

October 2026 News

THANK YOU

Thank you for your tremendous support, not only for your children but also for our staff, through your engagement in this week's Parent-Teacher Consultations.

At Dundonald Primary School, we greatly value the positive relationships we share with our families. As a community of learners, we believe that working in partnership with parents is fundamental to ensuring the very best outcomes for our children. Your children remain at the heart of our decision-making, continuous improvement, and efforts to raise standards, and we are grateful for the role you play in supporting their learning journey.



Thank you for continuing to work alongside us in helping every child to thrive and succeed.

OCTOBER CHARITIES

What an amazing few weeks it has been! Thank you to all our pupils, parents, families, staff and friends who supported our three recent charity events; The Dundonald Foodbank, Cash for Clobber, and the Eswatini school building programme. Your generosity and willingness to help others have been truly inspiring. Together, we have shown the power of community and the importance of making a difference to those in need. We are incredibly grateful for your continued support and for living out our school values so positively.



OCTOBER VISITORS AND VISITS



P6 had a fantastic visit to North Down Museum as part of their Viking Topic. They got to experience lots of fun activities and dressing up.



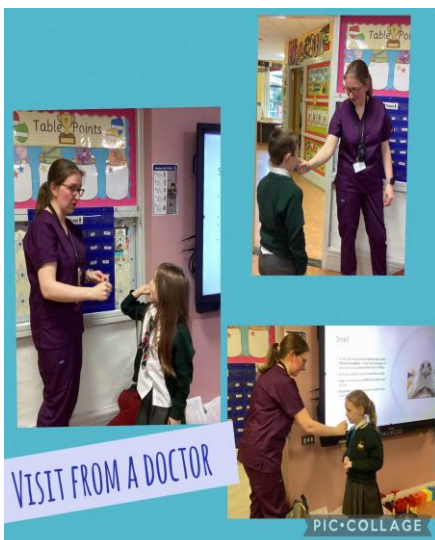
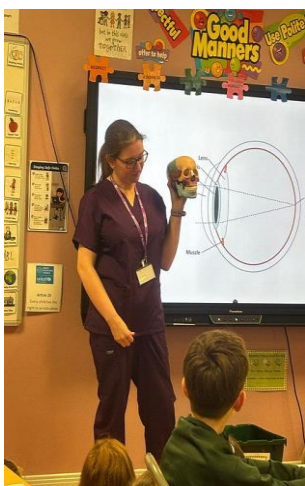
P5 got to visit Castle Espie this month as part of their topic on animals. The boys and girls had 2 fantastic days with lots of close up experiences!

Well done to everyone who participated in the activities throughout Eco Week and to the Eco Council for their organisation of so many fun ideas.

We had Eco Heroes, Be Bright be Seen, Power Down Day, Outdoor Learning, Daily Mile, Walk, Cycle & Scoot, Paper free Day and Cash for Clobber. Thankyou for a fantastic week!!



ECO WEEK



As part of their senses topic Dr McNarry came to visit P4 this month. She taught the boys and girls all about their senses and explored Ted the head!



SPORTING SUCCESS

HOCKEY

🏑 Girls' Ulster Hockey Blitz 🏑

An outstanding day of hockey for our P6/7 team during October. The girls played 5 other schools and were unbeaten, keeping a clean sheet throughout. Well done to our goalkeeper Poppy! 🙌

There were 19 goals scored in total, with an incredible 11 coming from Myla! 😊

Well done to everyone involved for representing our school so well. A big thank you to our parent supporters too!



The P6/7 boys had a great day out this month at the Ulster Hockey blitz at Comber Leisure Centre 🏑

The boys were up against some brilliant teams, but managed to work together and played some fabulous hockey! They won 4 matches, drew 1 and lost 2!

Well done to everyone who was involved, and a huge thank you to our parent supporters and those who helped with transport.

FOOTBALL

The school football team got off to a fantastic start in October in the league with three strong performances, we came away with 3 wins, 3 clean sheets and 9 points!

Dundonald 2-0 Millisle

Dundonald 1-0 Newtownards Model

Dundonald 1-0 Castle Gardens



JUDO

Congratulations to our very own Callum from P5, who represented Dundonald Primary School in the Northern Ireland Schools Judo Championships in the Foyle Arena. Callum is proudly wearing his silver medal. Sensei Scott who coaches in school on a Tuesday afternoon is brimming with pride too!!

CROSS-COUNTRY

Well done to the P7 pupils who participated in the first round of the Flahavan's cross country league this month. The boys and girls ran superbly in the races in Downpatrick. Well done to Robyn 10th & Sara 11th our first girls across the line, and to Rhys 26th our first boy across the line. Huge congratulations to our Girls who finished 2nd overall against 18 schools in their race.



Well done to all of the boys and girls in P4-P7 who competed in the Interhouse Cross Country races. This is the first time we have included four whole year groups and the very first time that the four new houses have been represented.

Well done to **JESS** who have the lead over their rivals after event one!!

INTER-HOUSE COMPETITION OCTOBER 2026

	● Vance	● Jess	● Brittain	● Byers
P4/5 Cross Country - Girls	10	8	4	6
P4/5 Cross Country - Boys	4	6	8	10
P6/7 Cross Country - Girls	6	10	8	4
P6/7 Cross Country - Boys	8	10	6	4

PROGRESS AWARDS, BEHAVIOUR & UNIFORM – OCTOBER 2026

● Vance	● Jess	● Brittain	● Byers
130	110	110	130

ATTENDANCE AWARDS - OCTOBER 2026

P1-P2	Miss Ferguson	98.4%
P3-P4	Miss McIntyre	98.3%
P5-P7	Mrs Coulter/Mrs Harris	98.1%



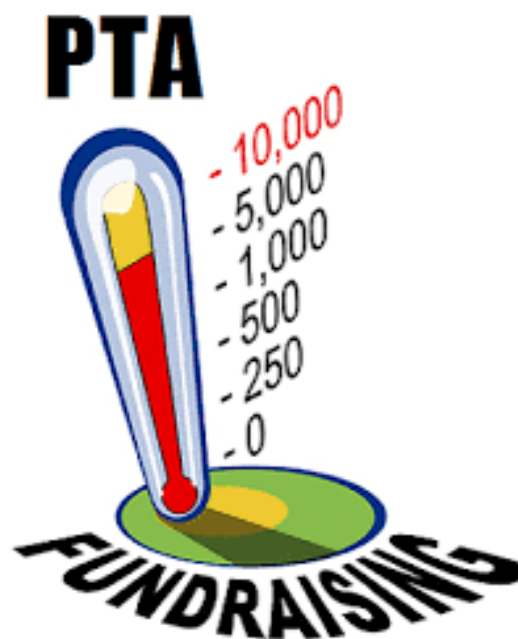
PTA

A big thankyou to everyone who attended the PTA AGM and the 1st meeting of the new Term, and to our new committee members and core team.

If you would still like to join our PTA please get in touch via: dundonaldpta@gmail.com

You can help Dundonald Primary School PTA raise FREE funds by using #easyfundraising when you buy anything from your favourite brands like eBay, Just Eat, Trainline, Argos and over 7,500 more. It's an easy way to support us just by doing your normal online shopping, and it doesn't cost you a penny extra. Please support us by clicking here:

<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/dundonaldprimaryschoolpta/kz4bak/ca/aBZKjyIL/A2304/facebook>



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."

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.



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

Date Change: We have had confirmation that school will be used for the elections on Thursday 6th May. We have therefore moved the Development Day 3 from Friday 30th April to Wednesday 5th May for consistency in the calendar for pupils, parents and staff.



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 PTA 7pm
Wednesday	11	Nursery Parent Teacher Consultations in the Boardroom Hockey Blitz: Girls, Londonderry Park Dundonald Learning Community @ Longstone School
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	Campbell College Cross-Country P6 & P7 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 EA Publish Admissions Criteria for Sept 2027
Thursday	10	P1–P4 Nativity
Friday	11	P4-P7 Interhouse Quiz
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	6	Nursery & P1 Admissions Portal opens (noon)
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
Tuesday	19	Post-Primary Interviews
Wednesday	20	Post-Primary Interviews Nursery & P1 Admissions Portal closes (noon) Ulster Hockey :Girls,Comber
Thursday	21	Ulster Hockey: Boys, Comber
Friday	22	Shared Ed with Longstone & TorBank
Saturday	23	SEAG Results
Monday	25	TransformEd Day 2
Tuesday	26	Post-Primary Interviews Gathering Drum in Nursery
Wednesday	27	Post-Primary Interviews Dundonald Learning Community @ Longstone School
Thursday	28	Post-Primary Interviews Football v Victoria, Abbey & Portavogie
Friday	29	Post-Primary Interviews Shared Ed @ TorBank



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
Friday	19	Shared Ed – Chinese New Year @ Longstone
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
Tuesday	3	Dundonald Learning Community @ Longstone School
Friday	5	Nursery visit from Ark Farm Shared Ed Music Day
Monday	8	Annual Reviews
Friday	12	Shared Ed at TorBank
Wednesday	17	Half day for pupils
Thursday	18	Football v Andrews & Millisle Sept 2027 families notified of Nur & P1 places
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
Thursday	8	School Council at Stormont
Tuesday	13	P7 Extern
Monday	19	P5 SM & KS begin swimming Gathering Drum in Nursery
Tuesday	20	P7 Extern
Friday	23	Shared Ed Glow Party @ Longstone
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



MAY 2027

DAY	DATE	EVENT / INFORMATION
Monday	3	Bank Holiday
Tuesday	4	TransformEd Day 3
Wednesday	5	School Development Day 3
Thursday	6	School 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
Wednesday	26	Shared Ed Celebration Day -Tor Bank
Monday	31	School Development Day 4



JUNE 2027

DAY	DATE	EVENT / INFORMATION
Tuesday	1	School Development Day 5
Wednesday	2	Summer Concert
Wednesday	9	X2 P4 classes @ Folk Museum
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 X2 P4 classes @ Folk Museum
Thursday	17	P7 Lorne Residential: Group 2
Friday	18	P7 Lorne Residential: Group 2
Wednesday	23	Fizz Whizz Pop in Nursery



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