

School News January 2024

Welcome Back!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 School re-opens Buddy Event Share a toy	5 P3-7 trip to Belfast Giants	6
7	8 P5-7 Living History Workshop	9	10	11	12 Tom Sweeney Musical Delight	13
14	15 BREAK THE RULES WEEK →	16	17 Assembly with Rev Marcus Lecky	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Assembly with Rev Matthew Hagan	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 Assembly with Rev Alan Dickey			

Dates!

A few more dates to think about!

- 15th, 16th & 19th February = SCHOOL CLOSED
- 15th & 18th March = SCHOOL CLOSED
- 27th March = Daffodil Tea Party 9:30am
- 28th March – 5th April = SCHOOL CLOSED
- 6th May – 10th May = SCHOOL CLOSED
- 24th June = 9:30am - P7 Leavers Assembly

Buddy Event – Share a Toy

To help pupils settle after the Christmas break, we would like all pupils to bring a toy that they can share / play with their buddy. We will have a fun afternoon on the first day back, younger and older pupils all together, sharing stories and adventures of their Christmas break.

Please do not send anything expensive to school. Although we will try our best to ensure all items go home in the same condition they came in, accidents can and sometimes do happen.

Belfast Giants

P3, P4, P5, P6 and P7 pupils are attending the upcoming Friendship Series game on **Friday 5th January** at 12PM. The bus will be leaving school 10am. All pupils need a packed lunch, filled with plenty of food for a snack on the way home too! We will eat something before we leave school, then again before we go in, and then eat again when we come out at 1:30pm approx! Hungry children are not happy children!

It is estimated we will be home for 3pm. We will probably not be home in time for the school bus, but we can update you via text message on our way home with a more accurate time.

Tom Sweeney Musical Delight

Back by popular demand! Tom Sweeney will chase away any January blues with a musical sing song all afternoon on Friday 12th January.

Make sure pupils wear their dancing shoes 😊

Break the Rules Week

The pupil council have organised a '**Break the Rules**' week for week beginning 15th January.

Every day there will be a chosen rule the children can buy into if they wish.

Each rule the child wishes to buy, costs them 50p.

They can buy as many or as little of the rules as they wish over the week – it's up to them!

Monday – Double Break – 50p per child

Tuesday – Unhealthy Snack – 50p per child

Wednesday – No Homework – 50p per child

Thursday – Sit Where You Want in Class and at Lunch Time – 50p per child

Friday – Non Uniform or Pyjamas Day – 50p per child

Please note – the specific rules are only valid on their set day!

Money should be sent into school on the Monday, clearly labelled with their name and the rules they wish to break.

Admission to P1 September 2024

Before Christmas we had an open day for prospective parents and pupils to view our school. We operate an open-door policy and would welcome anyone interested in a tour of our wonderful school. If you know of anyone who missed the open day and would be interested in considering SPS for their children, please advise them to contact the school office to make an appointment.

Applications for P1 open on 9th January at noon via www.eani.org.uk and the portal closes 26th January 2024.

We are happy to assist any family who would like help in applying online.

App

Having updated our school website, we are phasing out the usage of our school app.

New material will not be uploaded to it, and it will be discontinued from February 2024.

Secondary School Open Nights

We encourage our families from P5 to start thinking of the next school they wish their child to transfer after primary level.

Please check with your preferred schools, as most open days / nights happen in January. This is an excellent way to get a feel for the school, meet the staff and ask any questions you may have.

Please bear in mind that The Rainey, Magherafelt and The Royal School, Dungannon require pupils to sit a transfer test, and a lot of additional study is necessary. If you are thinking of either of these 2 schools, please make an appointment with Ms Bolton, who can advise you on the next steps.

P7 pupils moving on to secondary school in September 2024 will apply for their school place online via www.eani.org.uk

The online portal will open on 30th January 2024 at noon and closes at noon 22nd February 2024.

Accelerated Reader

Well done to all the boys and girls in P3 – P7 who reached their AR targets before half term. They all deserved their rewards for working so hard.

A new target has now been issued to everyone in P3-P7, and they have until 15th February to reach it. Let's get reading!

P3 – P7 Quizzes can be done using this web address:

<https://global-zone61.renaissance-go.com/welcomeportal/2252951>



Did you know?

You can use 'AR Bookfinder' to search for books which are on AR. Just search for AR Bookfinder in your search bar and then search for your book.

This is a handy tool to use if you can't find your book on AR.

Find it here, copy the book's unique quiz code and enter it into AR.

Battery Recycling

Please remember we recycle used batteries in school. Please send them in with your child.

Award Winners for December

Principal's Awards:

Emily Houston, Sadie Houston, Eva Morrow

Merit Certificates:

Isobel Abernethy, Zara Abernethy, Thomas Abernethy, Evie Purvis

Girl of the week:

Zeta-Marie Newell, Brooke Shannon, Karina Shylovych

Boy of the week:

Zakk Orr, Archie McPartland, Tom Watters

Awards

100% Attendance Awards for Term 1:

George Mullan, Evie Purvis, Elizabeth Richardson, Sadie Houston, Jessie Magill, Ben Mullan, Brooke Shannon, Maeve Kelly, Rhys Shannon

Cash for Clobber

Now Christmas is over, are you having a clear out?

Our purple bin located at the front door helps to top up our school fund also and has proved to be very successful. Please help by bringing in the bin bags filled with recyclable products – clothes, shoes, handbags, curtains.

Last month we received £56! Every donation helps!



Attendance

Please find attached an attendance percentage for Term 1 for your child(ren). Please note the Education Welfare Officer (EWO) closely monitors the attendance of all pupils on a regular basis. Any pupils who fall below 85% will be contacted by the EWO automatically to discuss attendance concerns. **Please note, lateness is recorded on the school system and will effect the percentage attendance.**

100% attendance	0 days missed	Excellent
95% attendance	9 days of absence 1 week + 4 days of learning missed	Satisfactory
90% attendance	19 days of absence 3 weeks + 4 days of learning missed	Poor
85% attendance	28 days of absence 5 weeks + 3 days of learning missed	Very Poor
80% attendance	38 days of absence 7 weeks + 3 days of learning missed	Unacceptable
75% attendance	46 days of absence 9 weeks + 1 day of learning missed	Unacceptable

After School Clubs:

Day	Club	Dates	Who for?	Time	Price
Monday	Multi Skills	week 1: 15/01/24 week 2: 22/01/24 week 3: 29/01/24 week 4: 05/02/24 week 5: 12/02/24 week 6: 26/02/24 week 7: 04/03/24 week 8: 11/03/24	P1/2 P3-7	1:45 – 2:45pm 2:45 – 3:45pm	£3 per child per week
Tuesday	Drama with Jim McKeown	week 1: 16/01/24 week 2: 23/01/24 week 3: 30/01/24 week 4: 06/02/24 week 5: 13/02/24 week 6: 27/02/24 week 7: 05/03/24 week 8: 12/03/24	P1/2 P3-7	1:45 – 2:45pm 2:45 – 3:45pm	£3 per child per week
Wednesday	Fun Club with Miss Black	week 1: 17/01/24 week 2: 24/01/24 week 3: 31/01/24 week 4: 07/02/24 week 5: 14/02/24 week 6: 28/02/24 week 7: 06/03/24 week 8: 13/03/24	P1/2	1:45 – 2:45pm	Free
Wednesday	Cookery Club with Miss Finn	week 1: 17/01/24 week 2: 24/01/24 week 3: 31/01/24 week 4: 07/02/24 week 5: 14/02/24 week 6: 28/02/24 week 7: 06/03/24 week 8: 13/03/24	P3-4 P5 – P7 P3-4 P5 – P7 P3-4 P5 – P7 P3-4 P5 – P7	2:45pm – 3:45pm ALTERNATE WEEKS FOR PUPILS IN P3/4 OR P5-7	Free
Thursday	Street Dance and Hip Hop with Suzy	week 1: 18/01/24 week 2: 25/01/24 week 3: 01/02/24 week 4: 08/02/24 week 5: 22/02/24 week 6: 29/02/24 week 7: 07/03/24 week 8: 14/03/24	P1-3 P4-7	1:45 – 2:45pm 2:45pm – 3:45pm	£3 per child per week