

January (2) 2026

Dear parent,

We have an exciting time ahead, filled with activities and events for our school community—please read on to find out what's coming up!"

SCHOOL BOOK FAIR – THURSDAY 22 JANUARY

The book fair will be held in school on **Thursday 22 January**. There are over 200 books for you and your child to choose from. Your participation will provide enjoyable reading resources for the family and free books and teaching resources for our classrooms/libraries.

Parents will once again be able to visit the fair with their child/ren and if you wish to pre browse the available books you can do so at

<https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/travelling-books/the-books>

PAYMENT

No cash payments will be accepted by the school; parents are asked to purchase **vouchers** in advance of the fair, print the voucher and bring to the fair with you. Vouchers are available to order at any time in advance of the fair using the link below. A **QR code** will also be available at the fair for those parents who wish to make an online payment.

<https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/travelling-books/parents>

If you are not able to attend with your child, please pre browse the available books, purchase vouchers to the value of your chosen books, write a list of the chosen books and staff will then assist pupils to select their books on Thursday 22 and Friday 23 January.

To assist with the smooth running of the event please note the time slots below for your child/ren. Older siblings will have permission to visit the fair during the time slot of younger siblings.

1.45pm – 2.15pm	P1 – P3
2.45pm – 3.15pm	P4 – P7

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

ADMISSIONS TO PRIMARY 1

Online applications for a Pre-School or Primary 1 place for September 2026 are now open via EA Connect.

Applications close at 12 noon on Wednesday 21 January 2026, 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

PRIMARY ADMISSIONS KEY DATES

21 January 2026 12noon	EA Connect closes for online applications for Primary 1.
26 January 2026 by 4pm	Deadline for submitting verification/supporting documents via EA Connect. Final date for late paper applications/ change of preference in exceptional circumstances.
23 March 2026	Parents/carers will receive application outcomes via email (where one is held) or by letter.

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

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 colour 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**. Should you wish to do any further fundraising a sponsorship form has been sent home with pupils today.

Please complete the online permission form using the link below by **Friday 23 January**.

<https://forms.gle/BJrFi5N9Qhnr6xFc6>

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS FEBRUARY - MARCH

Playsport will commence on Wednesday 18 February if numbers are viable. Please complete the google form below to enrol your child/children into these sessions by Friday 23 January.

Multisport organised by Playsport
6 Sessions: Wednesday 18 Feb – 25 March 2026
Cost: £27 – Payment via sign up link in advance of first session.
Sign up link: <https://forms.gle/5HrwQ4RwPoJHtutP6>

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STAFF NEWS

We will be sad to say goodbye to Mrs Fenton as she leaves to have her baby on Friday 23 January. Miss Sargent will be replacing Mrs Fenton until the end of the school year and will meet with staff and pupils on Friday 16 January. I am sure she will receive a warm welcome from all in our school community.

STORY & RHYME – 2026 DATES

Friday 16 January

Friday 23 January

Friday 30 January

COMMUNITY NOTICES

LIBRARY VAN – The library van was unable to visit this week due to a service delay.

MULTISPORTS ACADEMY NI – half term childcare – see attached info.

PARENTLINE NI - Bounce Back Parent Workshop, a practical 3-week online programme supporting parents to build calmer, more connected family relationships. See attached flyer.

BALLYCLARE HIGH SCHOOL – SEAG results parent evening. See attached letter

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

16.01.26	Rhyme Time
21.01.26	P1 2026 Admissions Portal closes at noon
23.01.26	Permission slip for colour run due
23.01.26	Registration closing date for Playsport Multisport
27.01.26	Post Primary Admission Portal opens at noon
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
09.02.26	School Development Day 3 – no pupils should attend
17.02.26	Colour Run in aid of NI Children's Hospice
24.02.26	Parent Consultations
26.02.26	Parent Consultations
27.02.26	Post Primary Portal closes at noon
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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