

November (3) 2025

Dear parent,

As November draws to a close and December approaches, we have an exciting few weeks ahead!

We are especially looking forward to welcoming both new and existing families to our Open Afternoon next Friday. This event is a wonderful opportunity for families to experience the vibrant life of our school. Staff, pupils, and parents have worked together to showcase everything that makes our school such a special place. We hope that the families who visit will choose to become part of our community in September.

There are lots of events coming up, so please take a moment to read through all the details in this newsletter. Thank you for your continued support.

OPEN AFTERNOON

The open afternoon is planned for **Friday 28 November**. Pupils in **P1-P3** should be collected at **2.15pm** on this date.

All pupils should wear full uniform; P4-P7 - shirt and tie, smart trousers, skirt or pinafore and school sweatshirt, P1-P3 smart trousers or skirt/pinafore, polo shirt and school sweatshirt as all pupils will be performing in the choir prior to the principal's address.

ALL PUPILS SHOULD BRING A PACKED LUNCH ON FRIDAY 28 NOVEMBER TO ALLOW FOR PREPARATIONS OF THE HALL FOR THE OPEN AFTERNOON.

A warm invitation has been extended to new families and is also extended to sibling brothers and sisters who are due to join us in September.

CHRISTMAS NEWS

The Parkgate and District Community Association has invited the **P1-P7** school choir to participate in the Christmas Lights Switch On. This is to be held on the evening of **Friday 28 November**.

Pupils should meet school staff at the tree at 6.50pm. Choir members should wear festive headwear and are not required to wear uniform.

The PTA has been working hard to arrange a Festive Tractor Run to take place after our choir perform. Proceeds from the Tractor Run will provide funds for the school but also help to support Cool FM's Cash for Kids charity. All children attending will have the opportunity to vote for their favourite tractor with the winner being announced later in the church hall. Entrants have the opportunity to win a range of prizes thanks to the kind donations of local families and businesses.

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS TREE

P1 pupils and any pupils who are new to us this year are invited to participate in the school's annual tree decorating tradition of providing **a named** decoration for the tree. P1-P7 pupils enjoy placing their own decorations on the tree and we are fortunate to have such a varied and attractive array of festive items. Please send P1/new pupil decorations by **Thursday 27 November**.

A copy of this newsletter is available on the school website

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

CHRISTMAS PARTY LUNCH

A Christmas Buffet Lunch will be served on **Thursday 4 December**. To add to the festive atmosphere, pupils can wear a Christmas jumper or t-shirt, a Christmas hat/headwear or a Christmas hair accessory on this date.

SANTA STROLL

The nationwide Santa Stroll is on **Friday 5 December**; pupils should wear festive headwear as they stroll through the village.

CHRISTMAS PARTY P1-P7

Continuing the party atmosphere the pupils will have their Christmas party games on the **afternoon of Wednesday 17 December**.

Time: 1.00pm - **2.30pm** **ALL PUPILS SHOULD BE COLLECTED AT THIS TIME**
Pupils: P1-P7
Venue: School Hall
Charge: Free
Supervision: Staff

Parents are asked to provide **two** lucky dip items. These can be sent into school from **Monday 1 December** onwards. The value of the gifts should be no more than £1.

Pupils may bring up to £2 spending money to try their luck in the 'Christmas Lucky Dip'.

This is a non-uniform event. Pupils may choose to wear a Christmas jumper/t-shirt or party clothes appropriate for party games. No fancy dress costumes are permitted.

CAN YOU HELP? We're getting ready for our Christmas concert and need a hand putting up the background banner in the school hall. If you're available to help, please get in touch with the school office for more details. Your support would make a big difference—thank you!

PTA NEWS

Macmillan Cancer Support have informed us that our final total raised on the coffee afternoon was £404. An amazing amount for our small school community!

SCHOOL FUND

Thank you for your continued support of our School Fund. Your generosity helps us provide the best possible experiences and resources for our pupils. If you would like to donate, further details are included in the attached letter. Apologies, I forgot to attach the letter with the last note. We truly appreciate every contribution, big or small, as it makes a real difference to our school community.

SCHOOL CLOSURE REMINDER

School will be closed to all pupils on **Friday 21 November** for School Development Day 2

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PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION

All information and necessary forms have been sent home with pupils today. Nomination forms should be returned by **Friday 21 November**.

HOMEWORK CLUB

Homework club will revert to **Monday and Tuesday** afternoons from **Monday 1 December** onwards. A registration link is below, please complete the form and send payment to the school office by **Friday 28 November**.

<https://forms.gle/HqVWQrDc4e7XY3uu5>

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHER

Official school photographs will be taken by CS Moments on Thursday 11 December.

Babies and toddlers will be made welcome on the first-floor lobby from **8.30am** for group portraits. Please complete the form linked below to book an allocated time slot. Forms should be completed by **Friday 28 November**. Times will be allocated from 8.30am onwards at 5-minute intervals. *You will be informed of your time slot week commencing 1 December.*

<https://forms.gle/7gCWsLEgkViv4Gua9>

Each pupil should wear their school sweatshirt and polo shirt/shirt and tie and should wear their skirt/pinafore or trousers and smart shoes for their photograph. Girls wearing a skirt/pinafore should wear either white knee length socks or black tights.

SILVER SMASH

Remember to send you silver change every Monday.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Library Van – Due to staff shortages, the next library van visit is **Wednesday 3 December**.

Parentline NI – Free workshops for parents and carers. See attached flyer

Story & Rhyme – 2025 Dates

Friday 21 November – NO STORY & RHYME – SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAY

Friday 28 November – NO STORY & RHYME – OPEN AFTERNOON

Friday 5 December

Friday 12 December

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

21.11.25	School Development Day 2
28.11.25	P1 2026 Open Afternoon
28.11.25	Parkgate Community Lights Switch on and Tractor Run
01.12.25	Lucky dip items sent to school
03.12.25	Library Van visit
04.12.25	Christmas Party Lunch
05.12.25	Santa Stroll
09.12.25	Christmas Concert (6.30pm)
11.12.25	Whole School Photographs

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17.12.25 P1-P7 Christmas Party – all pupils collected at 2.30pm
19.12.25 End of Term – school closes at 12pm

Mrs V Ferguson
(Principal)

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