

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am writing to inform you that your child's class has been selected to participate in the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) 2026.

### **What is PIRLS?**

PIRLS is an international study that takes place every five years and gathers data from over 60 countries, including Northern Ireland, the other three countries of the UK and the Republic of Ireland. PIRLS looks at the reading skills of 9–10-year-olds around the world. The results are used by our government, and governments from around the world to improve their primary education systems, so it is vitally important that your child participates. Further information on the study is available from the Pearson website - [www.pearson.com/uk/web/pirls26-ni.html](http://www.pearson.com/uk/web/pirls26-ni.html)

### **What is involved?**

The study involves reading short passages of fiction and non-fiction and answering questions, as well as a short questionnaire. It will take place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026. Your child doesn't need to do anything to prepare and nor will it affect your child's results or progress in school. If there are any questions they do not wish to answer, they may leave them blank. Please be assured that your child's results will not be identified in any reporting. This is because it is the education system, not your child, that is being reviewed.

The privacy and data security of the pupils and schools is very important, and no individual or school will be identified or identifiable in any reporting. A full privacy notice, which sets out how the information collected in this study will be used, is available in the 'Data Protection' section on the Pearson website.

We would like to thank you and your child for their participation in PIRLS, their contribution is highly valued. If you have any concerns about your child's participation in PIRLS or queries about the logistics of the day, please contact the PIRLS School Coordinator: Mrs P. Houston or Mrs S. McCafferty via email: [info@goodshepherd.derry.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@goodshepherd.derry.ni.sch.uk) If you have any questions about PIRLS that the school is unable to answer, feel free to contact [PIRLSni@pearson.com](mailto:PIRLSni@pearson.com).

Yours sincerely,  
Mrs P. Houston & Mrs S. McCafferty



## PIRLS Information for Parents/Guardians



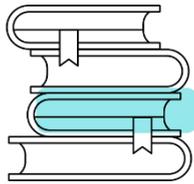
Your child is a member of a Year 6 class which has been selected to take part in the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) Main Study.



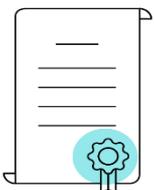
PIRLS is an international educational assessment study which takes place in over 60 countries. Your child will participate alongside other schools from around the world.



PIRLS is a computer-based assessment and questionnaire focusing on the two purposes for reading that account for most of the reading done by young pupils in and out of school: for literary experience, and to acquire and use information.



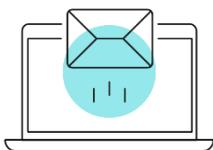
PIRLS can be great reading and comprehension practice. No revision is required, we just ask pupils to try their best and answer what they can.



As a thank you for participating, on completion of the PIRLS assessment and questionnaire, your child will receive a certificate.



All PIRLS results are pseudonymised, meaning no pupil or school will be identifiable in published findings. Your child's school won't receive their individual results back.



Feel free to contact the PIRLS Support Team with questions:  
[PIRLSNI@pearson.com](mailto:PIRLSNI@pearson.com)  
020 7010 2157 (8am-4pm)



For more information, visit the PIRLS website:  
[www.pearson.com/uk/web/pirls26-ni.html](http://www.pearson.com/uk/web/pirls26-ni.html)  
or scan the QR code with your smart phone.