



## October 2025 News



### THANKS

Thank you for your huge support, not only for your children, but also for our staff, through your engagement in our Parent Teacher Consultations this week. As a school we value the relationship you have with us. It is important to us, as a community of learners, to have you in partnership with us, and your children at the core of our decision making, continuous improvement and raising standards.

### Farewell to Mr Jordan McKane

Many within the Dundonald School community may be aware of the news that Mr McKane will be moving on to Largymore Primary School, Lisburn, as their new Vice Principal. This departure will be a great loss for DPS but will certainly be a huge gain for Largymore. In addition to his role as an amazing P6 teacher since joining the school in August 2017, Mr McKane has also held roles as the Head of Year for Primary 6 and has had the role of Numeracy Co-ordinator & Assessment Co-ordinator. As Mr McKane begins this new chapter in his career, we wish him every success for the challenges of this next step.



### Farewell to Mrs Michelle Moles

Farewell and best wishes to Mrs Moles who leaves us on Friday when we stop for the half term holiday. Mrs Moles joined us in Sept 2018, spending her time with us as a Special Educational Needs Classroom Assistant. We are incredibly grateful for the role she has had with us and the impact she has had on the pupils in her 1:1 position during the past 7 years and the support she has given in Sunshine Club. We wish her every success in her new career path in the Ulster Hospital and having conquered MasterChef we will keep an eye out for the next edition of The Bake Off on television. Best wishes for the future.

### Farewell to Mrs Jacqueline Shaw

Having joined Dundonald in March 2019, we say goodbye to Mrs Shaw after 6 years with us in school. Mrs Shaw also leaves her education journey to start a new medical journey in the Ulster Hospital. During her time with us as a Special Educational Needs Classroom Assistant, we are very appreciative of the relationships she has had with the pupils in her 1:1 care and the support she has given in school.



## PTA

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

Our PTA have organised a disco night this week that will include hundreds of our boys and girls from P1-P7. This is always a fantastic event, really well organised and really well supported. A big thankyou to everyone who is coming along on Thursday night.

If you would like to join our PTA or to help out at the Disco Night, please get in touch via: [dundonaldpta@gmail.com](mailto: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/aBZKiyjL/A2304/facebook>

Another huge thank you this month to our PTA for the presentation of a new cross-country running kit for our boys and girls. We were delighted to welcome Mrs Sharon Skillen from the PTA committee to present the lovely new kit to the school.



## 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.



As part of our P3 Roots of Empathy programme, and the P2 topic Ourselves, we had visits this month from baby Norah, baby Charlie and baby Hannah.



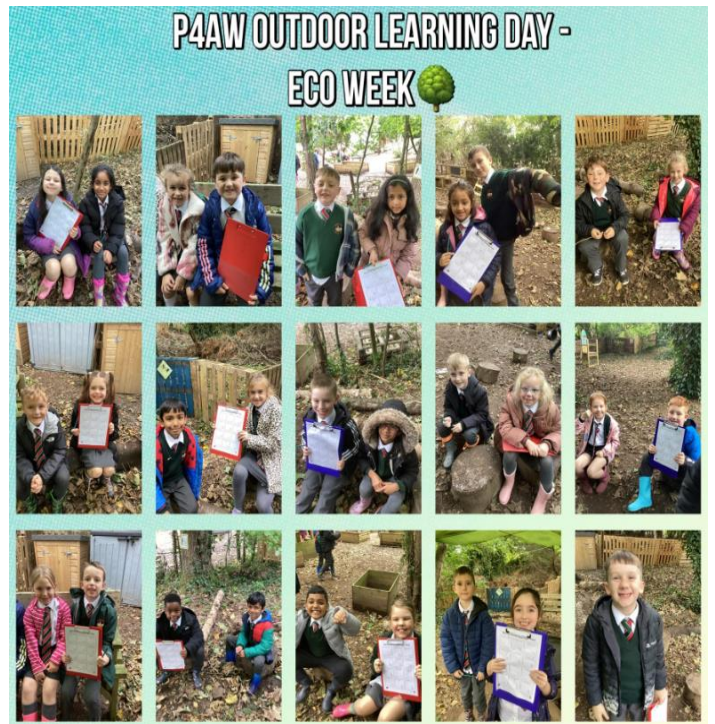


## Class Visit to Castle Espie!

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!



Nursery have been busy this month preparing all of the lovely meals for our chickens and collecting lots and lots of their eggs.



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!!



School was awash with yellow this month to mark World Mental Health Day 2025. We were thrilled to see so many children involved and a great opportunity for the many yellow Tullycarnet football kits to be worn in school for the day.



## SPORTING SUCCESS

### HOCKEY

Well done to our girls' hockey team who represented our school this week at the Regent House Hockey Blitz. 7 of our 8 girls were in school colours for the very first time, competing against lots of schools from the local area in this first blitz of the year.



## FOOTBALL

The school football team got off to a fantastic start 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 Garden



The Jimmy Callacher Competition at Hanwood saw two teams from our school battle it out in the group stages before finally meeting each other in the playoff final. After a feisty encounter, our B Team emerged as winners, with a trophy, after defeating our A Team 3 v 0. In addition to their trophy, Oliver was named player of the tournament and won a GPS sports tracker.



## CROSS-COUNTRY

Well done to all 18 pupils who participated in the first round of the Flahavan's cross country league this month. For many of the boys and girls this was their very first time in school colours and they gave it absolutely everything. This was a great introduction to racing in advance of the year ahead. The girls placed 11<sup>th</sup> out of 30 schools with Robyn our highest placed girl in 16<sup>th</sup> place. The boys placed 8<sup>th</sup> out of 30 schools with Oliver our highest placed boy in 7<sup>th</sup> place.



## HOUSE PROGRESS AWARDS, BEHAVIOUR & UNIFORM – OCTOBER 2025

Lions	<b>2210</b>	Tigers	<b>2180</b>	Cheetahs	<b>2200</b>	Jaguars	<b>2400</b>	Leopards	<b>2510</b>
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## ATTENDANCE AWARDS - OCTOBER 2025

P1-P2	<b>Mrs Glassey</b>	<b>99.1%</b>
P3-P4	<b>Mrs Best</b>	<b>98.2%</b>
P5-P7	<b>Mr Bell</b>	<b>99.1%</b>



## 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)

**Mr D Massey** (Safeguarding Team)



## P1 AND NURSERY OPEN EVENING

Please share the details of our open evening with any friends and family you know who are looking for a place for Nursery or P1 in September 2026.



# Nursery & Primary 1 Open Night

## Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 7pm-8pm

(Principal's welcome in assembly hall 7:10pm)

[www.dundonaldprimaryschool.net/admissions](http://www.dundonaldprimaryschool.net/admissions)

[info@ddps.belfast.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@ddps.belfast.ni.sch.uk)

02890482680



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**DATES & COMMUNICATION**



**ClassDojo**

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>



**OCTOBER 2025**

<b>W</b>	<b>22</b>	P1-P6 Parent Teacher Interviews (school stops at lunchtime P1-P6)
<b>T</b>	<b>23</b>	P1-P6 Parent Teacher Interviews (school stops at lunchtime P1-P6) Football 2:30pm: Abbey vs Dundonald PTA Disco
<b>F</b>	<b>24</b>	P1-P6 Parent Teacher Interviews (school stops at lunchtime P1-P6 & P7)
<b>M</b>	<b>27</b>	half term break
<b>T</b>	<b>28</b>	half term break
<b>W</b>	<b>29</b>	half term break
<b>T</b>	<b>30</b>	half term break
<b>F</b>	<b>31</b>	half term break

**NOVEMBER 2025**

<b>M</b>	<b>3</b>	
<b>T</b>	<b>4</b>	Doctor visiting P4 "all about me" Nursery & Siblings photo in hall P7 Annual Reviews
<b>W</b>	<b>5</b>	
<b>T</b>	<b>6</b>	P2 @ Castle Espie
<b>F</b>	<b>7</b>	P2 @ Castle Espie
<b>M</b>	<b>10</b>	
<b>T</b>	<b>11</b>	Nursery Parent Interviews in School Boardroom
<b>W</b>	<b>12</b>	Nursery Parent Interviews in School Boardroom
<b>T</b>	<b>13</b>	Football 2:30pm: Ballywalter vs Dundonald; Brooklands vs Dundonald
<b>F</b>	<b>14</b>	Dyslexia Coffee Morning P2 Aspire @ Longstone
<b>SA</b>	<b>15</b>	SEAG 1
<b>M</b>	<b>17</b>	Fire Service visiting P5
<b>T</b>	<b>18</b>	
<b>W</b>	<b>19</b>	P7 DLC @ at Longstone School
<b>T</b>	<b>20</b>	Football 3:00pm: Comber vs Dundonald; Portavogie vs Dundonald
<b>F</b>	<b>21</b>	P2 Aspire @ Dundonald
<b>SA</b>	<b>22</b>	SEAG 2
<b>M</b>	<b>24</b>	Wee critters in Nursery
<b>T</b>	<b>25</b>	
<b>W</b>	<b>26</b>	
<b>T</b>	<b>27</b>	
<b>F</b>	<b>28</b>	Choir singing @ Crosspoint senior citizens

**DECEMBER 2025**

<b>M</b>	<b>1</b>	FLU Vaccine for P1-P7 Cross-Country Race in Downpatrick
<b>T</b>	<b>2</b>	
<b>W</b>	<b>3</b>	Kinedale Donkeys in Nursery NURSERY & P1 OPEN NIGHT
<b>T</b>	<b>4</b>	Football 2:30pm: Donaghadee vs Dundonald; Dundonald vs Andrews
<b>F</b>	<b>5</b>	Cross-Country Race in Campbell College
<b>M</b>	<b>8</b>	Show auditions in the Library
<b>T</b>	<b>9</b>	Show auditions in the Library P7 Aspire @ Longstone
<b>W</b>	<b>10</b>	P1-P4 Nativity in Hall
<b>T</b>	<b>11</b>	P1-P4 Nativity in Hall
<b>F</b>	<b>12</b>	
<b>M</b>	<b>15</b>	7pm Carol Service in Dundonald Presbyterian Church
<b>T</b>	<b>16</b>	
<b>W</b>	<b>17</b>	
<b>T</b>	<b>18</b>	
<b>F</b>	<b>19</b>	Lunchtime finish for holidays & end of Term 1
<b>M</b>	<b>22</b>	Christmas Holidays
<b>T</b>	<b>23</b>	Christmas Holidays
<b>W</b>	<b>24</b>	Christmas Holidays
<b>T</b>	<b>25</b>	Christmas Holidays
<b>F</b>	<b>26</b>	Christmas Holidays
<b>M</b>	<b>29</b>	Christmas Holidays
<b>T</b>	<b>30</b>	Christmas Holidays
<b>W</b>	<b>31</b>	Christmas Holidays

**JANUARY 2026**

<b>T</b>	<b>1</b>	Christmas Holidays
<b>F</b>	<b>2</b>	Christmas Holidays
<b>M</b>	<b>5</b>	Term 2 begins for all pupils
<b>T</b>	<b>6</b>	
<b>W</b>	<b>7</b>	
<b>T</b>	<b>8</b>	
<b>F</b>	<b>9</b>	
<b>M</b>	<b>12</b>	
<b>T</b>	<b>13</b>	
<b>W</b>	<b>14</b>	P7FE & P7AS @ Titanic Belfast
<b>T</b>	<b>15</b>	
<b>F</b>	<b>16</b>	P7JH & P7TB @ Titanic Belfast P2 Aspire @ Longstone
<b>M</b>	<b>19</b>	Gathering drum in Nursery
<b>T</b>	<b>20</b>	
<b>W</b>	<b>21</b>	P7 DLC @ at Longstone School
<b>T</b>	<b>22</b>	Post Primary Transfer Interviews Football 3:00pm: Dundonald vs Londonderry; Victoria vs Dundonald
<b>F</b>	<b>23</b>	Post Primary Transfer Interviews P7 Aspire @ Dundonald

<b>SA</b>	<b>24</b>	SEAG Results
<b>M</b>	<b>26</b>	Post Primary Transfer Interviews
<b>T</b>	<b>27</b>	Post Primary Transfer Interviews
<b>W</b>	<b>28</b>	Post Primary Transfer Interviews
<b>T</b>	<b>29</b>	Post Primary Transfer Interviews
<b>F</b>	<b>30</b>	Post Primary Transfer Interviews P7 Aspire @ Tor Bank

## FEBRUARY 2026

<b>M</b>	<b>2</b>	
<b>T</b>	<b>3</b>	
<b>W</b>	<b>4</b>	
<b>T</b>	<b>5</b>	
<b>F</b>	<b>6</b>	
<b>M</b>	<b>9</b>	SDD2 School Closed for pupils
<b>T</b>	<b>10</b>	Half term Holiday
<b>W</b>	<b>11</b>	Half term Holiday
<b>T</b>	<b>12</b>	Half term Holiday
<b>F</b>	<b>13</b>	Half term Holiday
<b>M</b>	<b>16</b>	SDD3 School Closed for pupils
<b>T</b>	<b>17</b>	Susie Millar- P7 Titanic Talk
<b>W</b>	<b>18</b>	
<b>T</b>	<b>19</b>	
<b>F</b>	<b>20</b>	
<b>M</b>	<b>23</b>	P1-P6 Parent Teacher Interview Week Gathering drum in Nursery
<b>T</b>	<b>24</b>	Annual Reviews
<b>W</b>	<b>25</b>	P1-P3 Story Dome
<b>T</b>	<b>26</b>	Annual Reviews P1-P3 Story Dome
<b>F</b>	<b>27</b>	

## MARCH 2026

<b>M</b>	<b>2</b>	Literacy Week Annual Reviews
<b>T</b>	<b>3</b>	Literacy Week & Book Fair
<b>W</b>	<b>4</b>	Literacy Week & Book Fair
<b>T</b>	<b>5</b>	Literacy Week & Book Fair WORLD BOOK DAY
<b>F</b>	<b>6</b>	Literacy Week
<b>M</b>	<b>9</b>	Science Week Ark farm visiting Nursery
<b>T</b>	<b>10</b>	Science Week
<b>W</b>	<b>11</b>	Science Week
<b>T</b>	<b>12</b>	Science Week Football 2:30pm: Dundonald vs Killinchy; Dundonald vs West Winds
<b>F</b>	<b>13</b>	Science Week
<b>M</b>	<b>16</b>	Gathering Drum in Nursery
<b>T</b>	<b>17</b>	Pupils stop at Lunchtime – No EA meals or transport
<b>W</b>	<b>18</b>	

T	19	
F	20	P2 Aspire @ Longstone P7 Aspire @ Tor Bank
M	23	
T	24	
W	25	
T	26	
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
T	21	SCHOOL SHOW
W	22	SCHOOL SHOW Mr Hullabaloo in Nursery
T	23	SCHOOL SHOW
F	24	
M	25	
T	28	
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
M	11	
T	12	
W	13	
T	14	

F	15	P7 Aspire @ Stormont
M	18	
T	19	
W	20	P7 love for life workshop
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	
W	10	
T	11	W5 trip for P.5 SM & HC
F	12	P6 Birds of Prey W5 trip for P.5 KS & TS
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



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“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.”