



Educating, Encouraging, Caring



Shaping the future with
learning, kindness and care.



Londonderry Primary School Newsletter

December 2025

A message from Mrs Weir

As we reach the end of a very busy month, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our staff. They have battled through every bug and illness imaginable, yet, true to form, we made it through together.

This month has been filled with proud moments; from a hugely successful Open Morning and Open Night to a fabulous Carol Service and the cutest of Nativities. The Carol Service and Nativities were real highlights, showcasing the confidence, joy and talent of our children.

Our School Council's 'Be Bright, Be Seen' initiative reminded us of the importance of safety at this time of year. They led a full school assembly with great enthusiasm and maturity, highlighting all the important safety points.

Our Christmas Eco Super Saturday was another resounding success. Smiling faces everywhere, as families enjoyed Christmas crafts, story time, meeting Santa, singing and festive fun. Thank you to the staff who gave up their Saturday and to everyone who supported us and raised money for Eco. All Eco funds go directly back into our school and help bring projects such as the new games area in the senior playground to life.

We are incredibly proud of two pupils this month. Ted recently represented our school at the Swim Ulster Primary School Cup. He swam with determination and skill and has qualified for the Irish Minor Schools Championships in Dublin which will take place in March 2026. What an achievement, well done, Ted! Another pupil, Leon, was the winner of the John Minnis drawing competition which took place at the start of November. Artwork was submitted by many local schools and judged by local artist Terry Bradley. Congratulations Leon!

As we head into the Christmas holidays, I hope each of you enjoy a much needed and well-deserved break. Rest, recharge and get ready for an action-packed Term 2. Thank you for everything you do for our school community, and all the staff would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Warm regards,

L. Weir



December Highlights



Key Reminders

- Monday 5th January: School Closed (*School Development Day*)
- Tuesday 6th January: School Reopens
- Wednesday 7th January: Strangford will be in to speak with P7 pupils
- Wednesday 7th January: P1 Admissions Open
- Thursday 8th January: Glenlola Collegiate will be in to speak with our P7 girls
- Friday 9th January: Priory will be in to speak with P7
- Friday 9th January: Badminton sessions will start for P7
- Tuesday 13th January: P7 visit to Glenlola for a performance of 'Oliver'
- Wednesday 14th January: P1 begin their music afternoons with Nina's Notes

- Wednesday 14th January: Regent House will be in to speak with our P7 pupils
- Wednesday 14th January: Football Tournament at Blair Mayne
- Wednesday 21st January: P1 Admissions Closes
- Saturday 24th January: SEAG Results
- Week Beginning 26th January: P4 and P6 CAT Testing
- Tuesday 27th January: SEAG Portal Opens
- Tuesday 27th, Wednesday 28th & Thursday 29th January: P7 Transfer Meetings
- Thursday 29th January: P6 Viking Day

Forward Planning

- Monday 2nd February – Thursday 5th February: Parent / Teacher Interviews. School will **finish at 1.10pm** for children
- Friday 6th February: School will close at 12.10 for half term
- Monday 9th – Friday 13th February: School Closed
- Monday 16th February: School Reopens
- Tuesday 17th February: P7 Swimming begins
- Thursday 19th February: SEAG Portal Closes

School News & Highlights

Carol Service

Our annual Carol Service at St Mark's was a wonderful success and the perfect way to begin our Christmas celebrations. Thank you to Mrs Gillespie for organising the service, and to Mrs Ward and Mrs Hamilton for their fantastic work with the choirs. Thank you also to Mrs Bingham for leading the African drumming. As expected, the choirs raised the roof with their performances, and the joint Junior and Senior item was simply unforgettable. Our readers read with confidence and clarity, and we are super proud of them all. This was a fabulous morning that really lifted our spirits and set the tone for a joyful Christmas season.

Nativity

Our P1 and P2 pupils delighted families last week with two fantastic Nativities: P1's *Shine Star Shine* and P2's *Prickly Hay*. There was Christmas cuteness in abundance with singing, dancing, comedy and plenty of sparkle! The children's confidence, enthusiasm and sheer enjoyment shone through from start to finish. They truly did us proud.

A heartfelt thank you to all our Foundation Stage staff for the work they put in to pulling these performances together. I know first-hand how much effort and dedication goes into staging a Nativity, and it was lovely to watch from the sidelines this year. Thank you for the time, energy and creativity you poured into making both

plays so special, and to all the behind-the-scenes staff who helped bring everything together. What a magical start to the festive season!

Mission Christmas

Thank you to everyone who supported our 'Mission Christmas Appeal.' Your generosity and kindness have helped bring a little extra magic to children who might otherwise have gone without. Your donations will make Christmas morning brighter and give families a reason to smile. It is moments like these that the true spirit of our school community shines through.

Make sure you are signed up to Seesaw so you can access photographs and up to date information relevant to your class.

Contacting the school

If you need to contact the school, please follow our communication pathway.

Start with your child's Class Teacher, then the Key Stage Leader followed by the Vice Principal, and finally the Principal if required. This helps us support you and your child as quickly and effectively as possible.

Key Stage Leaders:

P1& P2: Mrs Hutton (Foundation Stage)

P3&P4: Mr Adams (KS1)

P5, P6 & P7: Mrs Lowry / Mr Robinson (KS2)

Wellbeing & Safeguarding Tip

Kindness Counts. Encourage small acts of kindness each day. Being kind boosts well-being for both the giver and the receiver.

Contact Us

Phone: 02891 814325

Email: info@lderryys.newtownards.ni.sch.uk

Website: www.lderryys.co.uk

Office Hours: 8:40am – 4:00pm

Dragon's Den:

Mobile 1: 07395 702083

Mobile 2: 07543 453794

The telephone numbers for Dragon's Den are only to be used if you are running late or your child is not attending holiday scheme on a day you have booked for. The school office is to be contacted for any other queries or bookings.

