

January (2) 2024

Dear parent,

It was wonderful to see so many happy faces when the pupils returned from their annual trip to the Grand Opera House pantomime. All reports were that this was one of the best shows yet, so we look forward to Peter Pan next year.

FULL DAY OF STRIKE ACTION BY ALL EDUCATION WORKERS ON 18 JANUARY 2024

You will be aware of the forthcoming strike action by the five teaching unions in Northern Ireland.

A risk assessment has been conducted which considers the impact that the action will have on the health and safety of pupils, staff and visitors and to determine whether it is possible to operate the school safely during the strike.

As the Principal, I [and the Board of Governors] have determined the school will be closed on this date.

Clearly this is a difficult situation, which will cause some disruption. I would ask you, however, to be understanding. This is a *very* unusual circumstance and is the direct result of the failure to take into account the very real concerns expressed by teachers and school leaders. Taking strike action is not something that anyone would undertake lightly. Those on strike will have thought long and hard about their decision and will also lose pay for the period that they are on strike.

The responsibility to resolve this dispute lies squarely with the Department of Education and our local government. To make your feelings known about the damage that is being done to our schools, the teaching profession and, of course, our children, you can write directly to the following people, in addition to your own local political representatives:

Sara Long, CEO: Education Authority, 40 Academy Street, Belfast, BT1
sara.long@eani.org.uk

mariathomasson@comhairle.org

Nuala O'Neill, Director: Governing Bodies Association, Fountain Centre, Belfast, BT1 6ET
nuala@gbani.org

Mark Bailie, Director of Workforce: DENI, Rathgael House, Balloo Road, Bangor, Co Down, BT19
mark.bailey@education-ni.gov.uk

Mark Browne, Permanent Secretary: DENI, Rathgael House, Balloo Road, Bangor, Co Down, BT19
mark.browne@education-ni.gov.uk

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

ADMISSIONS TO PRIMARY 1

Online applications for a Pre-School or Primary 1 place for September 2024 are now open via EA Connect.

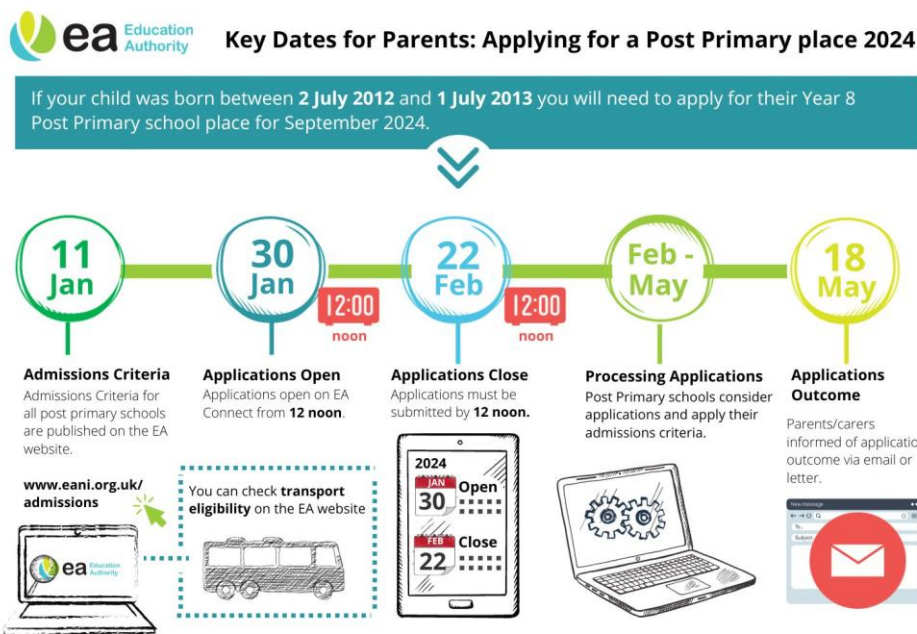
Applications close at 12 noon on Friday 26 January 2024, and it is important to note that applications are not considered on a first come, first served basis.

A copy of this newsletter is available on the school website.

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

Visit <https://connect.eani.org.uk/parent/> to apply and see EA's website for more information on the admissions process: www.eani.org.uk/admissions

POST PRIMARY ADMISSIONS KEY DATES



P6/P7 POST PRIMARY OPEN DAYS/EVENINGS

Admission criteria for post primary schools will be available from **Thursday 11 January**. Some open afternoon/evening dates are listed below.

Antrim Grammar School 13 January 2024

Slemish College 24/25 January 2024

P6/P7 YOUNG ENTERPRISE – TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS INDUSTRY MASTERCLASS

Date: Wednesday 24 January 2024
Time: 9.30am – 2.30pm
Venue: Mossley Mill
Transport: Provided by Young Enterprise
Break: Provided by Young Enterprise

Following on from our very enjoyable and successful trip to the Business Masterclass, P6/P7 pupils have been invited to attend the Transport and Logistics Masterclass. Pupils should wear their formal school uniform on this date and **bring a packed lunch**. Pupils should be collected at **3.00pm** as normal.

P1 HEALTH APPRAISALS

P1 health appraisals will take place on Thursday 29 February and Friday 1 March. Consent letters will be distributed to parents of P1 pupils when they are delivered to school. The letter

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will include an appointment time and you will have the opportunity to attend the appointment with your child/children.

ASSESSMENT CLOSURE

In order to enable staff to complete assessment recording procedures, school will close at 2pm **for all pupils** on **Wednesday 31 January**.

PTA NEWS

A meeting of the PTA will be held in school on **Monday 15 January at 7pm**. All are welcome to attend.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

15.01.24	PTA meeting 7pm
16.01.24	Playsport Session 2
18.01.24	STRIKE ACTION – SCHOOL CLOSED
23.01.24	Playsport Session 3
24.01.24	P6/P7 Transport and Logistics Masterclass
26.01.24	P1 Admission Portal closes.
29.01.24	Post Primary Admission Portal opens.
30.01.24	Playsport Session 4
31.01.24	Assessment Closure – <u>All pupils collected at 2pm</u>
06.02.24	Final Playsport session
07.02.23	Parent Consultations
08.02.24	Parent Consultations
09.02.24	School closes at 2pm for all pupils – mid-term break <i>School closed 12.02.24 – 16.02.24.</i>
22.02.24	Post Primary Admission Portal closes.
29.02.24	P1 Health Appraisals
01.03.24	P1 Health Appraisals

Mrs V Ferguson
(PRINCIPAL)

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