

February (1) 2026

Dear parent,

As we approach the mid-term break, I want to extend my warmest wishes to all our families. This has been a busy and productive half-term, and our pupils have worked incredibly hard. We are very proud of their efforts, energy, and enthusiasm.

I hope the coming days offer everyone a chance to slow down, relax, and enjoy some well-deserved rest. Whether you're spending time with family, getting outdoors, or simply taking a breather, I wish you all a restful and enjoyable break.

We look forward to welcoming the children back refreshed and ready for the term ahead.

THAI ARTS NI

Thai Arts NI will be visiting the school on **Friday 6 February**. They will lead workshops with P1-P4 and P5-P7. Activities will include Thai fan painting, sand mandalas, Thai costumes and plenty of cultural talk and discussion. We are all very much looking forward to this experience.

MID TERM CLOSURE

The school will close for all pupils and staff on **Friday 6 February at 2pm** and will reopen on **Monday 16 February**.

PARENT CONSULTATIONS

Parent consultations for pupils in P1- P6 will be held on **Tuesday 24 February** and **Thursday 26 February**. Appointments have been sent home this week and confirmation of your attendance should be returned to school no later than **Friday 6 February**.

PTA NEWS

The PTA in conjunction with the NI Science Festival have organised a Parkgate Primary School Colour Run.

Date: Tuesday 17 February

Venue: Six Milewater Park, Ballyclare

Time: 1pm – 2.30pm

Transport: Bus funded by the PTA

Cost: **£2 per child (donation to NI Children's Hospice)**

Pupils should wear a white t-shirt and black shorts/joggers. They should also bring a jumper/coat and change of joggers to put on at the end of the race. Pupils may choose to wear sunglasses to avoid eye contact with the coloured powder.

This event has been organised as a fundraiser for NI Children's Hospice. All pupils should pay £2 cash to the school office by Friday 6 February.

Pupils not attending the colour run should be collected at 12.30pm on this date.

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

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

NI SCIENCE FESTIVAL

In addition to the colour run pupils in P5-P7 will be participating in ***The United Way*** workshop delivered by the ***Manchester United Foundation*** on **Monday 16 February**. This is a free online event.

POST PRIMARY TRANSFER

The application portal for Post Primary transfer closes at 12 noon on **Thursday 19 February**.

P6 SEAG INFORMATION AFTERNOON

A SEAG information session for P6 parents will be held on **Wednesday 4 March at 3.10pm**.

BALLYCLARE MUSIC FESTIVAL

We are delighted to let you know that our whole school choir has been entered into the choral section of the Ballyclare Music Festival. Under the guidance of Mrs Brown and Mrs Moore, the pupils are working hard in preparation for their performance on **Friday 13 March**.

This event is a wonderful opportunity for our children to represent the school, showcase their talent, and enjoy the experience of performing together in a competitive setting.

STORY & RHYME – 2026 DATES

Friday 20 February

Friday 27 February

Friday 6 March

Friday 13 March

Friday 20 March

COMMUNITY NOTICES

LIBRARY VAN – The next visit of the library van is **Wednesday 25 February**

DE PUBLIC CONSULTATION – ATTENDANCE MATTERS

The Department of Education is consulting on a new Pupil Attendance Strategy and is keen to get as widespread a response as possible

The draft “Attendance Matters” strategy is available at:

- [Draft “Attendance Matters” strategy](#)

The consultation questions can be accessed at the links below:

- [Consultation questions for adults](#)
- [Consultation questions for young people](#)

BRA RUGBY CAMPS

BRA Rugby Camps are scheduled for the forthcoming half-term holiday as well as Easter and summer 2026, for primary school pupils age 9+.

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PRIMARY SCHOOL CAMPS

Half-term: 10th Feb - 12th Feb, 9am - 11am

Easter: 31st March - 2nd April, 9am - 11am

Summer: 6th - 10th July, 9am - 11am

Please use this sign-up link or QR code to access further information and to reserve your place:

<https://belfastroyalacademy.sumupstore.com/>



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

06.02.26	School closes at 2pm for all pupils – mid-term break School closed 10.02.26-13.02.26
06.02.26	Payment for Colour Run due - £2 per child
06.02.26	Thai Arts NI visit
09.02.26	School Development Day 3 – no pupils should attend
16.02.26	NI Festival – The United Way.
17.02.26	Women's Aid – Healthy relationships P6/P7
17.02.26	Colour Run in aid of NI Children's Hospice
19.02.26	Post Primary Portal closes at noon
24.02.26	Parent Consultations
25.02.26	Library Van
26.02.26	Parent Consultations
04.03.26	P6 Parent SEAG Information Session
23.03.26	P1 2026 Admissions Notification of Outcome
09.05.26	Post Primary Admissions Notification of Outcome

Mrs V Ferguson
(Principal)

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