

March (3) 2026

Dear parent,

A wonderful weekend of dry, sunny weather lies ahead—and the bright mood certainly started early last Friday as our pupils took part in the Ballyclare Music Festival. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them. Their hard work and talent shone through as they achieved a fantastic joint second place alongside Thompson Primary School. Congratulations to all involved!

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.**

Please complete and return the permission slip sent home with your child/ren today by Tuesday 24 March.

MARCH MADNESS – MAD HATTER'S TEA PARTY

Date: Friday 27 March
Classes: P1-P7
Time: 10.30-12.30

To mirror the suits of cards in *Alice in Wonderland*, pupils may choose to wear **either black or red clothing**, or their **school uniform**, on this date.

KS2 pupils have already created some wonderful Mad Hatter's hats in class and **do not require any additional costume items.**

Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 pupils may choose to wear **Easter-themed headwear** for the party. As we will be playing games in the playground, all pupils should wear trainers on this date.

Lunch: **NO SCHOOL DINNERS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THIS DATE.** A tea party consisting of cocktail sausages, sausage rolls, sandwiches, top hats, fairy cakes and a fruit platter with dips will be provided for the pupils.

If you do not wish your child to partake of the tea party fare, **please send a packed lunch on Friday 27 March.**

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

To assist with catering arrangements, please complete the permission slip sent home with your child by Tuesday 24 March.

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!

UPCOMING SCHOOL CLOSURES

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

STORY & RHYME – 2026 DATES

Friday 20 March

Friday 17 April

COMMUNITY NOTICES

LIBRARY VAN – The next visit of the library van will be confirmed in next week's newsletter.

EA Connect – Admission to Preschool and Primary Guidance for parents – see attached

EA Enhanced Support Model – Pre Consultation Letter to parents and carers – see attached

Belfast Royal Academy – SEAG information evening – see attached

Multi Activity Easter Camp, Kids Coder Club, Code Clock – see attached

NHSCT – Invitation to Stronger Together – see attached

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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)

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