



March 2024 Newsletter



The school holiday list for 2024-25 is now on the school website in the Parents Area.



We would like to take the opportunity to wish our Primary 7 children who will be celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation on Friday 1st March every blessing. May the Holy Spirit guide you and keep you safe.



- Primary 7 classes will begin their swimming lessons on Wednesday 13th March.
- Primary 5 Mrs Wilson's class will begin their swimming lessons on Friday 15th March.
- The cost of swimming is £20 for 10 weeks. Please pay via ParentPay.



We will be holding our Easter Split the Pot raffle on Wednesday 27th March. Make sure you have your ticket in! We will also be holding an Easter Hamper draw. Tickets will be £1. Our school councillors will be collecting this around the classes daily. Thank you for your continued support of the school and best of luck!



We would like to wish both our Credit Union and Road Safety Quiz teams the very best of luck as they compete in the Northern Ireland Finals.



Dear Parents/Carers,

We have some exciting news for you! We are taking part in the 15th year celebration of Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel, the UK's largest inter-school cycling, walking, wheeling and scooting challenge. The challenge runs from 11-22 March 2024. 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!

Useful resources

To help you prepare, Sustrans has developed a handy free guide to walking, cycling or scooting to school. It is packed with advice to help you have hassle-free journey to school.

[Download your free family guide](#) using this link: <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/sign-up-to-receive-your-free-school-run-guide/>

For more information about the event go to www.bigwalkandwheel.org.uk . Enjoy the challenge!




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.

*Places are allocated on a first come first served basis.

Day	Club	Year Group & Time	Book/Pay
Monday	Mini-Professors Science Club	P1-P2 2-2.50pm P3, P4 & P5 3-3.50pm	Starting Monday 15th April £30 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	Starting Monday 8th April £40 for 8 weeks Book via www.R9Coaching.com Discount for Family Bookings
Tuesday	Singing with Clodagh McCullough	P1 & P2: 2-2.45pm P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7: 3-3.45pm	Starting Tuesday 9th April £38 for 9 weeks (20 spaces maximum for each session) Book via Parent Pay
Tuesday	Chess Club	P5, P6 & P7 3-4pm	Starting Tuesday 9th April (20 spaces maximum) £27 for 9 weeks Book via ParentPay
Wednesday	Dance with Skills Schools Dance	P1-P2 2-3pm P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-4pm	Starting Wednesday 10th April £40 for 10 weeks (discount for family bookings) Book directly here: https://www.cognitoforms.com/Skillschoolni/dance
Wednesday	Guitar Lessons with Mark	Primary 5, Primary 6 & Primary 7	Block 3 starting Wednesday 13th March £42 for 10 weeks - 1 place available!
Thursday	Maiden City Soccer	P1-P2 2-3pm P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-4pm	Current block still running. New block to start: Thursday 18th April 9 week @£36 Book via ParentPay

What's on at Good Shepherd Primary & Nursery School?

Date	What's on?
Friday 1 st March	Sacrament of Confirmation 11.30am Mr Herron's Class 1pm Mrs Forbes' Class All choir members require a packed lunch
Friday 1 st March	P5SM swimming
Sunday 3 rd March	Credit Union Quiz Final: @Radisson Letterkenny, 5pm
Monday 4 th March	Road Safety Quiz Northern Ireland Final @Glenavon Hotel, Cookstown 7pm
Monday 4 th March	After School R9 Sports P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm. Week 8
Monday 4 th March	After School Mini Professors P1 & P2: 2-2.50pm, P3 & P4: 3-3.50pm Week 7
Tuesday 5 th March	Soccer: Good Shepherd vs St. Brigid's & Greenhaw @ Bay Road Soccer
Tuesday 5 th March	After School Singing lessons P1 & P2 2-2.45pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-3.45pm Week 8
Tuesday 5 th March	Chess Club 3-4pm P5, P6 & P7 Week 7
Tuesday 5 th March	P7 Girls Workshops – St Mary's College
Tuesday 5 th March	P5SM Swimming (Double session)
Wednesday 6 th March	After School Guitar Lessons P5, P6 & P7 Week 10 (final week of current block).
Wednesday 6 th March	After School Dance P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 8
Thursday 7 th March	Céilí Dancing with Mary McGuigan
Thursday 7 th March	After School Maiden City Soccer P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7: 3-4pm Week 6
Friday 8 th March	Céilí Dancing with Mary McGuigan
Friday 8 th March	P5SM swimming (last week)
<p style="text-align: center;">Monday 11th – Friday 15st March Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel Initiative</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>The logo features the word 'sustrans' in a green box, 'BIG WALK' in large, bold, multi-colored letters, and 'AND WHEEL' in similar style below it. A banner across the middle says 'CELEBRATING 15 YEARS'. At the bottom, it says '11-22 March 2024'.</p> </div>	
Monday 11 th March	After School Mini Professors P1 & P2: 2-2.50pm, P3 & P4: 3-3.50pm (last week of current block)
Monday 11 th March	After School R9 Sports P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm. Week 9

Date	What's on?
Tuesday 12th March	Soccer: Good Shepherd vs Nazareth House & Chapel Road @The Shared Village
Tuesday 12th March	After School Singing lessons P1 & P2 2-2.45pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-3.45pm Week 9
Tuesday 12th March	Chess Club 3-4pm P5, P6 & P7 Week 8
Wednesday 13th March	After School Guitar Lessons P5, P6 & P7 Week 1 of new block
Wednesday 13th March	After School Dance P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 9
Wednesday 13th March	P7MF & P7DH classes swimming week 1
Thursday 14th March	After School Maiden City Soccer P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7: 3-4pm Week 7
Friday 15th March	Non-uniform/wear green. £1 donation (£2 per family) in aid of NSPCC Full school day as normal
Friday 15th March	P5DW class swimming week 1
Monday 18th March closed for St. Patrick's Day	
Tuesday 19th March	Chess Club 3-4pm P5, P6 & P7 Week 9
Tuesday 19th March	After School Singing lessons P1 & P2 2-2.45pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-3.45pm Week 10 (last week of current block)
Wednesday 20th March	After School Guitar Lessons P5, P6 & P7 Week 2
Wednesday 20th March	P7MF & P7DH classes swimming week 2
Wednesday 20th March	After School Dance P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 10 (last week of current block)
Thursday 21st March	The Aspire Cup Soccer tournament: Good Shepherd vs Oxford Bulls @St. Mary's College
Thursday 21st March	After School Maiden City Soccer P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7: 3-4pm Week 8
Friday 22nd March	P5DW class swimming week 2
Monday 25th March	After School R9 Sports P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm. Week 10 (final week of current block)
Tuesday 26th March	Chess Club 3-4pm P5, P6 & P7 Week 10 (final week of current block)
Wednesday 27th March	No After School Clubs Today!
Wednesday 27th March	Non-uniform Day & Easter Split the Pot and Raffles drawn.
School Closed for the Easter Holidays Thursday 28th March- Friday 5th April 2024 (inclusive) School reopens on Monday 8th April 2024	



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.



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. Please share this information with grandparents and childminders as refusal often causes offence.

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 Maria 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 school holiday lists can be accessed here:

<https://www.goodshepherdps.net/parents-area/holiday-list/>

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

https://storage.googleapis.com/siteassetsswd/475/docletter/2024020514012_97_PS_Spring_Summer_24.pdf



Please ensure that you download the Schools NI App which is linked to our website. Click on the ? on the app and ensure that notifications are turned on. This is our central means of communication.

We would like to wish our entire school community a very happy Easter!

