

January (1) 2026

Dear parents,

Welcome Back and Happy New Year! We hope you had a wonderful holiday season filled with joy and relaxation. As we begin a new term, we're excited to welcome our pupils back and look forward to a year full of learning, growth, and memorable experiences. Thank you for your continued support as we work together to make this term a positive and successful one for every child.

ANNUAL PANTOMIME

ALL pupils should arrive at school on **Friday 9 January 2026** at **11am**.

There will be no school dinners on **Friday 9 January** as the pupils require an early lunch to arrive at the Grand Opera House on time. All pupils should **bring a packed lunch** on this date.

Date: Friday 9 January 2026
Time: 12.30pm – 4.15pm
School start time: 11.00am
Collection: Pupils are to be picked up from school on their return.

Refreshments: Please provide each pupil with a strong plastic bag containing **one treat** e.g., a chocolate bar or packet of crisps or sweets etc. and one drink. No cans or glass bottles are permitted on the trip. We have been informed by the Opera House that no confectionary containing nuts can be taken into the auditorium.

PTA

The next meeting of the PTA will be held in the school on **Monday 12 January** from 7pm – 8pm.

P1 2026 APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications for primary one places for the school year from September 2026 to June 2027 have opened on **EA CONNECT** and will close on Wednesday 21 January at 12 noon.

Admissions Helpdesk – available from Monday to Friday 8.30am – 4.30pm by telephone on **02890470177** or by email, primaryadmissions@eani.org.uk

SHINING LIGHTS P3-P7

Our friends at Shining Lights will be visiting the school on Tuesday afternoons to give the pupils in P3-P7 football coaching sessions. These sessions will be weekly, running from Tuesday 13 January until Tuesday 3 February. Pupils in P3-P7 should wear **PE UNIFORM** on these dates.

SILVER SMASH

Remember to send your silver change every Monday.

A copy of this newsletter is available on the school website

<https://www.parkgate-primary.co.uk/>

P6/P7 TRANSFER TO POST PRIMARY INFORMATION

Admission criteria for post primary schools are currently available on the EA website. Due to adverse weather some post primaries have had to postpone and reschedule open evenings.

Please check individual school websites for further information.

Ballyclare Secondary School have informed us of their rescheduled date. A flyer is attached.

ADVICE ON THE POST-PRIMARY TRANSFER PROCESS FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN IN P6

As has been the practice over the last number of years the Department of Education has produced a document providing advice to parents of children in P6 on the post-primary transfer process. The purpose of this document is to ensure that parents receive timely information about the range of issues they need to consider when making important decisions about the next stage in their child's education.

The document is available to download from the Department's website at the following link.

[Advice for P6 Parents - January 2026.pdf](#)

STORY & RHYME – 2026 DATES

Friday 16 January

Friday 23 January

Friday 30 January

COMMUNITY NOTICES

LIBRARY VAN - The next visit of the library van will be on *Wednesday 14 January*.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

09.01.26	Pantomime, Grand Opera House – all pupils require a packed lunch – school starts at 11am – pupils to be collected at 4.15pm.
12.01.26	PTA meeting at 7pm
13.01.26	Shining Lights P3-P7
14.01.26	Library van
16.01.26	Rhyme Time
21.01.26	P1 2026 Admissions Portal closes at noon
27.01.26	Post Primary Admission Portal opens at noon
06.02.26	School closes at 2pm for all pupils – mid-term break School closed 10.02.26-13.02.26
09.02.26	School Development Day 3 – no pupils should attend
24.02.26	Parent Consultations
26.02.26	Parent Consultations
27.02.26	Post Primary Portal closes at noon
23.03.26	P1 2026 Admissions Notification of Outcome
09.05.26	Post Primary Admissions Notification of Outcome

Mrs V Ferguson
(Principal)

A copy of this newsletter is available on the school website

<https://www.parkgate-primary.co.uk/>