

November (2) 2025

Dear parent,

As we move into mid-November, temperatures are expected to return to seasonal norms, bringing colder and wetter conditions. To keep pupils comfortable during outdoor play, please ensure they come to school each day with a warm coat, as well as a hat, scarf, and gloves. Thank you for helping us keep everyone cosy and ready for learning!

Please note there are two permission forms which have a closing date of **Friday 14 November**. If you have not already done so, please complete the google form linked below.

OPEN AFTERNOON

The school is hosting an open afternoon for prospective P1 pupils 2026. Parents and pupils will be able to see our classes in action, experience the foundation stage play resources, tour the school and hear a principal's address.

The open afternoon is planned for **Friday 28 November**. Pupils in **P1-P3** should be collected at **2.15pm** on this date.

Refreshments will be offered to visiting parents and pupils. Assistance with serving tea and coffee and chatting with parents about your experience of the school is being arranged by the PTA.

To help us promote the school more widely, please share our posts on Facebook and Instagram.

SAFEGUARDING – ANTI BULLYING WEEK

Anti-Bullying Week 2025 has the theme 'Power for Good'. Pupils in P4-P7 have participated in an online assembly hosted by HIP Psychology and all classes will complete activities and discussions around this important topic. **We will also participate in an "Odd Socks Day" on Friday 14 November. The children should come to school wearing odd socks.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT: ULSTER ORCHESTRA SCHOOL CONCERTS
Classes: P4-P7
Venue: Waterfront Hall
Date: Monday 17 November
Payment: £6 per pupil (payment due by 14.11.25)
Bus: Funded by PTA

Please complete the permission form linked below by **Friday 14 November. Pupils who do not have a permission form will not be able to attend.**

<https://forms.gle/JcUvuvLCmVCCd9ND7>

Payment should be sent in CASH to the school office by Friday 14 November.

All pupils in P4-P7 will require a PACKED LUNCH on this date. Pupils should bring a disposable break to take to the concert with them. Lunch will be in school as normal. Pupils in P1-P3 may order a school lunch as normal.

A copy of this newsletter is available on the school website

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

EVENT: YOUNG ENTERPRISE BUSINESS MASTERCLASS

Classes: P6-P7

Venue: Mossley Mill

Date: Thursday 20 November

Payment: Free

Please complete the permission form linked below by **Friday 14 November**. Pupils who do not have a permission form will not be able to attend.

<https://forms.gle/53gXa2wGk8Eb2sUZ9>

CHRISTMAS NEWS

The Parkgate and District Community Association has invited the **P1-P7** school choir to participate in the Christmas Lights Switch On. This is to be held on the evening of **Friday 28 November**. Further details to follow. Please complete the permission form below by **Friday 14 November** if your child can attend.

<https://forms.gle/jdaLnLK4RosFBZ4m7>

CHRISTMAS PARTY LUNCH – CLOSING DATE MONDAY 17 NOVEMBER

This year a Christmas Buffet Lunch will be served on **Thursday 4 December**. If you wish to order a meal for your child, please complete the google form below and submit by **Monday 17 November**. Payment of £2.60 per child is not required until **Monday 1 December**.

NO ORDERS WILL BE TAKEN AFTER MONDAY 17 NOVEMBER

<https://forms.gle/BT1PQ7ed9K1ivpEe7>

CHRISTMAS PARTY P1-P7

Continuing the party atmosphere the pupils will have their Christmas party games on the **afternoon of Wednesday 17 December**.

Time: 1.00pm - **2.30pm** **ALL PUPILS SHOULD BE COLLECTED AT THIS TIME**
Pupils: P1-P7
Venue: School Hall
Charge: Free
Supervision: Staff

Parents are asked to provide **two** lucky dip items. These can be sent into school from **Monday 1 December** onwards. The value of the gifts should be no more than £1.

Pupils may bring up to £2 spending money to try their luck in the 'Christmas Lucky Dip'.

This is a non-uniform event. Pupils may choose to wear a Christmas jumper/t-shirt or party clothes appropriate for party games. No fancy dress costumes are permitted.

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SCHOOL FUND

Thank you for your continued support of our School Fund. Your generosity helps us provide the best possible experiences and resources for our pupils. If you would like to make a donation, further details are included in the attached letter. We truly appreciate every contribution, big or small, as it makes a real difference to our school community.

SCHOOL CLOSURE REMINDER

School will be closed to all pupils on **Friday 21 November** for School Development Day 2

EAT SMART WEEK

EA Catering recently hosted the 'Eat Smart Week with the Lunch Bunch' initiative from 29 September – 3 October.

To further support a whole-school approach to healthy eating, they have produced a family recipe book featuring the dishes that were served in the canteen during the week, which is attached in this email.

To help the EA evaluate the success and impact of the initiative and identify opportunities for future improvement they ask that parents complete the short survey below.

[Eat Smart Week - Parents/Guardians Survey](#)

PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION

All information and necessary forms have been sent home with pupils today. Nomination forms should be returned by **Friday 21 November**.

HOMEWORK CLUB

Homework club will revert to **Monday and Tuesday** afternoons from Monday 1 December onwards. A registration link will be issued later in the month.

SILVER SMASH

Remember to send your silver change every Monday.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Library Van – Due to staff shortages, the next library van visit is **Wednesday 3 December**.

1st Donegore Boys Brigade – See attached flyer

Story & Rhyme – 2025 Dates

Friday 14 November

Friday 21 November – NO STORY & RHYME – SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAY

Friday 28 November – NO STORY & RHYME – OPEN AFTERNOON

Friday 5 December

Friday 12 December

Antrim Foodbank – Antrim Foodbank have written to thank the school community for our Harvest food donation. The food will provide 138 meals for families and individuals in the local community.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

17.11.25	Ulster Orchestra Concert – P4-P7 – Waterfront Hall
20.11.25	P6/P7 Young Enterprise Workshop – Mossley Mill
21.11.25	School Development Day 2
28.11.25	P1 2026 Open Afternoon
28.11.25	Parkgate Community Lights Switch on and Tractor Run
3.12.25	Library Van visit
04.12.25	Christmas Party Lunch
09.12.25	Christmas Concert (6.30pm)
11.12.25	Whole School Photographs
17.12.25	P1-P7 Christmas Party
19.12.25	End of Term – school closes at 12pm

Mrs V Ferguson
(PRINCIPAL)

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