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

Monday, 6th January, 2025.

Dear Parent/Guardian,

- **Welcome back** everyone. I hope that you all had a relaxing Christmas. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and peaceful New Year. I hope Santa was good to you all.
- **January** is the month of **Honesty**. Pupils will be learning about the importance of telling the truth. They will be completing work based on this theme throughout the month of January. Check out our **Values Display** outside the Year 6/7 classroom.
- Our **Thinking Skill and Personal Capability** focus for **January** is **Working With Others** at home and at school. Please refer to your child's Learning Support Sheet for January to see ways that you can help at home. Check out our **TS&PC Display** outside the Year 6/7 classroom.
- Our **Mindfulness Overview** for **January** is available to view on our school website.
- Your child's **Learning Support Sheet** for **January** will be available on our website this week. Teachers will notify you by text when they are ready to be viewed.
- Please note that **Milk** for **Term 2** is **£9** per pupil.
- Please note that there won't be any **Afterschool Nature Rangers** or **Afterschool Multisport** until **March**. This will provide an opportunity for the condition of the school grounds and the pitch to improve.
- Please see a note below from our **Language And Literacy Coordinator**, Mrs. Mullin:
This term we are delighted to be offering the children the opportunity to explore acting techniques, improvisation and storytelling in a supportive and fun

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environment through Drama. This will be facilitated by an external company called **BDramatic** and will take place every **Wednesday** for **10 weeks** commencing on the **15th of January** and concluding on the **26th of March**. The charge will be **£15** per child. Drama is an important part of the curriculum, fostering teamwork, communication and self-expression. We look forward to watching the children grow in confidence and learn new drama skills over the course of the ten weeks. Please send the **£15** in a money wallet labelled '**Drama**' by **14th of January**.

- We are excited to be part of a new programme developed by the Education Authority called **Being Well Doing Well**, creating a whole school approach to **Emotional Health and Wellbeing**. I am leading this programme as our school's **Wellbeing Champion**. We know that when pupils feel valued, happy and secure, they will reach their full potential. We want to work with parents and families to ensure that we are doing everything we can to meet the needs of our pupils. We are therefore interested in finding out what you think about our school, and how we work with you and the wider school community to support the emotional health and wellbeing of all our pupils.
We are asking our pupils, staff, governors and parents/guardians to complete questionnaires in relation to the area of emotional health and wellbeing. Your views and opinions will be taken seriously and will help us make decisions about what we need to do to improve our school. We greatly appreciate your time and effort in completing this survey. Please click on the link below to complete the survey.

<https://forms.office.com/e/Lu4YVAXZDx>

The survey has also been sent to your mobile phone. Please complete the survey by **Wednesday, 15th January**.

All responses are confidential.

- Please see a flyer on our school website regarding an initial engagement meeting being held in **Eskra Community Centre** on **Monday, 20th January @ 7pm** to discuss the **Newtownsaville (Eskra) Community Well-Being Action Plan**.
- **Applications For A Year One Place - September 2025.**
Please see information on our school website regarding how to apply for a **Year One** place for your child (**September 2025**). Applications will **open** on **Friday, 10th January, 2025** at **12 noon** and will **close** at **12noon** on **Friday, 24th January, 2025**.
- **Parents of pupils in Year Four:**
The **Sacrament of Penance (First Confession)** will take place on **Thursday, 27th March, 2025** in **St. Patrick's Church, Eskra** at **7pm**.

The **Sacrament of the Eucharist (First Holy Communion)** will take place on **Saturday, 17th May, 2025** in **St. Patrick's Church, Eskra** at **12pm**.

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- **Parents of pupils in Years Five, Six and Seven.**

Staff from **Fintona Credit Union** will be coming into school **tomorrow** to collect any savings books and monies. Please make sure that your child has any money that they would like to deposit and their savings book with them to school.

- **Parents of pupils in Year Six:**

I intend to hold a **Transition Information Session for Parents** in **February**.

The aim of this session will be to inform parents of current and proposed arrangements to aid and support pupils' transition from Year 6 into Year 7, to provide appropriate information for parents to help them make an informed decision regarding their child's participation in, preparation for and completion of the SEAG Transfer Test, to outline support provided by school and how parents can help their child at home. It is envisaged that this session will be beneficial to all Year 6 parents. Please complete the expression of interest form attached and return it to school by **Friday, 10th January, 2025**.

As has been the practice over the last number of years, the Department of Education has produced a document providing advice to parents of children in **P6** on the post-primary transfer process. The purpose of this document is to ensure that parents receive timely information about the range of issues they need to take into account when making important decisions about the next stage in their child's education. Please click the link below to access the document.

[Advice for P6 Parents - January 2025.PDF](#)

- **Parents of pupils in Year Six and Year Seven:**

St. Ciaran's College, Ballygawley are hosting their **Open Night** on **Thursday, 16th January, 2025 @ 7pm**.

CBS Omagh's Open Day will take place on **Saturday, 18th January**. Please see the flyer on our school website.

Loreto Grammar School's Open Night will take place on **Wednesday, 22nd January**. Time to be confirmed.

- **Parents of pupils in Year Seven:**

A **Service of Light**, in preparation for Confirmation, will take place on **Thursday, 13th March, 2025** in **St. Patrick's Church, Eskra @ 7pm**.

A **Confirmation Practice** will take place on **Sunday, 16th March, 2025** in **St. Patrick's Church, Eskra** at **5pm**.

The **Sacrament of Confirmation** will take place on **Sunday, 23rd March, 2025 @ 3pm** in **St. Patrick's Church, Eskra**.

Yours sincerely,

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Keira McCallan

Mrs. Keira McCallan (Principal)



Expression Of Interest – Year Six Transition

I/we _____ am/are interested in attending a **Transition Information Evening For Year Six Parents** held during February, 2025.

Signed:

Date:

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