

March (2) 2026

Dear parent,

As the brighter – and hopefully drier – days arrive, we are beginning to plan some exciting educational trips for our pupils. The first of these outings will involve our Foundation Stage and Key Stage One classes, and full details can be found below.

We would also like to wish all our pupils participating in the Ballyclare Music Festival the very best of luck. They have been practising with great enthusiasm, and we know they will make us proud and represent our small school with confidence and joy.

SPRING TRIP

Date: Thursday 26 March
Classes: **P1-P4**
Time: 9.30 – 1.45
Cost: **£7.50 per child**
Payment details are below – Reference **SPRINGTRIP**
Payment is due by **Friday 20 March**
Bus: South Antrim Rural Community Transport (funded by School Fund)

Our upcoming educational trip will take pupils to GP Kids Playground, the neighbouring community allotment, and the People's Park in Ballymena. **Children will need outdoor clothing, wellington boots and a packed lunch for the day.**

At GP Kids Playground, our Foundation Stage pupils will focus on developing gross motor skills, imaginative play and communication, while our Key Stage One pupils will build on physical development, problem-solving and teamwork.

During our time at the community allotment, we will explore all things spring as part of our World Around Us topic, meet a local grower, and take part in hands-on gardening activities. Finally, at the People's Park, all pupils will have the opportunity to engage with nature, take part in an outdoor creative arts activity, and—specifically for Key Stage One—carry out some simple fieldwork. This promises to be a rich and enjoyable learning experience for all involved.

MARCH MADNESS

World Book Day launched our *March Madness* theme in school, and since then the whole school has been taking part in a range of Alice in Wonderland-inspired activities. These will culminate in a Mad Hatter's Tea Party for all pupils on **Friday 27 March**. Our Key Stage Two pupils will be putting their cookery skills to good use as they prepare the food for the event, and everyone will come together to enjoy fun and games as we celebrate the end of term. This special event also gives us the chance to recognise the hard work, creativity, and teamwork that our pupils and staff have shown throughout the term, making our school shine.

A copy of this newsletter is available on the school website. <https://www.parkgate-primary.co.uk/>

BANK TRANSFER

Account: Parkgate Primary School
A/c No. 77461057
Sort Code: 98-09-40
Reference: As provided

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 2026/27

The school holiday list has been attached with this email and is also available on the school's website.

PTA NEWS

Parkgate Primary School Family Fun Ceilidh

Parkgate Primary School PTA is hosting a **Family Fun Ceilidh** on **Saturday 21 March 2026** at **Jim Baker Stadium, Ballysavage Road, Templepatrick (BT39 0DX)** from **7pm until late**.

The evening promises music, dancing, and fun for all ages, with the Alastair Scott Ceilidh Band leading the dances and showing everyone the steps — no experience required.

There will also be a raffle, bar for adults, and tuck shop for children, making it a great night out for the whole family.

Tickets: £10 per adult and £5 per child.

Available from **Parkgate Spar** or by contacting **Rachel (0759 565 8847)** or **Emma (0787 159 4013)**.

Bring your dancing shoes and join the fun!

BALLYCLARE MUSIC FESTIVAL

Date: 13 March 2026

Classes: P1-P7

Supported by Mrs Brown and Mrs Moore the pupils have been preparing for their entry in Ballyclare Music Festival. The pupils are entered in the Primary School Hymn Singing section and will compete on Friday 13 March. Pupils should wear full school uniform for this occasion.

P1-P3 Smart black trousers/skirt/pinafore
 White polo shirt
 White socks (girls) Black socks (boys)
 Red school sweatshirt/cardigan

P4-P7 Smart black trousers/skirt/pinafore
 White long-sleeved shirt
 School Tie
 White socks (girls) Black socks (boys)
 Red school sweatshirt

UPCOMING SCHOOL CLOSURES

Monday 16 March –Term 2 TransformEd development day.

Tuesday 17 March - School Development Day 4

Tuesday 31 March – End of Term. School closes at 12pm for all pupils and staff.

STORY & RHYME – 2026 DATES

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Friday 20 March
Friday 17 April

COMMUNITY NOTICES

LIBRARY VAN – The next visit of the library van is **Wednesday 18 March**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

13.03.26 Ballyclare Music Festival
16.03.26 TransformED Development Day **closure**
17.03.26 School Development Day 4 **closure**
23.03.26 P6&P7 Ballyclare High School Digital Schoolhouse
23.03.26 P1 2026 Admissions Notification of Outcome
26.03.26 P1-P4 Spring Trip
27.03.26 Mad Hatters Tea party
31.03.26 End of Term – School closes at 12pm for all pupils and staff
09.05.26 Post Primary Admissions Notification of Outcome

Mrs V Ferguson
(Principal)

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