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Principal: Mrs. Keira McCallan BA (Hons), PQH

Monday, 5th February, 2024.

Dear Parent/Guardian,

- **February** is the month of **Forgiveness**. Pupils will be learning about the importance of forgiving themselves and others. They will be completing work based on this theme throughout the month of **February**. Check out the display of pupils' work outside the Year 6/7 classroom.
- Our **Thinking Skill and Personal Capability** focus for **February** is **Self-Management** at home and at school. Please refer to your child's Newsletter/ Learning Support Sheet for February to see how you can help at home. Check out our **TS&PC** display in the main school corridor to see what pupils have been learning.
- Our **Mindfulness Overview** for **February** is available now to view on our school website.
- Your child's **Learning Support Sheet** for **February** will be available on our website shortly. Teachers will notify you by text when they are ready to be viewed.
- Massive congratulations to the Eskra racers who travelled to **Dungannon** on **30th January** to represent the school in the third and final round of the **Flahavan's Ulster Cross Country League**.

Huge congratulations to our outstanding **Boys'** and **Girls'** teams! Both teams provided a masterclass in how to run cross country as a team last Tuesday. **The Boys' and the Girls'** teams came **1st place on the day!** We currently await confirmation of the qualification slots for the Ulster final.

Our **Boys'** team are accomplished racers but even they outperformed expectations, confidently displaying why they sit top of the league in **Tyrone and Fermanagh**. Oisín McKenna deserves a special mention for securing a silver medal despite losing a spike during the race. Ben Scullion finished 6th, P6 Jude Fox 11th

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and Thomas Cullinan our fourth scorer in 13th. Our P6s - Ronan McGarvey came in 19th and Noah Woods 29th.

Our **Girls'** team had their race of the season with all their hard work paying off. Anna-Kate Montague finished in 7th, P6 Carly Beattie 6th, P5 Lucia McKenna 8th, P6 Aoife Donnelly 16th, P5 Saorlaith Shiels 21st and P5 Elizabeth Mellon 24th!

Our fun runners gained valuable experience for next year, P5 Hannah Donnelly crossing the line in 7th place, Lucy O'Hagan in 27th and her sister Connie in 42th, out of 77 runners. In the Boys Fun Run, P6 Conor Mc Carroll finished 7th, P5 Calum Woods 14th, Eoin McGirr 17th, James O'Hagan 37th and Cormac McCarney 79th out of 100 runners.

A huge well done to all the boys and girls who have worked hard for months with dedication and commitment. Thank you to Miss. Devine and Mrs. Shevlin who travelled with the children. It was wonderful to see so many Eskra supporters in Dungannon to cheer our athletes on. A special Thank you to **Mrs. Tracey Scullion** for her continued support and commitment.

- A member of staff from **Fintona Credit Union** will be calling into school tomorrow to collect savings books and monies from pupils in **Years 5, 6 and 7**. Please make sure that your child has his/her savings book and any monies with them to school.
- Our **free breakfast scheme** is coming to an end this **Friday**. Pupils will be provided with the choice of hot food, a range of cereals, breads and fruit on Friday. Thank you to **Mrs. Mulligan**, the **School Council** and our hard-working **Classroom Assistants** for ensuring the smooth running of the scheme to date.
- Please see a list of our **School Closures for 2024 – 2025** on our school website under **Important Information** and under **Parents – Info – School Closures**.
- This week is **Children's Mental Health Week**. Teachers will be completing age-appropriate activities with pupils based on this important theme during the week. Please check out the following website for further information:

www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk

- **Tomorrow is Safer Internet Day**. The theme is **Together For A Better Internet**. Please check out the following website for further information:
www.saferinternet.org.uk
- Our **Nature Rangers Clubs** continue this week, as follows:
Monday (2pm – 3pm): Year 1/2 with Miss. McNulty and Mrs. Dodenciu
Monday (3pm – 4pm): Year 3/4 with Mrs. Mullin and Mrs. McGarvey
Thursday (3pm – 4pm): Years 5, 6 and 7: Miss. Devine and Mrs. Shevlin

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Friday (2pm – 3pm): Year 1/2 with Miss. McNulty and Miss. O'Donnell

Please checkout **Forest School Families** on the **Forest School Website** – www.forestschooolsni.com and on our school website for fun ideas that all the family can get involved in the evenings and at weekends.

Nature Rangers Clubs will continue after **Mid Term Break** for **5 weeks** until the **Easter Holidays**. The cost of the Clubs is **£25 per child for the five weeks** and must be paid in advance. A text will be sent out to parents once the website is open for registration.

- **Mrs. Mullin** and **Miss. McNulty** have organised a **STEM Day** (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) in our school tomorrow for pupils in **Years 1 – 3**. Staff from **Sentinus** will be delivering the following interactive workshops with the children. The theme of the workshops are - **The Day The Crayons Quit**.
- **Parents of Pupils in Year Four:**
The **Sacrament of Penance** (First Confessions) will take place on **Thursday, 14th March @ 7pm** in **St. Patrick's Church, Eskra**.

The **Sacrament of the Eucharist** (First Holy Communion) will take place on **Saturday, 18th May @ 12pm** in **St. Patrick's Church, Eskra**. Light refreshments will be served afterwards in **Eskra Community Centre**.

- **Parents of Pupils in Year Seven:**
A **Service of Light**, in preparation for Confirmation, will take place on **Thursday, 7th March** in **St. Patrick's Church, Eskra @ 7pm**.

The **Sacrament Of Confirmation** will take place in **St. Macartan's Church (The Forth) in Augher** on **Sunday, 14th April @ 3pm**.

A **Confirmation Practice** will take place in **St. Macartan's Church (The Forth) in Augher** on **Thursday, 11th April @ 7pm**.

EA Connect is now open for **Year 8 Post Primary Applications**. It will close on **22nd February, 2024** Please read carefully the leaflet on our website **Applying for a Post Primary School Place 2024**.

- Our school will be closed from **Monday, 12th February** to **Friday, 16th February (inclusive)** for **Mid - Term Break**. Pupils are asked to return to school on **Monday, 19th February** at the usual time.

‘We learn to love and love to learn.’

Yours sincerely,

Keira McCallan

Mrs. Keira McCallan (Principal)



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