

Waringstown Primary School

March NEWS



Dear parent / s

Term Two has certainly moved at pace and we now look forward to the Easter Holiday.

The second round of Parent / Teacher Interviews were very well attended this term and we are always encouraged to see the strong home / school links continue. I would strongly urge that you oversee homework activities and ensure that diaries are signed in the senior school.

The children in Key Stage Two have greatly enjoyed their second term of extra-curricular activities which have continued for a further 6-week block. Huge thanks to each member of staff for their work with the children! You will see the success of these activities throughout this newsletter.

I thank my staff on your behalf for their dedication and commitment to the children of Waringstown Primary School. All of the after school work is purely voluntary.

[Portadown Speech and Drama Festival](#)

At this year's festival Waringstown Primary School again achieved tremendous results in the Primary School Classes. Out of the classes entered the school received four 1st places, ten 2nd places, ten 3rd places and sixteen Certificates of High Commendation.

Ellie Woods won the 'Flower Shop' Cup at the Final Awards Ceremony.

It is to Mrs Brown's great credit that she provides such a wonderful enrichment to the children's education and to sustain such a high quality of success over the years. Congratulations to ALL who took part and THANK YOU to Mrs J Brown!



The children who gained Gold, Silver, Bronze medals and Certificates of High Commendation were as follows:

Gold	Silver	Bronze	Certificates of High Commendation
Margot Butler Ellie Woods Scarlett Hill Josias Park	Dorothy Skelly Caleb McCluskey Harrison Derby Annabeth Munce Arthur Walkingshaw Finn Clarke-McCourt Sienna-Rae Budde Daisy Wilson Benjamin Anderson Zachary Dunford	Abigail McClory Max Stoddart Francesca Bailey Catherine Wamsley Caleb Armstrong Penelope Thompson Lucy Metcalfe Kate Riddle Rory Clarke-McCourt Ethan Coffey	Ella Wilson Jemimah Thompson Zara Hunter Amelia McKinley Phoebe Logan Alexander Crockett Jake Lawrence Hailey Smith Ava Clarke Sofia Kraicova Logan Irwin Euan Wamsley Charlotte Morton Phoebe Gribben Charlie Morrissey Nicholas Bailey

If your child's name is missing, please inform us as we'd like to ensure the correct and full list goes to the press.



World Down Syndrome Day

This year, as we see one of our pupils leave us, we celebrated World Down Syndrome Day on Thursday 21 March.

We wished to mark that child's journey by offering the proceeds from the fund-raising day to Lucie's chosen charity. Children came to school wearing the brightest, boldest or funkiest socks and also topped themselves off with wild and funky hair!

The family's chosen charity is 'Goal Line Youth Trust' which aspires to value, encourage and respect individuals from all walks of life regardless of ability or community identity as they cater for young people aged 6 - 25 years old with fully inclusive programmes and summer schemes. Lucie attends both youth club and summer scheme at Goal Line and is a valued member of their community.

Lucie's mum and dad have received support from the Goal Line Charity for a number of years so it's a charity very close to their hearts.

The grand total of £500 will be presented to Lucie and her mum. Thank you for your continued generosity!



Ditch The Dark!

It was wonderful to see the children shining brightly on Friday 26 January for Ditch the Dark Day and wearing a splash of red for Northern Ireland, Chest, Heart and Stroke (NICHs).

Thank you to everyone for participating in this fun and enjoyable day and for the effort that was put into outfits and the accessorizing of bikes and scooters. The children all enjoyed the Red Dress Fun Run for NICHs. Thank you to all who generously donated to this very worthwhile charity.



£480 was forwarded to the NI Chest Heart & Stroke Charity.



World Book Day

This year we were delighted to celebrate World Book Day within school. Children of all ages from Nursery right through to P7 enjoyed dressing in character. Even some 'adult children' were unrecognisable on the day! Primary 7 celebrated the day by decorating eggs as characters from their favourite books. See a sample below. This proved to be 'eggzhausting' and 'eggstensive.' However, the final product was quite an 'eggstravaganza' ... SORRY!



Thank you for your support on the day!

February on the Floor

We were simply delighted that so many children and family members took up the 'February on the Floor' challenge. Sleeping on the floor at home for a night to gain family sponsorship may sound easy but that one night perhaps seemed as if it would never end for the many children who took part. We are simply thrilled to inform you that the final figure raised and donated to the 'Stand by Me' charity is

£3,000.00

Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

Every penny will enable children in Africa to be supplied with a new bed for their home.

Road Safety Competition



On Monday 04 March four of our P7 children travelled to the Glenavon Hotel (Cookstown) to represent Waringstown Primary School in the NI Road Safety Charity Quiz finals. This is the first time we entered a team into the competition. In January our four P7 children were top of the heats in the Armagh / Craigavon region. Very well done indeed!

Although we didn't win the grand final, we are so proud of how the children represented the school. True ambassadors for Waringstown Primary School.

A huge thankyou to Mrs Erskine and Mrs Humphreys who prepared the team so well and also to Mr Gault, Mrs Peacocke and Mrs Humphreys for travelling with the team to the finals at the Glenavon Hotel in Cookstown.

Book Fair

The Book Fair was a huge success and thank you for your support of this venture.

Any rewards given to the school from the Scholastic Book Fair is always used to purchase additional reading materials and this year it was the turn of P5 & P7 who were able to purchase 3 additional sets of class novels. This is a wonderful way to refresh our class sets and ensure children have quality books to take home as part of their guided reading programme.

Hockey

The girls' hockey team have started their league matches this term. The team have played two matches already, against Seagoe PS and Edenderry Primary School, Portadown.

The girls played amazingly well in a tough match against a strong Seagoe team. They lost 1-0.

We had a convincing win against Edenderry, which was 6 – 0 so well done indeed!



We are looking forward to finishing our league games and participating in a number of up-and-coming tournaments.

Football

Our Boys' Football team recently travelled over to Drumgor PS for the annual Spring 7-a-side Football Festival.

The boys were placed in a tough group with Kings Park, Maralin and St Francis PS. Our tournament started with two games in quick succession against St Francis and Maralin. The boys performed superbly and recorded 2 - 0 and 1 - 0 wins respectively. With one game remaining against Kings Park the boys knew it would be a tough match. The game ended 0 - 0 with chances for both teams. This meant our boys qualified as group winners and would go on to face the remaining winners of the respective groups - Tandragee, Hardy and Bocombra.

Each game was very close and the boys recorded two 1 - 1 draws against Tandragee and Hardy and a close 1 - 0 defeat to Bocombra. These results mean our boys qualify for the end of year Mullen Cup Invitational in May. Well done boys for all your hard work throughout the season so far!

Upcoming School Closures

May I remind you of the forthcoming long Bank Holiday weekends:

Wednesday 27 March	...	Noon closure to start the Easter Holiday. (See dismissal times below) Children return Thursday 11 April.
Monday 06 & Tuesday 07 May	...	May Bank Holiday closures
Friday 24 May & Monday 27 May	...	May Bank Holiday closures

It is also worth noting the last day of the academic year is Thursday 27 June (Noon closure).

Sports Day

This outdoor event will be held on the MUGA with each Year Group having a designated zone.

Sports Day is scheduled for Thursday 06 June. If the weather is inclement on this day we will move the event to Friday 07 June.



NB ... I remind you that Sports Day is a morning event which usually ends by 12.00 noon.

Northern Ireland Forest Schools



Northern Ireland Forest School Association

The children in Primary 4 are already out and about enjoying Forest School activities within our extensive school grounds. This initiative builds into our Primary 4 curriculum. Keep an eye on the school website to see what the Primary 4 children are getting up to. Thank you to Mr Gault and Mrs Carpenter for their continued work with this valued programme. The Forest School zone has also been fenced to ensure our youngest pupils remain safe and secure whilst enjoying the freedom of the grounds. You may also have noticed that the school perimeter has been planted with laurels as we know in time the perimeter trees will succumb to the hard winds and fall. Thank you to Mr Gault for his excellent work in securing grants to maintain our Forest School area and to enhance our grounds.

P7 Road & Cycling Safety Programme



The Primary 7 children will very soon commence their Road & Cycling Safety Scheme work with Mrs Erskine and Mrs Humphreys in conjunction with the Community PSNI. You will notice an increased number of bicycles in the grounds and bicycle sheds. These bicycles are parked at your own risk!

Children in P4 – 7 may choose to cycle or scoot to school from April onwards. It is important that cycle helmets are worn and that school bags are attached safely on a child's back whilst they ride to and from school.

School Fund

School Fund (for Term Three) is payable through the Eduspot system. School Fund enables the school to function on a day-to-day basis and covers incidental expenses. We have also used some of this year's fund to further resource the Accelerated Reading Library.

School Fund remains a voluntary contribution.

School Dismissal Times

School closes on Wednesday 27 March with the following staggered dismissal times:

Nursery 10.30am

P1 & 2 with older siblings leaving school at 11.40am

P3 & 4 with older siblings leaving school at 11.50am

The remaining P5, 6 & 7 leaving school at 11.55am.



With the whole school leaving within this staggered window please be very punctual!

Draft Holiday List

The draft 2024 – 25 Holiday List is to be found towards the end of this newsletter.

Parking

I remind you that:

- the Windsor Hill pedestrian gate does NOT have a drop off facility for parents to park and walk children into Nursery or the school. Please do not park cars over private avenues and gate ways,
- the entrance of the new Linen Green development in Main Street is a cause for concern. Children need to be vigilant at that development's entrance / exit as they cross the road,
- children should ALWAYS cross the Main Street at the Patrol with the help of Mr McKittrick, our Patrolman.

Thank you!

Thank you once again for your continued support throughout the term.

I trust you are as proud as I am by the contents of this newsletter which showcases our motto in action ...

Working, Playing and Succeeding TOGETHER!

Yours sincerely



C M°Cambley
(Principal)

Child Protection Team

WPS Nursery Unit	Foundation Stage (Primary 1 & 2)	Key Stage One (Primary 3 & 4)	Key Stage Two (Primary 5 - 7)	Principal
Mrs C Emerson (Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection)	Mrs J Brown (Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection)	Mr M Gault (Designated Teacher for Child Protection)	Mrs J Peacocke (Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection)	Mr C M°Cambley (Member of the Child Protection Team)

Child Protection Governors

Mr T M°Kay	Mrs H Wan
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Asthma Register ... Child's name _____ Class teacher: _____
My child has been diagnosed as suffering from asthma. I would like to add their name to the School's Asthma Register.
I will provide a spare inhaler for the school asap.



February's Attendance ... 93.5 %



Useful Diary Dates April – June 2024

- 09 April -** Junior/Senior Choir Rehearsals
- 10 April -** Senior Choir to Portadown Music Festival
- 11 April -** School Re-opens to all pupils
Junior Choir to Portadown Music Festival
- 16 April -** Credit Union Collection
Tim Bailie – Author Visit to School
- 25 April -** Nursery / P1 Placement Notifications
P5 Trip to Lough Neagh Discovery Centre
- 29 April – 03 May** P7 London Residential Field Trip
- 03 May -** P1 Trip to Streamvale Open Farm
- 06 & 07 May -** Bank Holiday and Staff Development Day
- 09 May -** Dandelion Studios – P7 Leavers/Sports Photos
- 14 May -** Credit Union Collection
- 17 May -** P4 Trip to Clandeboye Estate
- 18 May -** Post Primary Placement Notification
- 23 May -** Nursery Trip to Oxford Island
- 24 & 27 May -** Bank Holiday and Staff Development Day
- 06 June -** Sports Day
- 10 June -** P6 Shannaghmore Residential
- 11 June -** Credit Union Collection
- 12 June -** P5 Trip to Stormont
- 13 June -** P7 Trip to Ulster American Folk Park
- 25 June -** P6 Trip to The Ulster Folk Museum
- 27 June -** End of term - school Closes at 12 noon



NB Other Year Group class trips are still be confirmed!



Waringstown Primary School

SCHOOL CLOSURE/HOLIDAYS 2024 / 2025



AUTUMN TERM COMMENCES	Tuesday 27 August and Wednesday 28 August 2024 School finishes at 12:45pm on these two days Staggered departures from 12.30pm.
	Full School Day resumes on Thursday 29 August 2024 at 9:00am (Packed lunches required Thurs 29 Aug & Fri 30 Aug)
PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS	21 - 24 October 2024 (School closes for all pupils at 12:45pm) Staggered departures from 12.30pm.
	Friday 25 October 2024 (School closes for all pupils at 12:45pm for the Half Term) Staggered departures from 12.30pm.
HALF TERM	28 October - 01 November 2024 Inclusive School reopens Monday 04 November 2024
CHRISTMAS	School closes 12 noon on 20 December 2024 for the Christmas Holidays as below. Staggered departures from 11.45am. Monday 23 December to Friday 03 January 2025 Inc
SPRING TERM COMMENCES	Monday 06 January 2025
PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS	03 - 06 February 2025 (School closes for all pupils at 12:45pm) Staggered departures from 12.30pm.
	Friday 07 February 2025 (School closes for all pupils at 12:45pm for the Mid Term) Staggered departures from 12.30pm.
HALF TERM	10 February - 14 February 2025 Inclusive (School re-opens Monday 17 February 2025)
ST PATRICK'S DAY	Monday 17 March 2025
EASTER	Friday 11 April - School closes 12 noon - Two weeks for the Easter Holidays Monday 14 April - Friday 25 April Inclusive Staggered departures from 11.45am.
SUMMER TERM COMMENCES	Monday 28 April 2025
MAY DAY & STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY	Monday 05 May 2025 Tuesday 06 May 2025
SPRING BANK HOLIDAY	Monday 26 May 2025
SCHOOL TERM ENDS	School closes 12 noon on Friday 27 June 2025 Staggered departures from 11.45am.

June Report Consent for Primary One

Please complete this pro-forma and return it to your child's Primary One Teacher.

Child's name: _____ Current P1 Class Teacher: _____

- ✓ I wish my child's report to be sent home **each year** in the sealed bag.
- ✓ I do not wish my child's report to be sent home each year and instead choose to **collect** my child's report from the School Office **annually**.

Parental signature: _____