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

Monday, 7th October, 2024.

Dear Parent/Guardian,

- As a Catholic school our Catholic values are very important to us. **October** is the month of **Prayer** in our school. Pupils will be learning about the importance of prayer and will be completing work based on this value. Please pray with your child at home. A display of their work is situated in the main school corridor outside the Year 6/7 classroom.
- **Mrs. Kathleen McGirr/Miss. Shauna McGirr** will be reciting the **Rosary** with our whole school community on a regular basis, starting this month. We welcome them back and we thank them both for their support.
- Each month our teachers focus on a particular **Thinking Skill/Personal Capability** in their teaching. This month the focus is on **Thinking, Problem-Solving and Decision-Making**. Please refer to your child's Learning Support Sheet for October to see ways that you can help at home. A display of pupils' work is situated in the main school corridor outside the Year 4/5 classroom.
- Our **Mindfulness Overview** for **October** is available on our school website under Important Information. If you are completing any of the activities at home (or some of your own), please forward some photographs to the school for display purposes.
- Your child's **Learning Support Sheet** for **October** will be available on our school website shortly. Your child's Class Teacher will notify you when they have uploaded it.
- Please see a message below from our **Parents' Association**.

Friends of St. Patrick's are running 2 fundraisers over the **Halloween break**. Our **Annual Car Wash** is taking place on **Saturday, 26th October from 10am – 4pm**. We are again holding our **Halloween Fancy Dress Disco** on **Tuesday, 29th October from 6pm – 8pm** in the **Community Centre** due to popular

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demand after last year. It is open to all primary school children from far and wide! Please spread the news. Posters are on the school website for further info. If you would like to help with either event and are not on the PA What's App group please message through the FB page.

- **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.'

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**.

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

- **Maths Week in Ireland** is from **12th – 20th October**. Pupils will be completing some fun activities in school and for homework. Check out the website www.mathsweek.ie for some ideas to try out at home.
- A sincere Thank You to **Canon McGahan** for blessing our new modular classroom on Tuesday. Check out last Thursday's **Ulster Herald** for a special article about the event and our school website for some photos.
- **Donnie McGale** will be coming to our school on **Friday, 18th October** to take **school photographs**.
- 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**. Please reply promptly, when you receive notification of your time slot, so that teachers can get their meetings finalised in good time.

Yours sincerely,

Keira McCallan

Mrs. Keira McCallan (Principal)



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