



March 2026 Newsletter



The school holiday list for 2026-27 will be released on the school website very soon.

We are delighted to offer 2 free sessions of JoJingles to pre-nursery children and their Parents/Guardians. Please enter the school via the main reception. This is open to any local Parents/Guardians.

We look forward to welcoming you!

Tuesday 24th March &

Tuesday 31st March

Jo Jingles



Free JoJingles Music & Movement Sessions

Tuesday 24th March &
Tuesday 31st March
@10.45am





We are really looking forward to Gross Busters- The Musical! The boys and girls have been working extremely hard and this promises to be one of our highlights of the school year. Tickets are on sale with 2 tickets allocated per KS2 family for 1 show. See ParentPay or speak to Mrs McKeever in the Office if you need any assistance.

We're taking part in the Big Walk and Wheel 2026 challenge



Walk Wheel
Cycle Trust

Headline sponsor
SCHWALBE

bigwalkandwheel.org.uk



Walk Wheel
Cycle Trust

Headline sponsor
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Info sheet

16 - 27 March 2026

Big Walk and Wheel is the UK's largest walking, wheeling, scooting and cycling challenge. It inspires pupils to make active journeys to school, improve air quality in their neighbourhood and discover how these changes benefit their world.



Big Walk and Wheel challenge

Active travel is a great way to build physical activity into children's daily routine. It helps them arrive to school more relaxed and alert, and is great for their mental wellbeing. This year the challenge will run from 16 - 27 March 2026.

It is free and easy to take part in Big Walk and Wheel. You can register your school for the challenge from January 2026 at www.bigwalkandwheel.org.uk



How it works

On each day of the challenge schools compete to see who can record the greatest number of pupils walking, using a wheelchair, scooting or cycling to school.

A school's best five days will determine their final position and schools at the top of their leader boards will receive an exclusive Big Walk and Wheel certificate.



Prizes and badges

All schools will be entered into daily prize draws for rewards if over 15% of your school takes part on each day of the challenge. Prizes up for grabs include accessories and equipment to help your school travel actively. All schools that participate in Big Walk and Wheel will also have the opportunity to earn virtual badges.

In 2025,
4,550kg
of nitrogen oxide
avoided as a result
of the 10-day
challenge*

In 2025,
**2,880
tonnes**
of CO₂ avoided as a
result of the 10-day
challenge*

In 2025, pupils at
2,024
schools made
2,840,575
journeys to school by
foot, wheelchair,
scooter and cycle

*Based on the assumption the journeys logged in the challenge would otherwise have been made by car.

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have some exciting news for you! We are taking part in the 17th year celebration of Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel, the UK's largest inter-school cycling, walking, wheeling and scooting challenge. The challenge runs from 19th March- 27th March 2026. It's free to take part and we would love everyone to be involved.

What do you need to do?

Encourage your child(ren) to walk, use a wheelchair, scoot or cycle to school on as many days as possible during the event.

Including everyone

We want to make sure that everyone can get involved in Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel.

We know it may be more difficult for some pupils to take part than others. If you want to discuss more about your child(ren)'s specific needs, please contact Mrs McCafferty and we will make sure to look into how your child(ren) can take part..

Why we are taking part

Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel is a great way to build physical activity in children's daily routine which is important for their physical health and mental wellbeing.

Active school runs also help to reduce congestion and air pollution outside the school gate. [A 2021 YouGov study](#) showed nearly half of UK children worry about air pollution near their school. And that children thought active travel was the best away to bring down these pollution levels.

Plus there are some great prizes to be won every day if we get enough children taking part!



Teaching and learning starts at 9am every day. It is important that your child is punctual for school. School gates open from 8.45am. **Breakfast club is open from 8.10am. No need to book in for the breakfast club- £1 a day per child.** **Please enter the school grounds via the Nursery pedestrian gate.** In the interests of health and safety, children should not be left unsupervised at the school gates before they open.

Safeguarding Information



In the interests of health and safety we now ask that children do not bring any shellfish products or nut products to school for either break or lunch. This includes Nutella.

What is the law on e-scooters?

Currently in the UK, you can legally buy an e-scooter, but you cannot ride it on a public road, cycle lane or pavement. The only place it can be used is on private land with the land owners permission.

The reason for this is that e-scooters are treated as motor vehicles by the Department of Infrastructure and are subject to the same legal requirement as other vehicles, such as MOT, licencing, tax and insurance. Because they don't always have number plates, signalling ability or visible rear lights, they cannot be used legally on the roads.

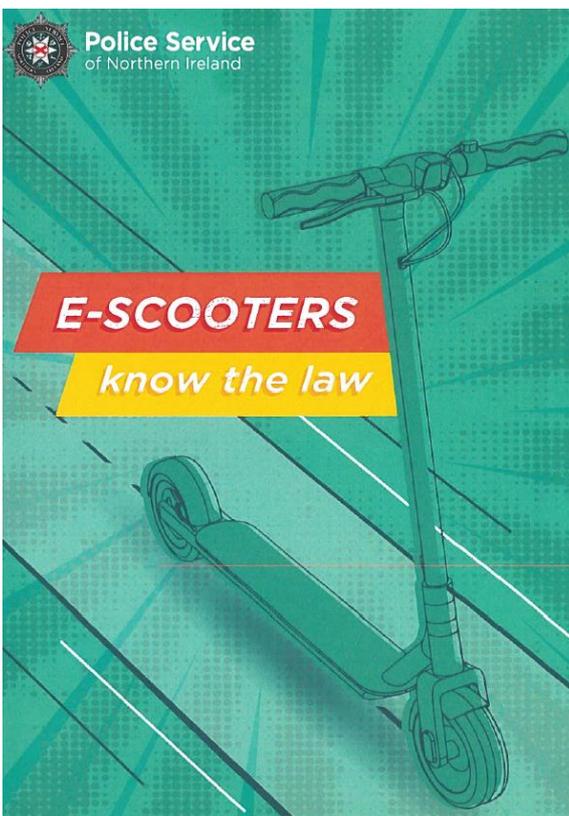
What happens if I am stopped by the police?

The police will advise you on the law and may ask you to take your e-scooter home. They may, however, still penalise you depending on the seriousness of the offence. If caught riding an e-scooter, fines you may receive can include:

- Be prosecuted for no driving licence which can result in a fine of £1000 plus 3-6 penalty points
- A Fixed Penalty Notice for no insurance, with a £200 fine and six penalty points

Other offences which may result in penalties include riding on the footpath, using a mobile phone, riding through red lights and drink driving offences.

To find out more, visit www.psni.police.uk/escooters



psni.police.uk
Report online. Call 101. In an emergency call 999

we care
we listen
we act



Smart Watches and Mobile Phones

Please be mindful that smart watches with message facilities and cameras; as well as mobile phones, are not permitted in school.



We would like to take the opportunity to remind parents/guardians that **no cars are permitted inside the school grounds at any time** unless this has been pre-arranged with Mrs McCafferty or you are a blue badge holder- **spaces are very limited**. Please share this information with grandparents and childminders as refusal often causes offence. If you are a blue badge holder and you avail of parking within the school grounds; **please wait to exit the school grounds until the large crowds have dispersed**. If crossing the road outside the school gates please cross with our school crossing patrol lady, Mrs McQuaid at the dropped kerb.

Please ensure that the school gates are kept clear. Cars should not be parked on the yellow zigzag lines outside the school gates at any time. Please talk to your child about general road safety. Enter and exit the school using the pedestrian gates only. Once your child is collected from school, please keep them beside you at all times. These measures are in the interest of everyone's health and safety. Thank you!

Members of the Schools Safeguarding team are:

The Chair of the Board of Governors (Mr P. Duffy)

The Designated Governor for Child Protection (Dr M. Gormley)

The Designated Teacher for Child Protection (Mrs M. Harley)

Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection (Mrs S. McCafferty).

Other members of Safeguarding Team:

Mrs P. Houston/Mrs R Warne /Mrs Kyle/ Mrs A Kivlehan/Mr D Herron.

School policies can be found on the school website under the 'My School' section. There is also a wide range of support information for parents in the 'Parents Section' of the school website. This is updated regularly.

The 2025-2026 school holiday list can be accessed here:

https://storage.googleapis.com/siteassetswd/475/docletter/20260216035246_44_Holiday_List_PARENTS_2025-26.pdf

The new school dinner menu can be accessed here- please check which week we are on as there is a 4 week menu:

<https://www.goodshepherdps.net/parents-area/dinner-menu/?a=schoolletter&confirmdelete=schoolletter>



School CLUBS



Why not take on a new challenge, learn new skills, have fun and make new friends at our after school clubs...

*All clubs must be signed up for before they commence...

Details of new club blocks starting soon...

Day	Club	Year Group & Time	Book/Pay
Monday	Mini-Professors Science Club	P1-P2 2-2.50pm P3, P4 & P5 3-3.50pm	Restarts on Monday 13th April 2026 £32 for 7 weeks Book via ParentPay (20 spaces maximum for each session)
Monday	R9 Multi-Sports Club	P1-P2 2-3pm P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-4pm	Restarts Monday 27th April 2026 6 weeks (discount for siblings attending) Book via R9 Website https://www.cognitoforms.com/R9SportsCoaching/GoodShepherdPrimarySchool
Tuesday	Singing with Clodagh McCullough	P1 & P2: 2-2.45pm P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7: 3-3.45pm	Restarts on Tuesday 14th April 2026 £38 for 8 weeks (20 spaces maximum for each session) Book via Parent Pay
Tuesday	Chess Club	P5, P6 & P7 3-4pm	Starts on Tuesday 10th March 2026 £30 for 8 weeks (20 spaces maximum) Book via Parent Pay
Wednesday	Guitar Lessons with Mark from leap lessons, Derry	Primary 5, Primary 6 & Primary 7 3-3.30pm & 3.30-4pm	Restarts on Wednesday 7th January 2026 £46 for 10 weeks Book via parent pay Fully booked
Thursday	Maiden City Soccer	P1-P2 2-3pm P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-4pm	Restarts again on Thursday 16th April 2026 Pay via Parent Pay £42 for 10 weeks Book via ParentPay

Thursday	Crafty Kidz Art & Craft Club	P1-P2 2-3pm P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-4pm	Restarts again on Thursday 23rd April 2026 £38 for 9 weeks 20 places maximum Book via Parent Pay
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What's on at Good Shepherd Primary & Nursery School?

Date	What's on?
Monday 2nd March	P1 & P2 Faith & Fun Club 2-3pm- Week 1
Monday 2nd March	R9 MULTISPORTS AFTERSCHOOL CLUB IS NOT RUNNING THIS WEEK
Monday 2nd March	MINI PROFESSORS' AFTERSCHOOL CLUB IS NOT RUNNING THIS WEEK
Monday 2nd March	Children of Fatima Prayer Group
Tuesday 3rd March	After School Singing lessons P1 & P2 2-2.45pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-3.45pm Week 7
Wednesday 4th March	After School Dance P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm WEEK 3
Wednesday 4th March	After School Guitar Lessons P5, P6 & P7 Week 7
Wednesday 4th March	P7 Mandarin Lessons
Thursday 5th March	After School Maiden City Soccer P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 7
Thursday 5th March	CRAFTY KIDZ AFTERSCHOOL CLUB IS NOT RUNNING THIS WEEK
Friday 6th March	Primary 5 DW Swimming Week 8
Monday 9th March	P1 & P2 Faith & Fun Club 2-3pm- Week 2
Monday 9th March	After School R9 Sports P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm WEEK 3
Monday 9th March	After School Mini Professors P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3, P4 & P5: 3-4pm Week 7
Tuesday 10th March	After School Singing lessons P1 & P2 2-2.45pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-3.45pm Week 8
Tuesday 10th March	Chess After School Club P5, P6 & P7 3-4pm Week 1
Wednesday 11th March	Gross Busters KS2 show @1.15pm
Wednesday 11th March	After School Dance P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm WEEK 4
Wednesday 11th March	After School Guitar Lessons P5, P6 & P7 Week 8
Wednesday 11th March	P7 Mandarin Lessons
Thursday 12th March	Gross Busters KS2 show @1.15pm

Thursday 12th March	After School Maiden City Soccer P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 8
Thursday 12th March	Crafty Kidz Art & Craft Club P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7: 3-4pm Week 7
Friday 13th March	Primary 5 DW Swimming Week 9
Friday 13th March	Wear Green/Non-uniform fundraiser £1 each/£2 per family in aid of NSPCC *Full school day as normal
	
Monday 16th March- Wednesday 18th March School Closed for St. Patrick's Day Celebrations & Staff Development Days	
Walk and Wheel Challenge starts today and runs until the 27th March!	
Thursday 19th March	After School Maiden City Soccer P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 9
Thursday 19th March	Crafty Kidz Art & Craft Club P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7: 3-4pm Week 8
Friday 20th March	Primary 5 DW Swimming Week 10 LAST WEEK
Monday 23rd March	September 2026 Nursery & Primary 1 children receive notifications of admissions applications
Monday 23rd March	P1 & P2 Faith & Fun Club 2-3pm- Week 3 Final Week!
Monday 23rd March	After School R9 Sports P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm WEEK 4
	Tuesday 24th March Free JoJingles for pre-nursery children and Parents/Guardians @10.45am Everyone Welcome!
Tuesday 24th March	Boys Soccer Tournament 1-4pm @Bay Road Soccer
Tuesday 24th March	After School Singing lessons P1 & P2 2-2.45pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-3.45pm Week 9
Tuesday 24th March	Chess After School Club P5, P6 & P7 3-4pm Week 2
Wednesday 25th March	After School Dance P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm WEEK 5
Wednesday 25th March	After School Guitar Lessons P5, P6 & P7 Week 9
Wednesday 25th March	P7 Mandarin Lessons
Thursday 26th March	Primary 4 First Confessions @1.30pm

Thursday 26th March	After School Maiden City Soccer P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 10 LAST WEEK OF BLOCK
Thursday 26th March	Crafty Kidz Art & Craft Club P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7: 3-4pm Week 9
Friday 27th March	Primary 5 DW Swimming Week 10 LAST WEEK
Monday 30th March	After School R9 Sports P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm WEEK 5
Tuesday 31st March 	Free JoJingles for pre-nursery children and Parents/Guardians @10.45am Everyone Welcome!
Tuesday 31st March	After School Singing lessons P1 & P2 2-2.45pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-3.45pm Week 10 LAST WEEK
Tuesday 31st March	Chess After School Club P5, P6 & P7 3-4pm Week 3

Thank you for your ongoing support of our school!