

**ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, ESKRA**



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

Monday, 2nd March, 2026.

Dear Parent/Guardian,

- **Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> February** was another very successful day for our school. A huge **Congratulations** to our **Girls' Cross Country Team** who achieved an amazing **3<sup>rd</sup> place** in the **Ulster Final** of the **Flahavan's Cross Country Competition**. Congratulations to our **Boys' Team** who were superb too. A special **Thank You** to **Tracey Scullion** for her continued support and commitment to the children and school. Please see below a report from Tracey.

### **OUTSTANDING YOUNG ATHLETES COMPETE AT FLAHAVANS XC ULSTER FINAL**

**Congratulations** to our magnificent **Boys'** and **Girls'** teams who represented our school so well on **Friday 27th February** in **Mallusk**. Across Northern Ireland 6,790 pupils from 400 schools competed over three rounds between October 2025 to January 2026. Only 300 pupils from 70 schools qualify for the final, so for **BOTH** our Boys' and Girls' teams to qualify, was exceptional.

Our **Boys' team** are very young and are in experience gaining mode. To qualify and run in the Ulster Final at this stage was a huge achievement. A daunting task for our P6 and P5 team members. Well done to the following 6 boys who ran in a fierce and fast race and worked masterfully well as a team.

**Oliver McAnespy**  
**Mel Montague**  
**James McGirr**  
**Leo Fox**  
**Michael O'Hagan**  
**Calum Woods**

Our phenomenal **Girls' team**, having competed over 3 rounds against 28 schools in Tyrone and Fermanagh, were crowned the area prize winners. This secured them automatic qualification for the final. The Girls' team knew they would be one of 18

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schools seeking to take home team prizes and the competition between the girls teams this year was fierce. The only way our little, rural school could take home a team prize would be if every team member put in the performance of their season. We can happily report that every single member of our Girls' team outperformed all expectations!!! Not only were the girls the Tyrone and Fermanagh area prize winners, but they are also the **3rd Fastest Primary School Girls' Team in the whole of Northern Ireland**. For our small Tyrone primary school to go to Belfast and win medals at an Ulster Level is amazing!! The following young ladies should be incredibly proud of their dedication and hard work, take a bow:

**Saorlaith Shiels**  
**Rose Scullion**  
**Orl agh McRory**  
**Lucia McKenna**  
** abha Mullan**  
**Hannah Donnelly**

As Saorlaith finished inside the top 20, she will now be invited to attend the **NI Athletics Cross Country Training Squad**. Congratulations, **Saorlaith!**

Thank you to Mrs. McCallan and Mr. O'Brien who accompanied the children to the final on Friday. Over the past 10 years our school has been such a big supporter of our participation in this competition and providing our children with the opportunity to compete at an Ulster level. Thank you to all the parents and grandparents who travelled to Mallusk in the early hours of Friday morning to encourage and support our young athletes. Thank you also to Eskra Emmetts' GFC who provide the school with access to the football pitch to train every week.

- I am writing today to share an important announcement about a valued member of our school community. After more than **25 years** of dedicated service, our longtime bus driver, **Tom McCarron**, has announced his retirement. Throughout his many years with us, Tom has safely transported generations of students daily to and from school and on numerous journeys to football blitzes, swimming, educational trips, etc. We thank Tom most sincerely for his dedication and we wish him a happy, healthy and fulfilling retirement.  
We are organising a collection for Tom's retirement gifts. If you would like to contribute to a gift from parents, please forward all monies to the school office in a money wallet labelled, **Tom's Retirement Gift**.
- I am delighted to inform you that our school has organised a **Workshop for Parents and Carers on Raising Emotionally Resilient Children** delivered by **Shannon Hollywood** on **Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2026** from **7.00pm – 9.00pm**. This workshop is funded, therefore, it is free to parents. It has been highly recommended by EA's School Development Service and our EA Pupil Emotional Health And Wellbeing Link Officer. Please see a flyer on our school website with further information.

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**Shannon Hollywood** is a Behaviour Consultant and qualified Social Worker with over 14 years' experience supporting children, young people and families. She is passionate about helping parents understand children's behaviour through the lens of brain development, emotional regulation and connection. Much of her work focuses on how we can raise emotionally resilient children - young people who can manage big feelings, navigate challenges and develop empathy and confidence. Emotional resilience does not mean children never struggle. In fact, it is built through learning how to cope with frustration, manage conflict, handle disappointment and repair relationships. These are skills that develop over time and require guidance, patience and understanding from the adults around them, both at home and in school.

During the Raising Emotionally Resilient Children workshop, Shannon will explore:

- ✓ What emotional resilience really means and why it matters,
- ✓ How children's brains develop and why behaviour is often communication,
- ✓ The difference between punishment and teaching,
- ✓ How boundaries and compassion work together,
- ✓ Practical ways parents can support emotional development at home.

Our practice is increasingly guided by research around brain development and wellbeing. When parents and schools work together with a shared understanding, children benefit most. This workshop aims to strengthen that partnership by offering insight into why certain approaches are used and how we can collectively support all children to reach their full potential.

At the heart of everything Shannon teaches is one core belief:

**When children feel safe, understood and supported, they are more able to learn, grow and behave in positive ways.**

In order to help us plan for the workshop, we ask that you complete the registration form below by **Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> March**. Please complete the form, even if you are unable to attend. The form has also been sent to your mobile phone.

[Workshop For Parents and Carers - Raising Emotionally Resilient Children – Fill out form](#)

Shannon also provides a free parenting community, the Parenting Collective. It is free for parents to join and provides access to a complimentary **Parenting With Purpose** course. This can be accessed via the following link <https://www.skool.com/theparentingcollective/about>

- **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 7 classroom.

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- 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.
- We are delighted to inform you that our outdoor unit arrived last week. Pupils and staff are very eager to start using it. I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the staff and the Board of Governors to thank **Canon McGahan** and the **Finance Committee, St. Macartan's Ladies' GFC** and **Eskra Emmetts' GFC** for their extremely kind and generous donations.
- Thursday is **World Book Day**. Please see a note below from our Language and Literacy Coordinator, **Mrs. Katie Mullin**:  
On **World Book Day, Thursday 5th March**, all pupils are invited to come to school dressed as an **adjective** - for example *sparkly* (glittery clothes), *spotty* (dots or stickers), *colourful* (bright rainbow colours), *sleepy* (pyjamas), *brave* (a simple cape), or *stormy* (dark clothes with cloud or lightning cut-outs).  
In addition to this throughout the month of March, children in **Years 1–3** will be taking part in our **Book-a-Day Challenge**, enjoying a new story each day to spark their love of reading.  
**Years 4–7** will participate in **The Great Book Showdown**, a month-long reading challenge where they complete short reviews of anything they read. Each child will receive a review booklet and if they need more pages, they can simply ask their class teacher. All completed booklets should be handed in on **Tuesday, 31st March**. We are looking forward to a wonderful month celebrating stories, imagination, and the joy of reading. See notes on our school website for more information.
- The cake sale, which was organised by the **School Council** and held on **Monday, 23rd February, 2026** was a huge success and raised an amazing **£227**. Thank you to all the parents who donated buns, cakes, scones etc., for the occasion and for your attendance at this event. Compliments also to the School Council members for their smooth and efficient organisation and delivery of the cake sale. A donation will now be made towards **Grovehill Animal Trust**.
- All our pupils in **Years 3 to 7** have been invited to the **Knockmany Running Club's Primary Schools' Cross Country Event** on **Friday, 6th March** at the pitches behind **Augher Central Primary School**. Pupils will travel by bus and will

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be accompanied by school staff. If you haven't already done so, please complete the permission slip sent home from Miss. Devine, 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 contribute **£5** towards the cost of the bus.

- Our **After School Nature Rangers Clubs** recommence 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 1/2:** Tuesday (2.00pm – 3.00pm)

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

**Year 4:** Thursday (3.00pm – 4.00pm)

**Year 5 and Year 6:** Monday (3.00pm – 4.00pm)

**Year 7:** Friday (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/Identity/Account/Login>

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.

- Mr. O'Brien's **After - School Multisport** sessions will resume on **Wednesday** for **12 weeks**. If your child wishes to attend, please return the permission slip attached by Friday of this week to register your child/children.

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<b>Years 1 and 2</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2.00pm to 2.30pm</b> School Pitch/ Eskra Emmetts' Pitch</p> <p>Bus pupils/siblings supervised by Mrs. Barrett from 2.30pm until 3pm.</p>
<b>Year 3</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2.30pm to 3.00pm</b> School Pitch/ Eskra Emmetts' Pitch</p> <p>Pupils in class with Mrs. Mullin from 2pm to 2.30pm.</p>
<b>Year 4</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>3.00pm to 3.45pm</b> School Pitch/ Eskra Emmetts' Pitch</p> <p>Siblings supervised from 3.45pm to 4.30pm by Miss. Devine</p>
<b>Years 5, 6 and 7</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>3.45pm to 4.30pm</b> School Pitch Eskra Emmetts' Pitch</p> <p>Pupils supervised by Mrs. Mulligan</p>

**\*Pupils are to be collected by parents at the school, not the pitch.**

Please inform your child's Class Teacher if your child needs to be supervised on a Wednesday afternoon to 3pm or 4.30pm by a member of staff. If your child attends Playtime After – Schools, please inform the staff there of arrangements regarding your child/children in advance of their session/s.

Please see the dates for afterschool multisport from now until the end of the current academic year. These dates are also on the school website calendar. Should we need to cancel or rearrange any of the sessions, you will be notified in advance.

- ✚ 4th March
- ✚ 11th March
- ✚ 25th March
- ✚ 15th April
- ✚ 22nd April
- ✚ 29th April
- ✚ 6th May
- ✚ 13th May
- ✚ 20th May
- ✚ 27th May
- ✚ 3rd June
- ✚ 10th June

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Pupils in **Years 4 – 7** are asked to contribute **£2** per session for afterschool Multisports. Please forward **£24** to the school office for the 12 weeks.

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

The **Sacrament of Penance (First Confession)** will take place on **Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2026** in **St. Patrick's Church, Eskra** at **7pm**.

The **Sacrament of the Eucharist (First Holy Communion)** will take place on **Saturday, 16th May, 2026 @ 12.00pm** in **St. Patrick's Church, Eskra**. Everyone is welcome.

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

Arrangements for preparation for the **SEAG Entrance Test** in November 2026 will begin next week and are as follows:

**Monday, 9th March:** Transfer Test Practice to begin in school.

**Thursday, 12th March:** After-School Transfer Class (3.00pm – 4.30pm).

Please send a snack in with your child.

**Friday, 13th March:** Weekend homework.

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

A **Service of Light**, in preparation for Confirmation, will take place on **Thursday, 19th March, 2026** in **St. Patrick's Church, Eskra @ 7pm**. Pupils are asked to bring their **Baptismal Candle** to the service.

A **Confirmation Practice** will take place on **Sunday, 22nd March, 2026 @ 5pm** in **St. Patrick's Church, Clogher**.

The **Sacrament of Confirmation** will take place on **Saturday, 28th March, 2026** in **St. Patrick's Church, Clogher @ 11am**. **Bishop Lawrence Duffy** will be celebrating the sacrament with us. We look forward to seeing you there.

**Good luck** to **Caragh McCarroll, Hannah Donnelly, Saorlaith Shiels** and **Joe McMaugh** from **Year 7** who are representing our school at the **Chapter Level** of the **Credit Union Quiz** on **Sunday, 8th March** in **Canavan's @ 1pm**.

- Our school will be having a **Non - Uniform Green Day** on **Friday, 13th March**. Pupils, staff and parents are being encouraged to dress up in **green** to celebrate **St. Patrick's Day**.
- Our school will be **closed** to pupils from **Monday, 16th March** to **Wednesday, 18th March** for **St. Patrick's Day**. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very **Happy St. Patrick's Day**.

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Yours sincerely,

**Keira McCallan**

Mrs. Keira McCallan (Principal)



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