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

Monday, 21st October, 2024.

Dear Parent/Guardian,

- 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 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.

- A reminder that there **won't** be any **afterschool Multisport** on **Thursday, 24th October** or **Thursday, 7th November**. Sessions will resume on **Thursday, 14th November**.
- Information will be sent out via our school website on **Monday, 28th October** regarding registration for the next block of **Nature Rangers Clubs** up until Christmas.
- **Parents of pupils in Years 5 – 7:**
We intend to hold **cross country trials** during **PE time** on **Wednesday, 23rd October**. All children from **P5, P6 and P7** are eligible to try out. Pupils can run in spikes, football boots or trainers.

Pupils selected as part of the cross country team will represent the school in the Tyrone/Fermanagh heats of the **Flahavan's Cross Country Competition**. The first of three heats is on **Friday, 8th November** in **Castleberg**. The results of the heats will determine the schools from Tyrone/Fermanagh who will represent our district in the **Ulster Final**.

Please note there will be other cross country races throughout the school year that all children will compete in.

- A reminder that **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>

Pupils in school will be completing the survey with an age appropriate response. If you have any objections to your child completing the survey, please contact the school no later than 12pm tomorrow.

'We learn to love and love to learn.'

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

- Please see a flyer on our school website advertising our **Parent Association's Annual Car Wash** on **Saturday, 26th October** from **10am to 4pm**.
- 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**.
- Members of the **Legion of Mary Group's** first school Rosary is arranged for **9.30am** tomorrow.
- A reminder that any outstanding monies for dinner, trips, milk, etc., must be paid in full by Thursday of this week.
- Pupils, staff and parents are invited to dress up on **Friday, 25th October** for **Hallowe'en**.
- Our school will be closed from **Monday, 28th October to Friday, 1st November (inclusive)** for the **Hallowe'en** break. Pupils are asked to return to school on **Monday, 4th November** at the usual time. I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a spooky and fun Hallowe'en.

Yours sincerely,

Keira McCallan

Mrs. Keira McCallan (Principal)

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