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

Monday, 24th March, 2025.

Dear Parent/Guardian,

- **Congratulations** to all our **Year Seven** pupils – **Carly Beattie, Conor Corrigan, Aoife Donnelly, Jude Fox, Max McCarney, Conor McCarroll, Ronan McGarvey, Dylan McKenna, Sarah McMaugh, Connie O'Hagan, Caiden Quinn, Darragh Turbitt** and **Noah Woods** - who received the **Sacrament of Confirmation** yesterday. A sincere **Thank You** to the **Very Reverend Monsignor Shane McCaughey and Canon McGahan** for celebrating the sacrament with us. A special **Thank You** to **Mrs. Mullin, Nuala Sweeney** and our wonderful **School Choir** for the beautiful music and singing and to all our pupils for their active participation and reverence throughout. Well done and **Thank You** to **Miss. Devine, Mrs. McGarvey** and **Miss. McDermott** for preparing the pupils so well.
- Please see **Race Reports** below from **Tracey Scullion** regarding the recent cross country events.

What a fantastic week of racing by the pupils of St. Patrick's P.S., Eskra. Every pupil deserves credit for navigating both race courses. Knockmany with its hills and muddy patches and Killyclogher with its narrow stretches, sharp turns and ever changing running surfaces. Our pupils finished their race like champions and we are very proud of them all.

Knockmany - Friday 14th March

- Out of the 10 team cups to be won, St Patrick's P.S., Eskra brought home 5 cups! This demonstrates the hard work that the pupils of Eskra have put into their running this year! What an achievement!

School Team Winners

P3 Girls – St. Patrick's P.S., Eskra

P3 Boys – St. Patrick's P.S., Eskra

‘We learn to love and love to learn.’

P4 Girls - St. Patrick's P.S., Eskra
P4 Boys – St. Patrick's P.S., Eskra
P6 Girls – St. Patrick's P.S., Eskra

St. Patrick's had a number of individual podium places. **P3 Girls - Sadie O'Hagan** had the lead at the first turn and never looked back, securing her gold medal. **Grace McRorry** had a battle on her hands in the chasing pack but her tenacity paid off and she took 3rd place! The **P3 boys** provided a masterclass in cross country running, taking **1st, 2nd and 3rd place**, well done **Paidi Shiels, Kealan Meegan** and **Senan McGarvey**. **P4 Girls - Orlágh McRorry** who took bronze in last year's race, set out her stall within the first 50m and no one else came close to challenging her lead - a well-deserved **first place** medal. **Aideen Donnelly** showed grit and determination to beat her opponents and secure **3rd place**. **P4 Boys - Oliver McAnespy** backed up last year's gold medal with another fine performance. He led from the start and sailed through the finish line in **1st place**. **James McGirr** in the chasing pack put in a kick for the finish line and earned himself a **3rd place** medal.

P5 Girls - Éabha Mullan, a seasoned performer at cross country, used her experience and ability to chase down a **2nd place** finish. **P6 Girls - Lucia McKenna** had the race of her season and made her **win** look effortless, **gold medals in 2024 and 2025!** **Saorlaith Shiels** went one place better this year and confidently raced across the line in **2nd place**.

P7 Boys - Final race of the day and the race course now changed to 1600m. **Conor Corrigan**, one of our strong cross country performers, fought all the way around the course and thoroughly deserved his **2nd place** medal against some stiff competition.

Star racer of the day goes to **Dylan McKenna** in the **P7 Boys' Race**. Dylan demonstrated true perseverance to complete the 1600m race and finished with a trademark sprint. Well done also to **Noah Woods** who ran straight through his finish line and immediately ran over to Dylan to run the last 500m together.

Killyclogher - 19th March

Once again Eskra performed well above expectations on a challenging course. **P4 - Orlágh McRorry** and **Oliver McAnespy** displayed their athleticism with dominant wins in both **P4 races**. **P5 - Éabha Mullan** chased down the early leaders in her race and with an exceptionally strong finish, cruised from 4th to **1st place** within the last 100m. **P6 - Saorlaith Shiels** got out of the starting blocks hard and established a strong position in the first half of the race. She worked hard in the leading pack and seeing the finishing line, Saorlaith found the extra gear needed to sail past the leader and cross the line in **1st**.

A special mention to **Jude Fox** for demonstrating proper resilience. Despite losing a football boot in the closing stages of his race, Jude didn't flinch and finished his race in style. Once again the **Eskra P7 boys** ran straight through the finish line and doubled back to pick up team mate Dylan and run the last 100m with him. Well done, boys!

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Thank you to all the teachers who travelled with the children to Knockmany and Killyclogher. Thank you to all the parents, carers and grandparents who travelled to support all our amazing young athletes. Thank you to all the kids, who no matter the racing course or the weather, will always put on an Eskra top and give the race their absolute all. Finally, thank you to Knockmany and Killyclogher for hosting two wonderful events.

On behalf of our pupils, parents and staff, I would like to thank **Mrs. Scullion** most sincerely for all her support throughout the year with Cross Country preparation and events.

- Our **After School Nature Rangers Clubs** have resumed this week.
- **Parents of Pupils in Year One:**
The **school nurse** will be coming into school on **Thursday, 10th** and **Friday, 11th April** to complete her annual health assessment. Please ensure that you have returned your form, sent home today, no later than Friday of this week.
- **Parents of pupils in Year Four:**
The **Sacrament of Penance (First Confession)** will take place on **Thursday** 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 Seven:**
A **Confirmation Retreat** has been arranged by **Canon McGahan** for **Wednesday, 2nd April, 2025** in **Lough Derg**. A separate letter was sent out last week. Please make sure that the permission slip and money have been sent into school, as soon as possible.

The **St. Ciaran's College Induction Day** which includes the completion of an entrance test will take place on **Friday, 6th June**. More details to follow shortly.

- Please make sure that all **dinner money** for **March** is paid in full, no later than **Friday** of this week.

Yours sincerely,

Keira McCallan

Mrs. Keira McCallan (Principal)

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