



Fourtowns Primary School News 9 and 16 February 2026

www.fourtownsps.co.uk

HALF TERM - School will close on **Monday 9 February 2026 at 2.00 pm** and reopen on **Monday 16 February 2026**

We wish all our boys and girls an enjoyable break!

ADDITIONAL STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS 2025/6

A letter was received by all schools on Friday 30 January, from the Department of Education issuing 2 additional School Development days to be used during the 2025/6 academic year: 1 before the end of term 2 and 1 in term 3. This is to allow schools time to prepare for the implementation of the new curriculum.

School will be closed to all pupils on **Wednesday 18 March** and **Monday 13 April** for staff training.

PRIMARY 7 SCHOOL TRANSFER PROCESS KEY DATES

The EA Post primary application portal will close on **Thursday 19 February 2026, AT 12 NOON**

On **9 May 2026** parents will be notified of their child's school placement.

Please ensure your application is submitted before the deadline or it will be handled under the late application procedures - ie after all the punctual applications have been sorted.

If you have any queries the EA helpdesk can be contacted on **028 9598 5595** (open 9 am-5 pm throughout the application window) or by emailing postprimaryadmissions@eani.org.uk

SEAG 2026/7

We would like to invite the parents of Primary 6 pupils to an information session on **Wednesday 4 March at 2.30pm** to discuss preparation for the SEAG tests.

INTERNET SAFETY DAY

Thank you to the Digital Leaders who delivered internet safety lessons in classes and led an excellent assembly on the safe and appropriate use of AI.

BE SMART ONLINE

S SAFE Keep your personal information safe. When chatting or posting online don't give away things like your full name, password or home address. Remember personal information can be seen in images and videos you share too. Keep them safe to keep yourself safe.

M MEET Meeting up with someone you only know online, even a friend of a friend, can be dangerous as this person is still a stranger. If someone you only know online ever asks you to meet up, for personal information or for photos/videos of you then tell an adult straight away and report them together on www.thinkuknow.co.uk

A ACCEPTING Think carefully before you click on or open something online (e.g. links, adverts, friend requests, photos) as you never know where they may lead to or they may contain viruses. Do not accept something if you are unsure of who the person is or what they've sent you.

R RELIABLE You cannot trust everything you see online as some things can be out of date, inaccurate or not entirely true. To find reliable information compare at least three different websites, check in books and talk to someone about what you have found.

T TELL Tell a trusted adult if something or someone ever makes you feel upset, worried or confused. This could be if you or someone you know is being bullied online. There are lots of people who will be able to help you like your teachers, parents, carers or contact Childline - 0800 11 11 or www.childline.org.uk

BE SMART WITH A HEART
Remember to always be smart with a heart by being kind and respectful to others online. Make the internet a better place by helping your friends if they are worried or upset by anything that happens online.

WWW.CHILDNET.COM

PRIMARY 6 and 7 RESIDENTIAL TRIP

We are looking forward to our P6-7 School Trip to Northumberland - 1 to 4 June 2026

The remaining cost of £449 should be paid by 17 April 2026.

Further details will be given at the parents meeting on Wednesday 6 May at 2.30pm

SCHOOL CLOSURES 2025-26

Please ensure family holidays are arranged around school closures.

Half Term 2 10 February 2026 to 13 February 2026 (4 days)

March Holiday 17 March 2026 + **18th March** (2 days)

Easter Hol 01 April 2026 to **13 April** 2026 (09 days)

Term 3 Starts Tues 14 April 2026

May Holiday 04 May 2026 (1 day)

May 20 May 2026 and 25 May 2026 (4 days)

School Year ends on Fri 26 June 2026

PHA GUIDANCE

There is a particularly unpleasant tummy bug currently circulating around the school.

Please be reminded of **PHA 48-hour rule** regarding the return to school after vomiting and diarrhoea bugs.

Your child must be symptom-free for at least two full days (48 hours) from their last bout of vomiting or diarrhoea before going back to school'

Many thanks for assistance in controlling the spread.

FOURTOWNS GOT TALENT - SAVE THE DATE

Fourtowns Got Talent will be held on Wednesday 25 March 2026.

More information on ticket sales coming soon!

PRIMARY 4-7 COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS

Children primary 4-7 are collected/walk home according to whatever arrangements have been agreed at home; **there is no 1:1 handover** at the gates.

Please ensure children are aware of their arrangements when they come to school.

Should no-one be there to collect children at home time - either at the gate / agreed meeting point or home we advise children **not to panic** and to **return to school** where we can keep them safe until new arrangements are made.

Please could you reinforce these safety messages at home, and if you have a preferred alternative safety arrangement, please make sure your child is aware of this.

SAFEGUARDING TEAM

If at any time you have any concerns of a Child Protection nature, you can arrange to speak to any member of our Safeguarding Team by contacting the School Office or by contacting the relevant member of the team via email.

- The following are members of the school's Safeguarding Team:
- **Designated Teacher** - Mrs LA Bovill lbovill766@c2kni.net
- **Deputy Designated Teacher** - Mrs T Whann twhann312@c2kni.net
- **Principal and Chair of the Safeguarding team** - Mrs K Parker, kparker600@c2kni.net
- **Chair of the Board of Governors** - Claire Calderwood
- **Designated Governor for Child Protection** - Rev M Neilly, markneilly@hotmail.com

At any time you can talk to a social worker at the Children's Services Gateway Team on 0300 1234 333 or the PSNI Central referral Unit (cru@psni.police.uk) or 101 Or 999 in an emergency.



*****IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE BOOKING OF LUNCHES AND BREAKS ON PARENTPAY**** Please see letter sent home on Thursday 5 February 2026**

From **Monday 16 February 2026** canteen dinners and breaks will need to be booked a **week in advance** on ParentPay

The opportunity to book dinners and breaks will close at **midnight on the Sunday evening** prior to the incoming week.

All outstanding payments for snacks and dinners will need to be settled before Sunday 15th February as ParentPay will cancel bookings where accounts are in debt.

After bookings close, it will not be possible for bookings to be made. Absent children will be refunded by the school office.

The kitchen will receive the week's bookings and food orders will be placed based on the numbers given on Monday morning.

It will not be possible to phone the school office to book after ParentPay closes on Sunday night.

If breaks and lunches have not been booked, and ParentPay has closed, your child will need to bring a break and packed lunch from home.

These changes have been made: -

- To minimise the significant interruptions to teaching resulting from numerous phone calls about dinner bookings.
- To minimise the amount of office time spent amending dinner orders each day.
- To facilitate more accurate kitchen ordering,

Menu choices are available online at the beginning of each month - please feel free to make your bookings a month in advance.

TRAVELLING BOOK FAIR

Each class will be taken to view the books on **Thursday 26 and Friday 27 February**. Children will be encouraged to browse the books for enjoyment and to suggest books that they would like to be bought for class libraries from the book fair commission. There is no pressure to buy.

Each child will be given a £1 World Book Day token that can be used towards the purchase of a book.

Mrs McConaghie will be running a colouring competition; the sheet will be sent out during the first week back after half term and 5 lucky winners will receive a £5 voucher for the fair! Alternatively, your child can bring money to school to buy a book. Please note that the Fair accepts cash sales only.

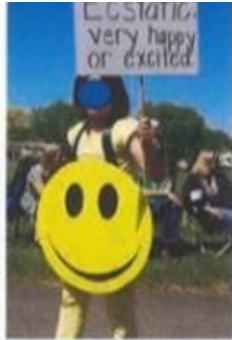
LITERACY

WEEK MON 2 - FRI 6 MARCH 2026

Mrs McConaghie will lead us again in a week of Literacy fun!

- All classes will take part in their own special literacy related classwork and homework activities.
- We will also be holding our annual hotly contested year group **Spelling Bees!**
- And on Friday 06 March we will mark **World Book day** with a '**Vocabulary parade**' (see Mrs McConaghie's poster!), along with special story sessions/ online author talks.

Friday 6th March 2026



Literacy Week Vocabulary Parade



Books are full of WORDS!!

Do you have a favourite word or can you use the dictionary to find an unusual or descriptive word?



Have you found an interesting word in a book you have been reading?

As part of our Literacy Week and in Celebration of World Book Day we invite you to come dressed for our Vocabulary parade. Please come to school displaying an extraordinarily amazing word. You could have a sign around your neck, a sign to carry or a hat with the word and definition on it. See the attached images or google for loads of interesting ideas. Try to use clothes and props you already have at home. For example: You could come in your karate uniform with the word 'skilful', your brownie uniform with the word 'reliable' or your princess costume with the word 'royal'.



How creative can you be?



