



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.stpatrickspseskra.co.uk

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

Monday, 13th January, 2025.

Dear Parent/Guardian,

- I am delighted to inform you that as a result of the monies raised from the **Asda Cashpot for Schools, The Rudolph Raffle** and a substantial donation from **Western Emergency Skills Training Limited**, we have been able to purchase a state-of-the-art touch screen Interactive Whiteboard for the Year 2/3 classroom. Thank you to everyone who contributed to our fundraising activities and to Western Emergency Skills Training Limited for their very kind and generous donation. We intend to continue to fundraise to secure the purchase of two more Interactive Whiteboards over the next few years as there is no money available in school budgets to buy ICT hardware. Your continued support will be very much appreciated.
- Please note that **Milk** for **Term 2** is **£9** per pupil.
- **Sunday, 19th January** to **Saturday, 25th January** is **Catholic Schools Week** and the theme this year is - **Catholic Schools: Alive In Christ**. To celebrate **Grandparents' Day** we have organised a special **Thanksgiving Mass for Grandparents** on **Wednesday, 22nd January** in **St. Patrick's Church, Eskra @ 7pm**. The **Parents' Association** have kindly offered to provide light refreshments in **Eskra Community Hall** afterwards. Everyone is welcome. Please click on the link below to complete an electronic form to indicate how many members of your family intend to attend. If you are unable to attend, please complete the form anyway so that we can have an accurate indication of expected numbers. The electronic form has also been sent to your mobile phone for your convenience.

<https://forms.office.com/e/kbVV4yjLLd>

- As explained in the Monday Note last week, we are asking our pupils, staff, governors and parents/guardians to complete questionnaires in relation to the area of emotional health and wellbeing, as part of a new programme developed by the

‘We learn to love and love to learn.’

Education Authority called **Being Well Doing Well**, which creates a whole school approach to **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. If you haven't already completed the survey, please click on the link below to complete it.

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

The survey was also been sent to your mobile phone on 6th January. Please complete the survey by **Wednesday, 15th January**.

All responses are confidential.

Please see below some of the initiatives and activities that our school already undertakes in the promotion of emotional health and wellbeing.

- ✚ Promoting our school's Catholic ethos.
- ✚ Setting high expectations for standards of behaviour throughout the school.
- ✚ Raising awareness of Rights and Responsibilities.
- ✚ Formulation of Class Helpful Habits/Charters.
- ✚ Recognising and rewarding positive behaviour.
- ✚ Implementation of the Religious Education Curriculum, PD&MU curriculum and The Living Learning Together Programme.
- ✚ Promotion of and participation in Catholic Schools' Week.
- ✚ Promoting our Monthly Values – e.g., September is the month of Kindness.
- ✚ Promoting and supporting inclusion within the school.
- ✚ Liaison with our School Chaplain.
- ✚ Promotion of positive emotional health and well – being (e.g., mindfulness programmes).
- ✚ Implementation and promotion of well - being focussed days – Mindful Monday, Thoughtful Tuesday, Well – Being Wednesday, Thankful Thursday and Feel Good Friday.
- ✚ Circle Time.
- ✚ RSE Programme.
- ✚ Focussed assemblies to raise awareness and promote understanding of key issues related to bullying.
- ✚ Involvement in meaningful and supportive shared education projects, supporting pupils to explore, understand and respond to difference and diversity.
- ✚ UICT lessons on Internet Safety, including understanding how to respond to harm and the consequences of inappropriate use.
- ✚ Promotion of the Safer Schools App.
- ✚ Participation in annual Safer Internet Day and promotion of key messages throughout the year.
- ✚ Online Safety Training and workshops for pupils, parents, staff, Governors and the wider community.
- ✚ Development of peer – led systems (e.g., School Council) to support the delivery and promotion of key anti – bullying messages within school.

‘We learn to love and love to learn.’

- ✚ Annual Appointment of a Head Boy and Head Girl.
- ✚ Appointment and training of Digital Leaders in Year Seven.
- ✚ Appointment and training of Anti - Bullying Ambassadors in Key Stage Two.
- ✚ Designated Teacher, Deputy Designated Teacher, Principal, whole staff and Governor annual Child Protection and Safeguarding training.
- ✚ Comprehensive Child Protection and Safeguarding arrangements in place.
- ✚ Annual completion of ETI's Child Protection and Safeguarding Proforma.
- ✚ Anti - Bullying training for staff, pupils and Governors.
- ✚ Regular review of Pastoral Care, Child Protection And Safeguarding, Special Educational Needs, Anti – Bullying, Promoting Positive Behaviour, Health And Safety, RSE, Acceptable Use Of The Internet, Photographic Images Of Children and Mobile Phone policies.
- ✚ Consultation on above policies with pupils, staff, parents, Governors and the wider community (where appropriate).
- ✚ Ensure that all staff (teaching and non-teaching), parents and pupils and all members of the school community are aware of the school's Positive Behaviour Policy.
- ✚ Accessibility of pertinent policies to parents and pupils – noticeboard and website.
- ✚ Child-friendly version of the Anti-Bullying Policy.
- ✚ Vigilant supervision and effective playground management – e.g., separate break times, playground zoning, friendship garden/benches.
- ✚ Ongoing tracking and monitoring of supervision arrangements.
- ✚ Provision of a variety of play options to meet the needs of all pupils (including wet days).
- ✚ Appointment of Playground Buddies in Key Stage Two.
- ✚ Annual Playground Buddy training.
- ✚ Positive Playgrounds Training for staff.
- ✚ Provision and promotion of extra – curricular activities aimed at supporting the development of effective peer support relationships and networks. E.g., After – Schools Multi – Sports, Homework Clubs, Art/Drama workshops, Gardening Club, Cycling Proficiency, etc.
- ✚ Art Therapy
- ✚ Effective parental communication.
- ✚ Awareness raising e.g., Parent/ P1 Induction Meetings, Information Evenings, Monday Note, Parents' Association and website.
- ✚ Use of outside agencies – NSPCC, PSNI, Childline, Behaviour Support Team, C2k, Public Health Agency, Safeguarding Board for NI, REIM, Child Protection Support Services, Gateway, CEOP, South West Grid For Learning (SWGfL), Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service, Action Mental Health, etc.
- ✚ Key Stage Two pupils complete Farm Safety activities.
- ✚ Foundation Stage and Key Stage One pupils participate in the Little Healthy Me Programme.
- ✚ Key Stage Two pupils participate in the Healthy Me Programme.
- ✚ Annual participation in NIABF's Anti Bullying Week activities.
- ✚ Year 6/7 receive First Aid Training with Western Emergency Skills Training Limited.
- ✚ Pupils in Year 7 complete the Bee Safe programme.
- ✚ Love for Life Programme.

‘We learn to love and love to learn.’

- ✚ A local Pharmacist gives an annual talk about the dangers of the misuse of medicines to Key Stage Two pupils.
- ✚ Activities and lessons to promote Children's Mental Health Week.
- ✚ Transition procedures at various stages.
- ✚ Other Staff Training opportunities e.g., Trauma Informed Practices, SIMS.
- ✚ Development of a culture where pupils take pride in their school and are viewed as ambassadors within their community. This includes regular reminders of the positive behaviour expectations of pupils whilst travelling to and from school.
- ✚ Expectations for behaviour on bus and outside school hours outlined in Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy.
- ✚ Regular contact with transport providers (Private and EA) to ensure effective communication and the early identification of any concerns.
- ✚ Bus Monitors – Pupils who are trained Anti-Bullying Ambassadors.
- ✚ A member of staff responsible for Bus Duty.
- ✚ Promotion of key anti – bullying messages and awareness of behaviour expectations of pupils amongst the local community (e.g., Playtime Day Nursery, Playgroup and Out of Schools Club, the Youth Club, Eskra Emmetts GAA Club, School Chaplain, etc.) including information on how to raise any concerns with the school.
- ✚ Participation in EA's Being Well Doing Well programme, which creates a whole school approach to emotional health and wellbeing.

- 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**.

- **Pupils in Years 5, 6 and 7:**

Please see a note from Tracey Scullion regarding cross country.

We intend to hold a cross country trial during PE time on **Wednesday 15th January**. All children from **P5, P6 and P7** are eligible to try out. Please note, children do not have to try out for the team if they do want to participate. Children not taking part in the trial will still complete PE exercises during the hour allocated.

Pupils can run in spikes, football boots or trainers.

‘We learn to love and love to learn.’

Pupils selected as part of the cross country team will represent the school in the final **Tyrone/Fermanagh heat** of the **Flahavan's Cross Country** competition on **22nd January** in **Dungannon**.

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

- **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. If you haven't already completed the expression of interest form attached, please do so as soon as possible.

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:**

Year 6/7 pupils will be starting their **Swimming Programme** (8 sessions) on **Friday, 24th January at Omagh Leisure Complex**. Pupils will travel by bus and will be accompanied by members of staff. The cost per pupil is **£45**. This amount will cover the cost of the swimming lessons and the cost of the bus. Please send the money in a marked money wallet by **Monday, 3rd March**. Please complete the permission slip attached and the **Health History Questionnaire** (sent home today) requested by Omagh Leisure Complex and return them to school by **Friday, 17th January**.

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**. Please see a flyer on our school website.

'We learn to love and love to learn.'

An additional note has been sent home with those pupils who are travelling to **Dublin** in **June** on our residential school trip.

Our **Playground Buddies** will be meeting tomorrow to decide how they can enhance play times for all pupils. They will be making decisions on how to extend existing choices regarding play and will be looking at fun resources that can be purchased.

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

Staff and pupils from **St. Ciaran's College, Ballygawley** will be coming to our school **tomorrow** to talk to Year Seven about their school, ahead of the **Open Night** on Thursday. We look forward to welcoming them to our school.

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,

Keira McCallan

Mrs. Keira McCallan (Principal)



‘We learn to love and love to learn.’

Permission Slip
Year 6/7 Swimming Programme

I do/do not give permission for my child/children _____
to participate in an **8 – week swimming programme** in Omagh Leisure
Complex (starting on Friday, 24th January, travelling by bus.

Signed:

Date:

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: