

April (1) 2026

Dear parent,

A very warm welcome back to everyone after the Easter break. I hope you all enjoyed a restful time with family and friends and that our pupils are refreshed and ready for a busy and exciting Term 3.

Unfortunately, we have had a slightly wobbly start due to staff illness, which has had an impact on classroom delivery. We would once again kindly ask our school community to support us in reducing the spread of illness by keeping children at home when they are unwell.

Ever the optimists here in Northern Ireland, we are hopeful that the coming weeks will bring more April sunshine than April showers. With this in mind, please take some time to read the summer health advice outlined below.

AFTERSCHOOL CLUB - PLAYSPORT FOOTBALL

Regretfully there will be no afterschool provision for the remainder of the year. James from Playsport was very generous to run the mixed sports club at a loss to his business last term. Our low numbers mean that he is unable to do so again.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nerve Centre – Digital Art and Fabrication

Date: Tuesday 28 April 2026

Classes: P1-P7

Time: 9am – 3pm

Cost: Free

Many thanks to Mrs McDermott for arranging this experience for our pupils.

Carrickfergus Castle

Date: Friday 1 May 2026

Classes: P1-P7

Time: 9am – 2pm

Cost: **£8.00 per pupil – payment to be made by bank transfer, ref [Surname] Castle, using the details below by Friday 1 May.**

Please complete the permission slip linked below by **Friday 24 April.**

<https://forms.gle/Uqz8WB8bdfBdPQA6>

A copy of this newsletter is available on the school website. <https://www.parkgate-primary.co.uk/>

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Account: Parkgate Primary School

A/c No. 77461057

Sort Code: 98-09-40

Reference: As provided

Bee Safe Event - Antrim

Date: Thursday 7 May 2026

Classes: P6-P7

Time: 12.30pm – 2.30pm

Cost: Free

Please complete the permission slip for P6/P7 pupils by **Friday 24 April**.

<https://forms.gle/wttVThM9TfhmS31j9>

All Teeth Matter – Dental Health Talk

Date: Friday 8 May 2026

Classes: P3-P7

We are also in the early stages of planning an exciting whole school trip to Portrush and a trip to the Belfast Activity Centre for P5-P7 pupils – more information to follow.

SUMMER HEALTH

I would ask all parents to adhere to the following precautions:

If high temperatures are forecast pupils should be protected with sunscreen on their face, arms and, if uncovered, leg areas before arrival at school. Additional sunscreen may be brought to school and applied by your child/children at lunchtime.

A named sun cap should also be kept in school. If a pupil does not have a cap they will not be permitted to play outside at lunchtime. A limited number of caps are available to purchase from school priced at £6.00.

Sun caps should be brought to school no later than **Friday 1 May**.

SUMMER UNIFORM – SUMMARY

Girls' Uniform

Red gingham summer dress – images are included of **permitted** dress style.

Red sweatshirt cardigan

P7 Leavers Hoodie

White modesty shorts (Available from Asda and Marks and Spencer)

White knee length socks or ankle socks

Girls may continue to wear their black skirts/pinafores as usual if preferred.

Girls may choose to wear **smart** black shorts (**black cycling shorts are not permitted**)

For Key Stage 2 pupils a short-sleeved shirt and tie should be worn with smart shorts.

Predominantly white or black trainers

Black smart shoes

Summer sandals are **NOT** school uniform and should not be worn to school.

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Asda



Marks and Spencer

Boys' Uniform

Black, knee length shorts (**cargo shorts are NOT permitted**)

For Key Stage 2 pupils a short-sleeved shirt and tie should be worn with smart shorts.

Boys – black ankle socks

School sweatshirt

P7 Leavers Hoodie

School polo shirt (P1-P4 only)

Predominantly white or black trainers

Black smart shoes

Summer PE Uniform

Boys/Girls - Loose black shorts (**no cycling shorts are permitted; no branded clothing is permitted**)

Polo shirt

Predominantly white or black trainers

STORY & RHYME – 2026 DATES

Friday 17 April – Cancelled due to staff illness

Friday 24 April

Friday 8 May

COMMUNITY NOTICES

LIBRARY VAN – The next visit of the library van will be Wednesday 6 May.

BALLYCLARE COMRADES LADIES FOOTBALL CLUB –

Ballyclare Comrades Ladies FC are pleased to announce our first UEFA Disney Playmakers Programme, supported by The Irish Football Association.

This is an 8-week programme for girls aged 5-8 to learn football skills and also enjoy Disney stories and adventures!

See attached leaflet.

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TEMPLEPATRICK ANNUAL COMMUNITY PICNIC –
Sunday 7 June 1pm to 4pm in Wallace Park, Templepatrick.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

24.04.26	Rhyme Time
28.04.26	Nerve Centre Day
01.05.26	Whole School Carrickfergus Castle
04.05.26	May Bank Holiday 1
07.05.26	P6/P7 Bee Safe Event
08.05.26	P3-P7 All Teeth Matter Rhyme Time
09.05.26	Post Primary Admissions Notification of Outcome
22.05.26	Sports Day
25.06.26	May Bank Holiday 2
26.05.26	School Development Day 5 – No pupils to attend
27.05.26	Transform Ed Day 3 – No pupils to attend

Mrs V Ferguson
(Principal)

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