

January Notes

Dear Parent/Guardian,



We would like to wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful New Year.

We welcome everyone back to school and hope to make a positive start to 2026 reflecting on the theme of 'Gratitude and Appreciation' for the month of January.

We will be helping the children to notice and talk about what they can be grateful for in their lives and how we can show appreciation for things.

Gratitude is when you feel thankful for something good that has happened in your life. It's like when someone gives you a gift, helps you with your homework, or shares their toys with you. You feel happy and grateful because they did something nice! Appreciation is similar to gratitude. It means you recognise and value the good things around you. For example, when you notice how delicious your favourite meal is, or when you see how hard your teacher works to help you learn, you feel appreciation for those things.

Gratitude and Appreciation are important as they make us feel happy: When we think about the things, we are grateful for, we often feel happier and more positive. Saying thank you and showing appreciation helps us build strong friendships. Friends like to know that we notice their kindness.

Being appreciative can also create a positive environment: When we express gratitude, it encourages others to be kind, too. It helps everyone feel good!

We will be discussing how we can show Gratitude and Appreciation in many ways:

- Say Thank You: A simple "thank you" can make someone's day better.
- Write a Note: You can write a little note to tell someone why you appreciate them.
- Give Compliments: Telling someone they did a great job or that you like their work shows appreciation.
- Help Others: Sometimes, helping someone can be a way to show you appreciate what they do for you. Encouraging our children to practice gratitude and appreciation can help them develop a positive outlook and strong relationships with others.

Perhaps you would like to make 'Gratitude and Appreciation' the theme for your home in January.

AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS

Just a reminder all After-School Clubs for Term 2 will commence from Monday 12th January 2026.

- Please see link below to reserve a slot on Clayful Minds which will run on a Monday for pupils in all year groups from Y1-Y7. <https://clayful-minds.classforkids.io/term/108>
- After-School Drama will continue on a Tuesday. Please note the following dates and classes who are asked to stay from 3-4pm for rehearsals. We appreciate it may not suit every child, but if your child could attend on the dates below, it would be much appreciated.
 - Tuesday 13th January – All pupils in Y5
 - Tuesday 20th January – All pupils in Y6 & Y7
 - Tuesday 27th January – All pupils in Y5
 - Tuesday 3rd February – All pupils in Y6 & Y7
 - Tuesday 10th February – All pupils in Y5
- Cross-Country recommences on Wednesday 14th January.
- Football with Tiernan on a Monday and Thursday as arranged.
- Traditional Group practice will recommence on Thursday 15th January.
- Freckle Club for pupils in Y5 will run on a Thursday this term for 6 weeks– please click the link below to reserve a space. [After-School Freckle Club- Term 2 Y5 Jan - February 2026 – Fill out form](#)

ENROLMENT for Year 1 in September 2026

If your child's birthday falls between 2nd July 2021 and 1st July 2022 inclusive, they must commence primary school in September 2026.

Our Open Day will take place on Friday 9th January at 10am and we look forward to welcoming you and your child to St. Dymphna's to view our school.

If your child is starting primary school in September 2026, you can apply for their place at St. Dymphna's Primary School, Dromore, online from 12 noon on Wednesday 7th January 2026. The closing date for primary one application will be on Wednesday 21st January 2026 at 12noon. Further information is available on the EA website under the Admissions section at - <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions>

Late applications will only be accepted if a place becomes available in Year 1. Birth certificates must also be left into the school office before the closing date.

If you know someone with a child ready for school, please make sure they are aware that the application process is commencing on 7th January 2026.

POST PRIMARY TRANSFER

If your child was born between 2 July 2014 and 1 July 2015 you will need to apply for their Post Primary school place for September 2026.

Admissions criteria for all post primary schools is currently available on the EA website. Online applications will open at 12 noon on Tuesday 27th January 2025 and will close on Thursday 19th February 2026 at 12 noon. More information will be available in due course to support you in making an application.

WEST TYRONE FEIS

Entries for this year's West Tyrone Feis must be submitted to the school by mid-January.

Further details will be sent out in a separate letter so please keep an eye out for this. It is important all applications are returned on time, as late entries cannot be accepted. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

School Show

We are very exciting to be starting our work this week on our School Show, 'The Yellow Brick Road'. The production will involve all pupils in Years 5-7. Performance dates are Thursday 26th March and Friday 27th March, with matinee and evening shows on both days. Please save the dates!

We look forward to a fruitful, productive term at St. Dymphna's, with hard work, fun and learning!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Orla Meenagh

Principal