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

Monday, 3rd March, 2025.

Dear Parent/Guardian,

- **March** is the month of **Self - Discipline**. Pupils will be learning about the importance of self - discipline, particularly in relation to Lent. Please speak to your child about this value at home. Check out the display of pupils' work outside the Year 6/7 classroom.
- As you are aware, each month our teachers focus on a particular **Thinking Skill/Personal Capability** in their teaching. This month the focus is on **Managing Information**. Please refer to your child's **Learning Support Sheet** for **March** to see ways that you can help at home. Check out our **TS&PC** display in the main school corridor to see what pupils have been learning.
- Our **Mindfulness Overview** for **March** will be available to view from tomorrow on our school website.
- Your child's **Learning Support Sheet** for **March** will be available on our website shortly. Teachers will notify you by text when they are ready to be viewed.
- Please see below a message from **Tracey Scullion**:
Well done to **Conor Corrigan** and **Éabha Mullan**, who secured their place in the **Flahavan's Ulster School Final** on **Friday 28th February**. Both Conor and Éabha put in outstanding performances in their district races and qualified for the final as individuals. They represented St. Patrick's Eskra amazingly and have big futures on the running scene. We now turn our attention to the **Knockmany** races in **Augher** on **14th March** as a big finale to our cross country training.
- **Tomorrow** 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.

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- **Wednesday 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. **Canon McGahan** will be coming into school on Wednesday morning to administer the ashes to pupils and staff.
- Our **After School Nature Rangers Clubs** have started again this 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)

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.

- 1st 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 2nd 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.

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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.forestschooolsni.com/?r3d=joining-a-nature-ranger-club&>

Checkout **Forest School Families** on the **Forest School Website** – www.forestschooolsni.com and on our school website for fun ideas that all the family can get involved in in the evenings and at weekends.

- 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.

- A member of staff from **Fintona Credit Union** will be calling into school tomorrow to collect savings books and monies from pupils in **Years 5, 6 and 7**. Please make sure that your child has his/her savings book and any monies with them to school.
- **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.

As part of our **World Book Day** celebrations, we are excited to host a **Book Fair** on **Tuesday** and **Wednesday**, the **4th and 5th of March**. The **School Council** will be helping to facilitate the event. We encourage children to bring in books they no longer need for other children to buy and enjoy. All donated books must be in good condition. All proceeds from the Book Fair will be used to buy new books for the school, helping to enrich our library and classrooms. This is a fantastic

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opportunity to share the joy of reading while giving books a new home. We look forward to seeing everyone take part in this wonderful event!

- **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**.

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

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.

- Our school will be having a **Non - Uniform Green Day** on **Thursday, 13th March**. Pupils, staff and parents are being encouraged to dress up in **green** to celebrate **St. Patrick's Day**. Pupils are asked to donate **£1** each towards our School Council Funds. Further information on how monies raised will be spent to follow shortly.
- Our school will be **closed** on **Monday, 17th March**. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very **Happy St. Patrick's Day**.

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: