

September 2026 News

WELCOME TO THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

We are delighted to welcome everyone back to Dundonald Primary School & Nursery Unit following the summer break. A particularly warm welcome is extended to our new Nursery and Primary 1 children and their families as they begin their journey as part of our school community.

I hope that all of our boys and girls have enjoyed a very positive start to the new term, have made new friends, and are now settling happily into the routines of school life.

Our school is thriving. It is wonderful to see happy, smiling children in our classrooms each day, engaged in their learning and embracing the many opportunities available to them. Across the school, there is a strong sense of belonging, where kindness, respect, and support are at the heart of everything we do. We are proud of the positive environment that exists within our school family and look forward to another exciting year of learning, achievement, and success together.



NEW PUPILS

In addition to our new pupils in Nursery and Primary 1, we would like to extend this warm welcome to our families who have joined us throughout school from further afield.

We welcome 9 new pupils this month,

Yasmin (P1),

Rayan (P2),

Faith & Harun (P3),

Ellis (P4)

Zoraiz & Mohammed (P5)

Jonah (P6)

Gbolahan (P7)

We are delighted that you have chosen to join us for the new school year and welcome you and your family to your new school family.





SEPT 2026 AWARD

We are incredibly proud to announce that Dundonald Primary School has achieved the Investors in Mental Health Gold Award – Recognising Education, developed by AWARE NI. Achieving Gold status is a wonderful recognition of the culture we work hard to create every day — a culture where wellbeing is valued, where people feel supported and where mental health is embedded in all aspects of school life.

We would like to give a very special mention to our Vice Principal and Mental Health Champion, Mrs Burns. Her passion, leadership and commitment to promoting positive mental health across our school have been outstanding. She has worked tirelessly to ensure that wellbeing is not simply something we talk about, but something that is genuinely lived and experienced throughout our school community. 🙌 Thank you, Mrs Burns.

Most importantly, this award belongs to our whole school and is a reflection of the care shown by our staff, the kindness of our pupils, the support of our families and the positive relationships that make Dundonald Primary School such a special place.



This October, we would like to support our local foodbank. We are kindly asking our DPS families to donate one item per household. Every donation will make a difference.

Items most needed:

- tinned meat
- tinned veg/fruit
- chocolate/crisps
- tea & coffee
- pasta
- toiletries

please do not donate any perishable items

Donations to be brought into school by **Thursday 15th October**

DPS DONATES TO DUNDONALD foodbank

The Dundonald Primary School logo, featuring a circular emblem with a building and the text "DUNDONALD PRIMARY SCHOOL".

An illustration of a cardboard box filled with various food items, including a bottle of sauce, a jar of jam, and a box of cereal.

PUPIL ROLES 2026-2027

Congratulations to the following pupils on gaining the important roles within school for this year. We were excited to present the P4-P7 pupils with their badges and really value their contribution to this huge part of our school ethos.

SCHOOL LIBRARIANS 2026-2027

P4	P5	P6	P7
Sam Butler Katie Campbell Ethan Brown Heidi McCully.	Eden Moore Margaux Campbell Eva Gonzalez Emma McAlister	Annelise Hill Autumn Megrath Sienna Scott Fareed Abdulazeez	Mia Wang Tom Smith Emily Morrow Sam Eadie



SCHOOL DIGITAL LEADERS 2026-2027



P5	P6	P7
Rory Espiner Gowtham Ranjith Kumar Ollie Clegg Immanuel Macdonald	Olly Blair Seth Harris Ryan Robinson Ezra Martin	Lucy Henderson Ralphie Ferguson Jacob Kocherian Freya Thompson

SCHOOL ECO COUNCIL 2026-2027

P4	P5	P6	P7
Ollie George Lyla Courtney River Dornan Lexie Campbell	Matilda Mooney Freya Briggs Lucy Littlewood Reece Badanjak	Ben Faulkner Olivia Faulkner-Muzenda Melania Ivanova Tianna Macleod	Sara Henderson Abigail McNaughten Anna Corish Barry McCune



SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL 2026-2027



P4	P5	P6	P7
Joshua Quinn Jude Crymble Carter Rodriguez Zach McNeice	Olivia Marshall Jacob McNaughten Alex Callacher Arush Agarwal	Kiaan Jain Franklin Harkness Arlo Murphy Abbie Glass	Jie Greer Beth Campbell Scarlett Harwood Elyza Rainey

SCHOOL RIGHTS RESPECTING COUNCIL 2026-2027

P4	P5	P6	P7
Ollie Wilson Demi Lauder Ruby Allen Arthur Scott	Jack O'Connor Max Spratt Seth Harris Carrie Rea	Aardhya Kotipalli Esther Fagunwa Katie Rolston Mila Gillen	Noah O'Doherty Robyn Foulis Sebastian Tanguanco Luke Smyth



FOREST RANGERS 2026-2027

P6	P7
James Craig Mark McMullan Florence Hughes Teddy Best	Sam Neill Lexi Sherlock Ellen Greene Archie Millar



Introducing Our New Inter-House System for 2026-2027

We are delighted to announce the launch of our four new school houses as part of our Inter-House Competition for the 2026-2027 academic year.

All pupils from **P4 to P7** will be members of one of four houses, creating opportunities for teamwork, participation, and healthy competition throughout the year. Pupils will earn points for their house through sporting events, academic challenges, attendance, behaviour, and a range of activities.

Our four houses have been named in honour of the four previous principals of our school, recognising their contribution to the proud history and success of Dundonald Primary School:

- **Vance House** (Red)
- **Jess House** (Blue)
- **Brittain House** (Green)
- **Byers House** (Yellow)

We look forward to an exciting year of competition and wish all four houses the very best of luck!

HOUSE CAPTAINS & VICE CAPTAINS 2026-2027

Vance	Jess	Brittain	Byers
Captain Caitlin Andress Barry McCune	Captain Abigail McNaughten Tom Smith	Captain Mia Wang Luke Smyth	Captain Jie Greer Sebastian Gault
Vice-Captain Anna Cornish Harrison Hewitt	Vice-Captain Ellen Greene Rory McMullan	Vice-Captain Philippa Roberts Callum Donnelly	Vice-Captain Pippa Spratt Jack Harris

Georgia Grahame Violin - Grade 1
Henrietta Ellames Violin - Grade 1
Ben Faulkner Violin - Grade 1
Mahveen Daptari Violin - Grade 2
Christian Ingram Violin - Grade 2
Raizel Rajesh Violin - Grade 2
Lucy Glover Violin - Grade 2
Mia Wang Violin - Grade 2
Max Wang Trumpet - Grade 1
Dillon Holmes Trumpet - Grade 1
Lexi Sherlock Trumpet - Grade 1
Freya Thompson Trumpet - Grade 1
Benjamin Gervais Trumpet - Grade 1
Liliana Hill Trumpet - Grade 4
Annelise Hill French Horn - Grade 3
Olivia Faulkner-Muzenda Cornet - Grade 1

MUSIC SUCCESS

Well done to all our boys and girls who have worked hard and dedicated lots of hours this year at home and during instrumental tuition in school. Congratulations to the following pupils who also successfully completed their Grade examinations with some fantastic scores:



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 Foundation Stage (Nursery, 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)

Mrs K McConaghy (Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection & Safeguarding)

Mr D Massey (Safeguarding Team)





Safeguarding

Keeping our children safe and happy



At Dundonald Primary School, the safety and wellbeing of every child is our top priority.

We are committed to providing a safe, caring and supportive environment where all children can learn, grow and thrive.

Our Safeguarding Policy

Available on our school website
<https://www.dundonaldprimaryschool.net/policies>



Our Promise

- ✓ We listen to children.
- ✓ We take concerns seriously.
- ✓ We work with families and outside agencies when needed.
- ✓ We make sure children feel safe, valued and respected.



Working Together

Safeguarding works best when we work together.

If you ever have a concern about your child or another child, please contact a member of our safeguarding team.



Speak Up

If something doesn't feel right, it's important to tell someone.

It's OK to ask for help.

Children can speak to any trusted adult in school.



Our Safeguarding Team

Our trained safeguarding team are here to help. You can find their photos and names on our school website.

We are here to support you.



Read our full Safeguarding Policy

Visit our school website.



Together we keep our children safe

Inspire • Believe • Achieve



DUNDONALD PRIMARY SCHOOL

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR: AN OVERVIEW OF OUR APPROACH

INSPIRE • BELIEVE • ACHIEVE



Every child deserves to feel safe, valued, respected and supported.

**RESPECT**

**KINDNESS**

**RESPONSIBILITY**

**HONESTY**

**FAIRNESS**

**FRIENDSHIP**

**SELF-CONTROL**

WHAT WE BELIEVE

- positive relationships
- safety and connection
- behaviour communicating needs
- teaching self-regulation
- learning from mistakes
- increasing responsibility
- home-school partnership

HOW WE SUPPORT POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

- clear routines
- class charters and plans
- nurture and co-regulation
- praise and recognition
- explicit teaching
- restorative conversations
- early intervention
- individual support

WHEN DIFFICULTIES ARISE

- **PROTECT:** Keep everyone safe.
- **RELATE:** Connect with and support the child.
- **REGULATE:** Help the child become calm and ready to learn.
- **REFLECT:** Explore what happened and its impact.
- **REPAIR:** Support children to rebuild relationships and move forward.



RESTORATIVE REFLECTION

What happened?
What were you thinking or feeling?
Who was affected?
What can be done to put things right?
What could you do differently next time?



"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."

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

The safety of our pupils is paramount within our school setting from the moment they enter the school grounds in the morning until they leave the grounds in the afternoon.

It is equally important that this safety extends to our surrounding roads and the role parents and grandparents have in helping us in supporting a safe environment for children, their families, residents, and other road users.



Always exercise extreme caution when parking near any of our three entrances. Please also be courteous of our residents and their driveways. Please always be cautious of our children and don't always assume our very young children are as aware of traffic as our older children!!!

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

NUT ALLERGIES

Please remember when making your child's packed lunch, we have lots of serious nut allergies in school and request you avoid sending peanut butter, Nutella, Snickers etc. With an increasing number of pupils with Epi Pens for anaphylactic shock, we would ask you to help us by being vigilant when sending in packed lunches. We would also request that Birthday Cakes are not sent in as we cannot give an absolute nut free guarantee, and instead if you wish, send in individual treats that can be safely distributed at the end of the school day.



SCHOOL UNIFORM

We have a lovely school uniform that we are very proud of and hope your children are very proud of too. It is important that we maintain our high standards of school uniform from P1 right through to P7, as the vast majority of pupils do.

Already at the end of the first month of term, some children are coming to school without their tie or wearing trainers and not the black shoes they wore at the start of the year. Pupils should only wear trainers to school when wearing their school PE kit on their PE or swimming days. Pupils should not come to school in tracksuits or trainers for afterschool clubs, and provision will be made in the afternoons for changing. Thank you for your support in helping us maintain our uniform standards.





PTA

Thank you to everyone who came along to any of the PTA events last year. Whether you bought a coffee, a hot dog, or raised £100 in sponsorship, your contribution was greatly appreciated. Last year the PTA made another huge impact within school, and we look forward to the exciting year ahead, knowing it will be filled with wonderful events and lasting memories, all made possible by your hard work.

In advance of your hard work and dedication in organising this year's events. Your efforts not only bring our school community together, but they also play a vital role in supporting the school through your fundraising initiatives. Your contributions enable us to provide enriched opportunities for our pupils, and we are truly grateful for the positive impact you have on the school.

A huge thankyou to Mrs Niamh O'Connor our PTA chairperson, and the PTA committee, and the team of parents who have played a key part in our recent success & fundraising.



Term 1 After School Clubs 2026/27

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1.50-2.50pm	1.50-2.50pm	1.50-2.50pm	1.50-2.50pm	1.50-2.30pm
Combat kids P2 Skill School Book via App	Football P2 Skill School Book via App	Coding P2 (P2MS) Dismissal P2 door Max Coding Book via App	Theatrics P3 Book via App	Lego P2-3 1.50-2.50pm Skill School Book via App
		Dodgeball P2 Skill School Book via App	Football P3 Skill School Book via App	Theatrics P2 1:50-2:30pm Book via App
3-3.50pm	3-3.50pm	3-3.50pm	3-3.50pm	2.30-3.30pm
Cross Country Running P6-P7 Mr Massey	Minecraft Ed P6 Mr Maxwell	Board Games P5-P7 Mrs Ssenyonga	Mindfulness Club P5-7 Miss Ferguson	
	Gardening Club P7 Mrs McGonigle	S.U P3 – P7 Miss McIntyre & Mrs Gordon	String Music Group P6-P7 selected Miss Ellis	
	Jewellery & Fashion P6 Mrs Spence	Spanish Club P3 Miss Smyth	Theatrics P4 & P6 Book via App	
	Crochet & Stitch P7 Mrs Savage	Art Club P4 Miss McNeill & Mrs Kitson-Woods		
	Junior Choir P4 Mrs Dodds	Coding P3-7 Max Coding Book via App		
Combat kids P3-7 Skill School Book via App	Judo P4-7 Simply Judo Book via App	Senior Choir P5-7 Mrs Harris & Mrs Armstrong	Netball P6 & P7 Mrs Dodd Miss Horner	Theatrics P5 & P7 2.30-3.30pm Book via App
	Hockey Girls & Boys P6-7 Miss Herbison & Mrs Best & Miss Jordan	Dodgeball P4-7 Skill School Book via App		
	Football Squad P6-7 Mr Seeds	Contact Rugby P6-7 Mr Beattie & Mr Kennedy	Football P5-P7 Skill School Book via App	
	Football P4 Skill School Book via App			



School Assembly Hall



Astro Pitch



Grass Pitches

- External clubs will incur a charge directly to the co-ordinator and numbers may be limited. Please record session dates when booking as dates may vary between clubs.
- Please ensure medical needs/collection arrangements are shared with external club provider in advance of starting the club
- Clubs Coordinated by School Staff

Term 1 = 8 weeks of Internal clubs hosted by Teaching Staff

Week 1 Sept 21
Week 2 Sept 28
Week 3 Oct 5
Week 4 Oct 12

Week 5 Nov 2
Week 6 Nov 9
Week 7 Nov 16
Week 8 Nov 23



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DATES & COMMUNICATION



ClassDojo

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



SEPTEMBER 2026

DAY	DATE	EVENT / INFORMATION
Tuesday	1	Woodwind lessons commence in the Boardroom
Thursday	3	Brass lessons commence in the Boardroom
Monday	7	Violin lessons commence in the Boardroom
Wednesday	9	SEN Coffee Morning
Monday	14	P6 swimming begins for MB & MW
Wednesday	16	School Development Plan parent questionnaire
Thursday	17	ECO Assembly with Tom O'Dowd
Friday	18	ECO Assembly with Tom O'Dowd SEAG closing date
Monday	21	P7 Parent Teacher Interviews After-School Teacher Clubs begin
Tuesday	22	P7 Parent Teacher Interviews
Wednesday	23	P7 Parent Teacher Interviews
Thursday	24	P1 family walk, 12:45–1:15pm P7 Parent Teacher Interviews P1 & Nursery transition complete Awards Assemblies
Friday	25	TransformEd Day 1 P1–P6 Equipple booking goes live at 8:00am
Tuesday	29	School Photographer: individual and sibling photographs
Wednesday	30	School Photographer: individual and sibling photographs



OCTOBER 2026

DAY	DATE	EVENT / INFORMATION
Thursday	1	School Photographer: individual and sibling photographs Football v Ballywalter, Donaghadee & Brooklands
Friday	2	Inter-House Cross Country for P6/7 and P4/5
Monday	5	ETI Inspection Ulster Hockey Blitz: Girls
Tuesday	6	ETI Inspection P1–P6 Equipple booking closes P6: two classes at the Viking Museum Ulster Hockey Blitz: Girls
Wednesday	7	ETI Inspection P6: two classes at the Viking Museum

Thursday	8	ETI Inspection Foodbank Assembly
Friday	9	ETI Inspection Foodbank Assembly
Monday	12	Eco Week begins
Tuesday	13	P5 visit to Castle Espie: HC & SM
Wednesday	14	Swatini Youth Choir visiting P5–P7
Thursday	15	P5 visit to Castle Espie: TS & KS
Friday	16	Foodbank Collection Day
Monday	19	P1–P6 Parent Teacher Interviews Cross-Country Race in Downpatrick

Tuesday	20	P1–P6 Parent Teacher Interviews
Wednesday	21	P1–P6 Parent Teacher Interviews
Thursday	22	P1–P6 Parent Teacher Interviews Football v Comber, Killinchy & West Winds
Friday	23	P1–P6 Parent Teacher Interviews
Saturday	24	LCC Council using the school car park, 11:00am–1:00pm
Monday	26	Half-Term Holidays
Tuesday	27	Half-Term Holidays
Wednesday	28	Half-Term Holidays
Thursday	29	Half-Term Holidays
Friday	30	Half-Term Holidays



NOVEMBER 2026

DAY	DATE	EVENT / INFORMATION
Monday	2	Maths Week begins
Tuesday	3	Nursery photographs
Wednesday	4	P7 Annual Reviews
Monday	9	P6 AB & TM begin swimming Sonal Sportz in Nursery
Tuesday	10	Wee Critters in Nursery
Wednesday	11	Nursery Parent Teacher Consultations in the Boardroom Hockey Blitz: Girls, Londonderry Park
Thursday	12	Nursery Parent Teacher Consultations in the Boardroom
Saturday	14	SEAG Paper 1
Wednesday	18	Hockey Blitz: Boys, Londonderry Park
Saturday	21	SEAG Paper 2
Monday	23	Flu vaccinations for the whole school
Wednesday	25	Hockey Blitz: Girls, Comber
Thursday	26	Hockey Blitz: Boys, Comber
Monday	30	Cross-Country Race, Londonderry Park, Newtownards



DECEMBER 2026

DAY	DATE	EVENT / INFORMATION
Wednesday	2	Open Night
Thursday	3	Football v Londonderry & Castle Gardens
Friday	4	Choir singing at Crosspoint Church at 11:00am
Monday	7	Sonal Sportz in Nursery
Wednesday	9	P1–P4 Nativity
Thursday	10	P1–P4 Nativity
Monday	14	Senior Carol Service at 7:00pm
Monday	21	Christmas Holidays
Tuesday	22	Christmas Holidays
Wednesday	23	Christmas Holidays
Thursday	24	Christmas Holidays
Friday	25	Christmas Holidays
Monday	28	Christmas Holidays
Tuesday	29	Christmas Holidays
Wednesday	30	Christmas Holidays
Thursday	31	Christmas Holidays



JANUARY 2027

DAY	DATE	EVENT / INFORMATION
Friday	1	Christmas Holidays
Monday	4	Term 2 begins
Wednesday	13	Hockey Blitz: Girls, Londonderry Park
Thursday	14	Hockey Blitz: Boys, Londonderry Park
Monday	18	P5 TS & HC begin swimming Sonal Sportz in Nursery Cross-Country Race in Tollymore
Thursday	21	Post-Primary Interviews Ulster Hockey: Boys, Comber
Friday	22	Post-Primary Interviews
Saturday	23	SEAG Results
Monday	25	TransformEd Day 2
Tuesday	26	Post-Primary Interviews Gathering Drum in Nursery
Wednesday	27	Post-Primary Interviews
Thursday	28	Post-Primary Interviews Football v Victoria, Abbey & Portavogie
Friday	29	Post-Primary Interviews



FEBRUARY 2027

DAY	DATE	EVENT / INFORMATION
Thursday	4	Football v Ards Model
Monday	8	School Development Day 1
Tuesday	9	Half-Term Holiday
Wednesday	10	Half-Term Holiday
Thursday	11	Half-Term Holiday
Friday	12	Half-Term Holiday
Monday	15	School Development Day 2
Monday	22	P1–P6 Parent Teacher Interviews Gathering Drum in Nursery
Tuesday	23	P1–P6 Parent Teacher Interviews
Wednesday	24	P1–P6 Parent Teacher Interviews
Thursday	25	P1–P6 Parent Teacher Interviews
Friday	26	P1–P6 Parent Teacher Interviews NI Cross-Country Finals, Mallusk



MARCH 2027

DAY	DATE	EVENT / INFORMATION
Monday	1	Literacy Week begins Book Fair delivered Sonal Sportz: Nursery Parents Stay & Play
Friday	5	Nursery visit from Ark Farm
Wednesday	17	Half day for pupils
Thursday	18	Football v Andrews & Millisle
Monday	22	Easter Holidays
Tuesday	23	Easter Holidays
Wednesday	24	Easter Holidays
Thursday	25	Easter Holidays
Friday	26	Easter Holidays
Monday	29	Easter Holidays
Tuesday	30	Easter Holidays
Wednesday	31	Easter Holidays



APRIL 2027

DAY	DATE	EVENT / INFORMATION
Thursday	1	Easter Holidays
Friday	2	Easter Holidays
Monday	5	Mr Hullabaloo in Nursery
Tuesday	6	P7 Extern
Tuesday	13	P7 Extern
Monday	19	P5 SM & KS begin swimming

		Gathering Drum in Nursery
Tuesday	20	P7 Extern
Monday	26	P4 JP visit to the War Museum
Tuesday	27	P4 DF visit to the War Museum P7 Extern
Wednesday	28	P4 NM visit to the War Museum
Thursday	29	P4 JB visit to the War Museum
Friday	30	School Development Day 3. This may move to Wednesday 5 May if the school is used for the election on 6 May.



MAY 2027

DAY	DATE	EVENT / INFORMATION
Monday	3	Bank Holiday
Tuesday	4	TransformEd Day 3
Wednesday	5	Possible revised date for School Development Day 3
Thursday	6	School may be closed for elections
Tuesday	11	P7 Extern P7 Edinburgh Residential
Wednesday	12	P7 Edinburgh Residential
Thursday	13	P7 Edinburgh Residential
Friday	14	P7 Edinburgh Residential
Monday	17	P7 Love For Life in the Assembly Hall
Tuesday	18	P7 Extern
Monday	31	School Development Day 4



JUNE 2027

DAY	DATE	EVENT / INFORMATION
Tuesday	1	School Development Day 5
Wednesday	2	Summer Concert
Thursday	10	P5 visit to W5: HC & SM
Friday	11	P5 visit to W5: TS & KS
Monday	14	P7 Lorne Residential: Group 1
Tuesday	15	P7 Lorne Residential: Group 1
Wednesday	16	P7 Lorne Residential: Groups 1 & 2
Thursday	17	P7 Lorne Residential: Group 2
Friday	18	P7 Lorne Residential: Group 2
Wednesday	23	Fizz Whizz Pop in Nursery



"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."