



Weekly Update



Wednesday 13th March 2024

ISPS's Got Science



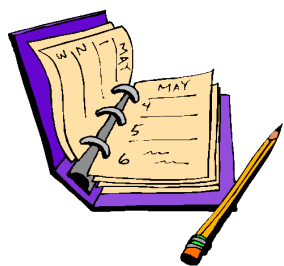
On Thursday 14th March our annual ISPS's Got Science event takes place in school as part of British Science Week. Children can bring their own experiments to school for a competition that they can show to their class.

Easter Holidays Early School Finish - Friday 22nd March

School will finish for Easter holidays on Friday 22nd March. To facilitate an early finish at **12.00pm** on **Friday 22nd March**, children may be collected from their classrooms from **11.00am** onwards. The afternoon class from the Nursery are invited to join the morning class on that day. Please let Mrs Evans know if you are planning to come to Nursery.

Key Dates for Your Diary

11th – 15th March	Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel Week
11th March	PFA Dance-A-Thon 2024
13th March	Multicultural Day 2024
13th March	Professor Adam for Science Week
14th March	ISPS's Got Science Day
15th March	The Active Hour
18th March	School closed for St Patrick's Day
19th March	Year 7 London Trip – Tuesday to Thursday





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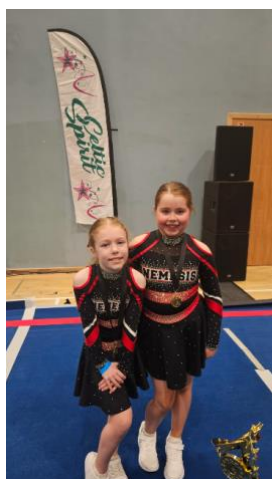
Coleraine Music Festival Success



Last week our children got the opportunity to take part in the Coleraine Music Festival throughout the week. Both our Junior and Senior Choirs gained a score of 90 which placed them in the 'outstanding' category. Other children took part in singing, piano, flute, clarinet, cello and violin. We are extremely proud of their achievements and a special thanks goes to Mrs Clarke, Miss Aitcheson, Mrs de C, Mrs Gillian Brown, Mrs Balmer, Mrs Reid and Murray for their input throughout the year.

We would ask that ALL children who took part and received cups/certificates bring them to school on Wednesday 13th March for an official photograph.

Dancing in Galway!



Many, many congratulations to three of our children following their dancing success in Galway a few weeks ago. Following recent success in Antrim they continued this on in Galway with first place in their teams!

We are delighted to hear about their competition and look forward to finding out more wins in the future!

SUSTRANS BIG WALK AND WHEEL

Help win prizes for our school by taking part in



Walk, scooter or cycle to school as many days as you can! Every day counts!

STARTS NEXT MONDAY!

The annual **SUSTRANS Big Walk and Wheel** event started on Monday 11th March. Children in Mrs Brown's class are gathering data from the classes each day to record on the SUSTRANS website. *Let's see if we can have a BIG push this week to get as many children and families walking and cycling/scooting to school.* We have a special '**Walking Bus**' on Thursday, leaving the Rugby Club at 8.40am, please join us!



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Upcoming PFA Events – Dates for your Diary!



Many for thanks for your support towards our Dance-A-Thon, the children clearly had a great time! Could any outstanding monies please be left into school by Friday 15th March.

Next up is a Family Quiz Night on **Thursday 11th April** for those families with children in P4-7 – more details to follow soon!

Lastly there is an Outdoor Movie Night planned for **Friday 14th June** from 5.30pm until 7.30pm. This will be a great way to end the school year!

Thanks to our wonderful PFA for putting together these events!

Girls' Football @ SCORE



Last week our girls' football team took part in the local tournament at SCORE. The girls had a great time and worked hard as a team. They had some great matches in the group stages and enjoyed their time. Thanks to SCORE for organising the tournament and to Mr Robinson for coaching and preparing the girls for the day!



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Holidays 2024 – 2025 School Year



The Irish Society's Primary School & Nursery Unit

HOLIDAYS 2024-2025

TERM 1 (AUTUMN)	Term starts Thursday 29th August 2024 (<i>finish at 12.00pm</i>)
Half-term	School closes Friday 25th October at 3.00pm Re-opens Monday 4th November
Christmas	School closes 12.00pm Friday 20th December
TERM 2 (SPRING)	School re-opens Monday 6th January 2025
Half-term	School closes Friday 7th February at 3.00pm and re-opens Monday 17th February
Holiday	Monday 17th March
Easter	School closes at 12.00pm on Friday 11th April
TERM 3 (SUMMER)	School re-opens Monday 28th April
Bank Holiday	Monday 5th May
Holiday	Monday 26th May
End of Year	Schools closes Monday 30th June at 12.00pm

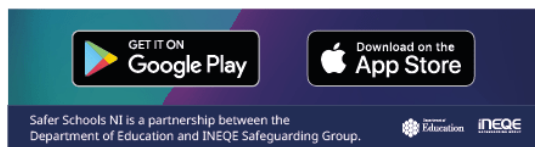
Above are the holidays for the next school year, **2024 – 2025**. As one of our focuses this year and next is to improve school attendance, we would encourage parents to book family holidays during non-term time. We have set aside block weeks off which will help when booking time away. Thank you for your support with your child's attendance.

Safer Schools App NI

For more information, find us at safer.schoolsni.co.uk



To download, search for Safer Schools NI



Multicultural Day 2024

Wednesday is our first ever Multicultural Day and we are looking forward to inviting parents and family members into school for a coffee and chat from 10.00am until 11.00am. In Assembly this morning Miss Connolly spoke to the children about why we are celebrating this day and shared videos of children saying hello in their family's native language. See you all then!

Changes to Dinner Menu

We are encouraging parents/carers to download the **Safer Schools NI** App. It contains information on how to keep children safe online. Please contact school if you have any concerns regarding online and keeping your child safe at home.

Please note the following changes on the menu: **Tuesday 19th March**
Bacon, beans and mashed potatoes; biscuit
Thursday 21st March
Chicken Goujons and chips; choc ice.



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Attendance Matters



Attendance Matters



Every Day Counts....

GUESS WHO WON THE BEST ATTENDANCE FOR JANUARY.....Miss Shiel's (100%), Mrs McKendry's class (98.2%) were the winners FEBRUARY! 100% - WOW!
Each class gets to have a visit from our School Mascots for the month.

Missed Days from School		
Attendance	Days lost	Lessons missed
95%	9 days	45 lessons
90%	19 days	100 lessons
85%	29 days	150 lessons
80%	38 days	200 lessons
75%	48 days	250 lessons
70%	57 days	290 lessons
65%	67 days	340 lessons

Online Safety Newsletter

Each month Miss Hamilton, our ICT coordinator, shares an 'Online Safety Newsletter' via Seesaw. This is also placed on the school website in the 'Parents Area'. **MARCH's** newsletter focuses on 'FORNITE BATTLE ROYALE', 'INSTAGRAM' and 'GOOGLE'. Please take time to read the full document.

Healthy Eating

At our school we promote and encourage a healthy eating policy for our children. We would encourage parents to consider what is included in their child's snack each day.

Childhood is a time of rapid growth and development. Good nutrition during this time is important, as it impacts on children's general and oral health now and in the future.

Healthy Snack = Healthy Child





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Who to Speak to in School

Please take time to explain to your child/ren that as well as their teacher they can speak to any of our Child Protection Team. This picture is displayed in school noticeboards as a reminder.

If you are worried, need help or someone to talk to, speak to your teacher, Mrs McKendry, Mr Murdock or Mrs Evans



Mrs McKendry
Designated Teacher
for Child Protection



Mr Murdock
Deputy Designated Teacher
for Child Protection &
Principal



Mrs Evans
Deputy Designated Teacher
for Child Protection

Our school is NUT FREE

Please do not send foods to school containing any type of nuts (including Nutella products)



Thank you
for keeping our school safe!



Allergies



Please be mindful of nut and sesame allergies in school when preparing your child's snack and packed lunch. We have a several children with severe nut and sesame seeds allergies. Thanks.

IMPORTANT Safeguarding Message School Car Park

We would respectfully ask that parents **do not** enter the school grounds in their **cars**. In the interests of our children's safety, staff cars are the only ones permitted to be in the school car park. *The only exception is for those using Breakfast Club between 8.00am and 8.30am and HOP Club after 4.15pm collection.*

Due to the early morning drop off from 8.30am to 8.45am, the school gates will now open at