



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

Phone: 028 82 841067

Fax: 028 82 841067

email: [info@stpatrickseskra.omagh.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@stpatrickseskra.omagh.ni.sch.uk)

[www.stpatrickspeskra.co.uk](http://www.stpatrickspeskra.co.uk)

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

Monday, 24th February, 2025.

Dear Parent/Guardian,

- I am delighted to inform you that as a result of the monies raised from the successful application for a grant by the **Parents' Association** and a substantial donation from **Western Emergency Skills Training Limited**, we have been able to purchase a second state-of-the-art touch screen Interactive Whiteboard. This board will be installed in the Year 6/7 classroom. Thank you to our PA and in particular, **Elsie McGarvey**, for securing the grant 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 with this endeavour.
- **Tuesday, 4th March** is **Pancake (Shrove) Tuesday**. Staff may make pancakes with the children or serve pancakes to them. If your child has any allergies, please remind his/her Class Teacher.
- **Wednesday, 5th March** is **Ash Wednesday**. Pupils will be learning about the significance of Ash Wednesday and Lent through their Religious Education lessons. Please talk to your child about the importance of making a Lenten Promise to God at this special time.
- Our **After School Nature Rangers Clubs** recommence next week. Please make sure that you have registered your child as staff will only be able to accept children on their list.

Currently, the following **Nature Ranger Clubs** have been arranged.

**Year 1:** Friday (2.00pm – 3.00pm)

**Year 2:** Monday (2.00pm – 3.00pm)

‘We learn to love and love to learn.’

**Year 3:** Thursday (3.00pm – 4.00pm)

**Year 4 and Year 5:** Monday (3.00pm – 4.00pm)

**Year 6 and 7:** Tuesday (3.00pm to 4.00pm)

Each session costs **£5** per pupil.

**A full list of dates for each Nature Ranger Club for this term is available to view on our school website. If, for any reason, dates have to be changed, the Club leaders will inform you in advance.**

Please use the link below to book your child's place.

<https://nifsa.magicbooking.co.uk/BookingManager>

Here are the instructions on how to make an account, if you have previously set one up.

- 1<sup>st</sup> make an account on our new booking system <https://nifsa.magicbooking.co.uk/Dashboard>
- Then add the details and permissions for each child (once this is done you never have to redo for future bookings).
- Ensure you add the correct school for your child as only sessions available to them will be visible (bookings in other school won't be available).
- Now you go to 'Book Activity' tab and then Nature Ranger Clubs.
- To make a booking tick one child, pick the Yr1-Y3 or Yr4-Yr7 NRC session, tick Fridays then click add dates
- If you want to book for a 2<sup>nd</sup> child now tick them and their session.
- Once you have booked all children on, click next and it will bring you to the payment information. You are able to pay for all bookings at once.

If you log in and can't see sessions available in your child's school click on menu; children; click on the child's name; overview; edit child details; and ensure the school and class are inputted correctly.

Please ensure that you add the school name and the Nature Rangers Club that your children are participating in. If you have any difficulties registering your child, please inform the school office, as soon as possible.

Please click on the link below for further information on what to expect from our Nature Ranger Clubs.

<https://www.forestschoolsni.com/?r3d=joining-a-nature-ranger-club&>

Checkout **Forest School Families** on the **Forest School Website** – [www.forestschoolsni.com](http://www.forestschoolsni.com) and on our school website for fun ideas that all the family can get involved in in the evenings and at weekends.

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- All our pupils in **Years 3 to 7** have been invited to the **Knockmany Running Club's Primary Schools' Cross Country Event** on **Friday, 14th March** at the pitches behind **Augher Central Primary School**. Pupils will travel by bus and will be accompanied by school staff. If you haven't already done so, please complete the permission slip attached and return it to school as soon as possible.

Pupils are asked to bring spikes/football boots, a change of clothing and a **packed lunch** with them. Please ensure your child has an appropriate number of layers of clothing, depending on the weather forecast for the day of the race. Pupils will return to school before home time. Parents are asked to make a contribution of **£5** towards the cost of the bus.

- **World Book Day 2025** takes place on **Thursday, 6th March** this year, and we are delighted to celebrate this special and exciting occasion with our school community! All children are asked to dress up as their favourite book characters, bringing stories to life and inspiring a love for reading. Across the school, we will have a variety of engaging activities, including storytelling sessions, book-themed games and opportunities to share and explore favourite books. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the magic of reading and we want all children to participate and enjoy the fun.
- A reminder that **all February dinner monies** should be paid by **Thursday** of this week please. EA have asked that all dinners should be paid for on a weekly basis.
- **Parents of pupils in Year One, Year Two and Year Three:**  
Unfortunately, **Action Mental Health** are unable to come into school this week to deliver their **Little Healthy Me** programme, due to unforeseen circumstances. Sessions have been rearranged for May. Parents will be notified of specific dates closer to the time.
- **Parents of Pupils in Year Three:**  
A reminder for our **Year 3** parents to send in a copy of their child's birth certificate. Thanks to those who have already done so. If you prefer you can scan a copy to our school email: [info@stpatrickseskra.omagh.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@stpatrickseskra.omagh.ni.sch.uk)
- **Parents of pupils in Year Four:**  
The **Sacrament of Penance (First Confession)** will take place on **Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2025** in **St. Patrick's Church, Eskra** at **7pm**.

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

- **Parents of Pupils in Year 6:**  
Thank you to everyone who attended our **Year 6 Transition Information Session For Parents**. on Thursday. We hope you found it enjoyable and informative. If you were unable to attend, a PowerPoint Presentation is available to view on our class page of the school website.

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An electronic form has been sent to your mobile phone today regarding **Year 6 Transition Arrangements**. Please complete as soon as possible to allow sufficient time for planning and preparation.

You can also click the link below to complete the form.

<https://forms.office.com/e/4wR4HkDxrd>

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

Due to the commencement of our swimming programme on a Friday morning, pupils in **Year 6/7** are asked to wear their **PE uniform every day** until swimming ends.

For any pupils travelling to **Dublin** in **June** – the balance is due by **18th March, 2025**.

- **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 **Wednesday, 19th March, 2025 @ 7pm** in **St. Patrick's Church, Eskra**.

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

A **Confirmation Retreat** has been arranged by **Canon McGahan** for **Wednesday, 2nd April, 2025** in **Lough Derg**. Further details to follow shortly.

Thank you to everyone who attended our **Confirmation Information Evening** for parents on Thursday. We hope you found it enjoyable and informative. If you were unable to attend, a PowerPoint Presentation is available to view on our class page of the school website.

Yours sincerely,

*Keira McCallan*

Mrs. Keira McCallan (Principal)



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**Permission Slip – Knockmany Running Club**  
**Cross Country Competition**

I/we allow/do not allow my/our child/children \_\_\_\_\_  
to participate in the **Knockmany Club's Primary School Cross Country Competition** on **Friday, 14th March, 2025**, travelling to **Augher** by bus.

Full Name:

Signed:

Date: