



January 2026 News

A GREAT START TO TERM 2

I hope you and your family have had a lovely start to 2026 and your children have settled back into the Term 2 routines of school. Despite the recent cold spell and the huge impact of the snow and ice, then Storm Chandra, we have had a very smooth start to the new term.



We are very grateful to Mrs Carol Boyce & Mr Wayne Boyce and their team for keeping our school environment safe, arriving hours before everyone else, to grit all of the pathways, entrances and playgrounds, and even sawing branches from fallen trees during the storms. Thank you so much ❤️ ❤️



Trips & Visits in January '26

P7 visited Titanic Belfast this month as part of their new topic. The 4 classes had a wonderful time setting the scene for their new theme in class.



School Council at Stormont
Our School Council went on a trip to Stormont Parliament Buildings in January. They had a tour and enjoyed learning more about the Northern Ireland Assembly. Before leaving, we were able to have a Q&A with some local MLAs. We are so proud of the School Council and how wonderfully they represented our school. ●●



Rights Respecting UNICEF Visit
In January our Rights Respecting Council hosted 12 representatives from UNICEF who had come to school to see what a Gold Award school looks like.

This amazing bunch of young people answered questions, led a tour and demonstrated the most amazing hospitality. We are beyond proud of our RRS council, how they promote our school and represent the rights of all of our children.



The Gathering Drum

Lost of noise travelled down the hill this month from Nursery!! The Gathering Drum visited the AM & PM class with such a fun visit from Joe.

We developed our attention skills, listening skills, counting skills and awareness of music/rhythm as we played musical instruments and sang songs. 😊



Connect & Nurture

Our classes from Nursery to P7 had sessions this month with Janine and Arlene from 'Connect and Nurture.' We completed some brain break activities, connected with each other through fun games and enjoyed listening to lovely stories. The boys and girls played some different games that helped us to focus on working as a team, showing good listening skills and speaking with confidence.





Indoor Athletics

Our classes from P7 attended the Strathearn indoor athletics competition this month. Miss Ellis' class returned with bragging rights following a successful day at the competition

Cross Country

Huge congratulations to our amazing girls and boys who competed in a very wet and cold league competition in Tollymore this month. The girls finished 2nd out of 24 very competitive schools. Sophia & Ellen both had a top 10 finish in the reserves race, then in the league competition we had 3 P6 girls finish in a group to lead us home in silver position, Myla 7th, Robyn 8th & Sara 9th.

In the boys event, Theo (P6) had a top 10 finish in the reserves race, and Jacob (P7) and Rhys (P6) finished 7th & 13th in the main competition race.

Thanks also to the parents who came down to support and special thanks to Mr Ivan Vincent who drove us down in the Party Bus.



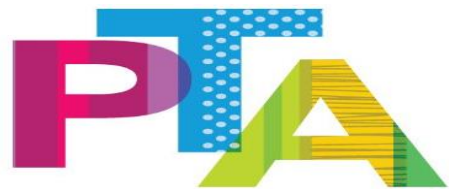


Football

This month our football teams took part in the annual Primary Schools' Football Tournament at Ashfield Boys' High School and the local 5-a-side competition in Blair Mayne

Twenty-eight teams competed in the Ashfield competition including two teams representing our school. Team B came away with 1 win, 3 draws and 2 defeats and narrowly missed out on a semi-final place by 1 point. Team A secured 3 wins along with 2 draws and 1 defeat which earned them a semi-final against Cregagh Primary. Unfortunately a late goal saw Cregagh through to the final.

In the 5-a-side competition, the team again came so close to reaching the final stage, but a penalty shootout meant we missed out by a goal to progress.



PTA

A huge thank you to our PTA for the fantastic Christmas competitions and to all of the families who entered. The boys and girls were delighted to receive their lovely prizes in our whole school end of term assembly.

Next up is our PTA Movie Night on Thursday 5th February. Please check your ClassDojo for the movie information and booking link.

Our Summer Fair has been scheduled for Tuesday 9th June 2026. We will send a Dojo message out in due course but if you would like to get in early and reserve a stall at the Fair, please get in touch with our team at Dundonald PTA

dundonaldpta@gmail.com

Dundonald Primary PTA

MOVIE NIGHT

P1 & P2 6:30-7:30
P3 - P7 6:30-8:15

£3 per child snack & drink included

Children are welcome to come in PJ's, bring a cuddly toy and/or pillow!

Time: P1 & P2 - 6.30-7.30pm
P3 - P7 6.30 - 8.15pm

Parentkind

HOUSE PROGRESS AWARDS, BEHAVIOUR & UNIFORM – JANUARY 2025

Lions 4270	Tigers 4330	Cheetahs 4290	Jaguars 4500	Leopards 4520
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ATTENDANCE AWARDS - JANUARY 2025

P1-P2	Mrs Todd	98.4%
P3-P4	Mrs Smyth	97.8%
P5-P7	Mr Maxwell	98.8%



WHO TO CONTACT

If you need to contact us regarding your son/daughter, please do not hesitate to do so in the following order:

1. Initial contact with your child's teacher
2. Your child's head of Key Stage:
 Head of Nursery **Mrs McConaghy**
 Head of Foundation Stage (P1 & P2) **Mrs McGonigle**
 Head of Key Stage 1 (P3 & P4) **Mrs Dodds**
 Head of Key Stage 2 (P5, P6 & P7) **Miss Ellis**
3. SENCo **Mrs Savage**
4. Vice Principal **Mrs Burns**
5. Principal **Mr Massey**



SAFEGUARDING

Please remember, if you have any concerns about your child, or another child inside or outside school, you should share these concerns with us. When a child is in school, we are responsible for keeping them safe from harm and abuse. In Dundonald Primary School & Nursery Unit we strive to create a safe learning environment, identify children who are suffering from or may be at risk of harm and take suitable action.

If you have any concerns, please share them with:

Mrs S Burns (Designated Teacher for Child Protection & Safeguarding)

Mrs M Savage (Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection & Safeguarding)

Mr D Massey (Safeguarding Team)



SAFE SPACE SCHOOL



SAFE SCHOOL

Dundonald Primary School is a Safe Space School. If anyone is experiencing Domestic Violence or requires support, we can provide a safe space to talk and signpost to relevant services. You can come to school to speak to Mrs Burns, Vice Principal or alternatively cards will be left at reception with a QR code to direct you to support services.

PUPIL & TRAFFIC SAFETY

If you see any cars driving dangerously or parking without care in the neighbouring streets, please report their registration to the local PSNI immediately.



DATES & COMMUNICATION



Please continue to check your ClassDojo and please follow the school Facebook Page and Synced Website Calendar for updates on the exciting events happening in school throughout the very busy year ahead.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61550216596814>



JANUARY 2026

W	28	Post Primary Transfer Interviews School Council @ NI Assembly 10:30-12
T	29	Post Primary Transfer Interviews
F	30	Post Primary Transfer Interviews P7 Aspire @ Tor Bank P7FE @ Dreamspace W5 P5 Bat talk

FEBRUARY 2026

M	2	
T	3	P7JH @ Dreamspace W5
W	4	Hockey Blitz Boys & Girls @ RHS
T	5	PTA Movie Night
F	6	P7AS @ Dreamspace W5
M	9	SDD2 School Closed for pupils
T	10	Half term Holiday
W	11	Half term Holiday
T	12	Half term Holiday
F	13	Half term Holiday
M	16	SDD3 School Closed for pupils
T	17	Safer Internet Day Susie Millar- P7 Titanic Talk Netball Competition
W	18	Ulster Hockey Qualifying – Girls P2 Clothes show Ashwood Vet visiting Nursery P5HC at Grahamsbridge Manor
T	19	Ulster Hockey Qualifying – Boys
F	20	P2 Aspire @ Dundonald P7 Aspire @ Longstone Dundonald Foodbank Charity visiting P5

M	23	P1-P6 Parent Teacher Interview Week – Pupils in P1-P7 finish at lunchtime unless attending Shrek rehearsals Gathering drum in Nursery
T	24	Annual Reviews
W	25	P1-P3 Story Dome
T	26	Annual Reviews P1-P3 Story Dome
F	27	

MARCH 2026

M	2	Literacy Week Annual Reviews
T	3	Literacy Week & Book Fair P6 Transferring to Post Primary meeting 6:30pm Assembly Hall
W	4	Literacy Week & Book Fair
T	5	Literacy Week & Book Fair WORLD BOOK DAY
F	6	Book Fair
M	9	Ark farm visiting Nursery
T	10	PTA meeting
W	11	P7 Learning Community @ Tor Bank World of Owls
T	12	Orangefield Cross Country - Belfast Schools Football 2:30pm: Dundonald vs Killinchy; Dundonald vs West Winds
F	13	
M	16	Science Week Gathering Drum in Nursery
T	17	Pupils stop at Lunchtime – No EA meals or transport
W	18	
T	19	Scientific Sue in Hall Football v Victoria Primary and v Londonderry Primary
F	20	Scientific Sue in Hall P2 Aspire @ Longstone P7 Aspire @ Tor Bank
M	23	NUMERACY WEEK Notification of Nursery & Primary 1 places
T	24	
W	25	
T	26	Rockstar Maths Day
F	27	
M	30	Easter Holidays
T	31	Easter Holidays

APRIL 2026

W	1	Easter Holidays
T	2	Easter Holidays
F	3	Easter Holidays
M	6	Easter Holidays
T	7	Easter Holidays

W	8	Easter Holidays
T	9	Easter Holidays
F	10	Easter Holidays
M	13	Term 3 begins for all pupils
T	14	
W	15	
T	16	P2 Aspire @ Longstone
F	17	
M	20	Gathering drum in Nursery P2 Aspire @ Dundonald P7 Aspire Longstone visiting for Matinee
T	21	SCHOOL SHOW "SHREK"
W	22	SCHOOL SHOW "SHREK" Mr Hullabaloo in Nursery
T	23	SCHOOL SHOW "SHREK"
F	24	
M	25	
T	28	Belfast Schools Cross-Country Finals - Mallusk
W	29	
T	30	P7 Aspire @ TBC

MAY 2026

F	1	SDD4 School Closed for pupils
M	4	Bank Holiday
T	5	P7 in Edinburgh
W	6	P7 in Edinburgh
T	7	P7 in Edinburgh
F	8	P7 in Edinburgh P2 Aspire @ Dundonald
SA	9	Post Primary Y8 Placements
M	11	
T	12	
W	13	
T	14	
F	15	P7 Aspire @ Stormont
M	18	P6 Registration opens for SEAG 2026
T	19	
W	20	P7 love for life workshop X2 P4 classes @ Folk Museum
T	21	
F	22	
M	25	Bank Holiday
T	26	SDD5 - School Closed for pupils
W	27	Wee Critters in P3
T	28	
F	29	P2 Aspire @ Tor Bank P7 Aspire @ Tor Bank

JUNE 2026

M	1	P3 in Mount Stewart
T	2	

W	3	LORNE RESIDENTIAL GROUP 1 P3 in Mount Stewart
T	4	LORNE RESIDENTIAL GROUP 1
F	5	LORNE RESIDENTIAL GROUP 1
M	8	
T	9	PTA Summer Fair 6pm-8pm
W	10	X2 P4 classes @ Folk Museum
T	11	W5 trip for P.5 SM & HC
F	12	P6 Birds of Prey W5 trip for P.5 KS & TS P2 Exploris Touch Tank visiting
M	15	LORNE RESIDENTIAL GROUP 2
T	16	LORNE RESIDENTIAL GROUP 2
W	17	LORNE RESIDENTIAL GROUP 2
T	18	
F	19	
M	22	
T	23	
W	24	Fizz Wizz Pop magician in nursery
T	25	Whole school final assembly & house awards
F	26	School stops at lunchtime - P7 Farewell Assembly (Staff & P7 Parents)
M	29	
T	30	Last Day of Term 3



Inspire. Believe. Achieve

“Through nurture we Inspire a love of learning, Believe in our abilities, and empower each other to Achieve our personal best within a supportive school community.”