Mrs. Mullin can notify their parents in good time.

Yours sincerely,

Keira McCallan

Mrs. Keira McCallan (Principal)



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