



Weekly Newsletter

23.02.26

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

You may have seen in the news that schools have been allocated two additional School Development Days to support the TransformEd programme and staff training.

To minimise disruption to children's learning, I have tried to 'tag' these days onto other holidays. Our school will take these days on:

- Monday 16th March 2026
- Monday 13th April 2026

On these days, pupils should not attend school. Staff will be taking part in professional development focused on Communication and Language, as well as training linked to the science of learning. We believe these additional staff development opportunities will have a positive and lasting impact on your child's education.

Please refer to the calendar included in this newsletter for other important dates.

Kind regards,

Mr J. Clarke



TransformED NI:

Transforming Teaching and Learning:
A Strategy for Educational Excellence in
Northern Ireland



THIS WEEK IN BOTANIC ...

Monday	
Tuesday	P1 and P2 - Shared Education at Holy Rosary PS P3 - Play Centre P5 and P7 - Swimming
Wednesday	P5 - Play Centre Parent English Classes 9.30 - 12.30
Thursday	French P3, P4, P6, P7
Friday	P4 CWA Dance P7 - QUB Professor Fluffy Visit

Please make sure your child is ready to learn each day! Children should come to school with their all belongings and be in school for 9am each morning.



ENGLISH CLASSES - WEDNESDAY MORNINGS

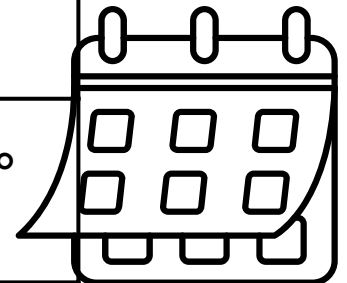
In partnership with People 1st, we are hosting English classes for Parents and Carers every Wednesday.

This course will commence on Wednesday 25th February 9.30am - 12.30pm.

Everyone is welcome to attend!

CALENDAR DATES - MARCH AND APRIL 2026

4 th March	School Photographs - more details to follow
16 th March	School Development Day - No pupils in school
17 th March	School Closed for St. Patrick's Day
27 th March	End of Term 2 - 12 noon finish
13 th April	School Development Day - No pupils in school
14 th April	School reopens for pupils Term 3 begins



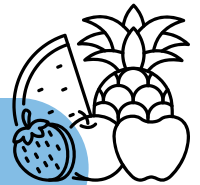


MORNING ROUTINE



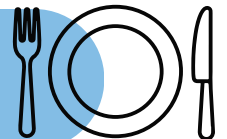
The school doors open at 8.55am and close at 9.00am. It is very important that children arrive to school on time so that they do not miss any teaching and learning. Please make every effort to be in school by 9.00am.

HEALTHY BREAKS



Pupils have a break mid-morning and pupils are encouraged during this period to eat only fruit, vegetable or bread based products and drink only milk or water.

DINNER BOOKINGS



Dinners must be booked by Sunday evening for the week ahead. If you provide a packed lunch for your child, please tell us via the school app.

It is important to make payments for all dinners you book upfront. Dinner will not be provided if you do not make a payment. School will contact you to bring a packed lunch for your child.

Please pay all outstanding Snack, Dinner, Morning Club, Nursery Fund, Swimming money ASAP.

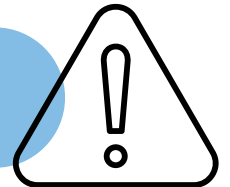


HEAD LICE



Parents/Carers should regularly check their child's hair for head lice. If they need treatment, it is available free from chemists. We encourage pupils with long hair to wear it tied back in school as a preventative measure.

ALLERGIES



We have a number of pupils with allergies in the school and therefore ask that everyone cooperates by not sending in the following products:

- All nuts including horse chestnuts
- Kiwi

Any breaks or packed lunches brought into school must not contain the above products. PLEASE NOTE: Many chocolate spreads DO contain nuts.

Please check ingredients carefully.

Unfortunately, due to issues arising from the labelling of products, birthday cakes must not be sent into school.

OPERATION ENCOMPASS

We are an Operation Encompass School, for more information please go to the school website. If you have a concern about a child, please speak to Ms Murray, our Designated Teacher for Child Protection or Mr Clarke, School Principal.



ATTENDANCE

It is important that children come to school every day. Please ensure any family trips are planned in school holidays. Unauthorised attendance is monitored and reported to the Education Welfare Service.



EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS –

Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning.

Attendance percentages can be misleading.

100% Attendance	0 Days Missed	Excellent
95% Attendance	9 Days of Absence 1 Week and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Satisfactory
90% Attendance	19 Days of Absence 3 Weeks and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Poor
85% Attendance	28 Days of Absence 5 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	Very Poor
80% Attendance	38 Days of Absence 7 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	Unacceptable
75% Attendance	46 Days of Absence 9 Weeks and 1 Day of Learning Missed	Unacceptable

For some parents, 90% may seem like an acceptable level of attendance, but the reality is that 90% attendance means that your child will miss half a school day each week or 19 days of school during the school year – that's nearly 4 school weeks.



Key Point

Give your child the best start in life – every school day counts.