



Cool News

January 2025

We would like to wish all of our friends, families and neighbours a very 'Happy New Year'.

Diary Dates

Christmas Play and Service

Our Nursery Unit held a very successful Christmas Performance of 'The Colours of Christmas' on Thursday 5th December while our Primary School held a Christmas Carol Service on Wednesday 18th December in St. Michael's Church of Ireland, Sixmilecross. Thank you to all who contributed to these events and to the select vestry of St. Michael's for the use of their church for practices and for the Carol Service.

Open Enrolment

The EA portal for online applications for our Nursery Unit and Primary School opens on Friday 10th January and will close on Friday 24th January. If you need any support in accessing the portal or guidance regarding supporting documentation, please contact the school office.

School Council

Our School Council organised an 'Anything but a Schoolbag' day on **Friday 13th December**. Thank you to everyone who supported this day and for the donations to Grovehill Animal Trust/School Funds.

Eco-Council

Our Eco-Council were pleased to see everyone in our Primary School participating in the Santa Daily Mile on Friday 6th December. All of our pupils wore Santa or woolly hats as they participated in the Daily Mile on that day, before enjoying some hot chocolate.

Our Eco-Council would also like to thank all of our pupils for their participation in the bottle tops challenge during December.

Christmas Activities

Christmas was a very busy time in our school. We enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner on Tuesday 17th December and had a very special visitor on Thursday 19th December. Thank you to everyone who helped to make Christmas so special for all of the pupils in our school.

23rd Dec - 3rd Jan: (inclusive):
School Closed: Christmas holidays

9th Jan: Cooley Caterpillars

9th Jan: Yr 1-4 Action Mental Health workshop

9th Jan: NSPCC Online Safety talk for Parents @ 2p.m.

16th Jan: Yr 1-4 Action Mental Health workshop

20th Jan: PTA meeting (online)

23rd Jan: Yr 1-4 Action Mental Health workshop

23rd Jan: Yr 6 & 7: Swimming starts

24th Jan: Yr 7: Science Show @ Omagh High School

4th & 6th Feb: Parent Teacher Meetings: School closes @ 12.45

12th—14th Feb: (inclusive)
School Closed: half-term

20th Feb: Cooley Caterpillars

28th Feb: Anniversary Assembly

5th Mar: Anniversary Concert

10th—14th Mar: Book Fair & Literacy Week

17th March: St Patrick's Day—
School & Nursery closed

5th April: PTA Easter Eggstravaganza

10th April: Cooley Caterpillars

All dates are subject to change.

Online Safety for Parents

On **Thursday 9th January** at **2 p.m.** we are hosting an NSPCC Online Safety workshop for Parents in our school hall. This workshop will provide parents and carers with information about how to support their child in their online world. Topics which will be covered will include online bullying, mental health and social media.

Uniform Consultation

Thank you to all who took the time to respond to our recent consultation on school uniform. The responses will be collected together for discussion and consideration by our school's Board of Governors. Our current uniform policy remains in place:

Full Uniform: pale blue shirt, school tie, navy V-neck jumper, black shoes

Girls—grey skirt/pinafore, white socks/grey tights, navy hair accessories

Boys—Grey trousers, grey socks

PE Uniform: red polo shirt, navy shorts/leggings/jogging bottoms, navy V-neck jumper, trainers

Shared Education

Our Year 1, 3 and 7 pupils had a trip to Pomeroy forest as part of the learning in the outdoors which has been the focus of their lessons in the first term. This term the focus will be on coding.

Nursery

Our Nursery Unit has been accepted onto the pre-school standardisation programme. This will result in the hours increasing from 2.5 hours per day to 4.5 per day from September 2025, with a mid-day meal being provided.

Pantomime

Our Yr 1-7 pupils enjoyed a trip to Armagh Theatre to see the Pantomime, Rapunzel. Many thanks to the PTA for covering the cost of the transport for the trip.

Winter Weather

As the colder weather is now with us, we would like to remind all parents to ensure that children have a coat with them each day and possibly a hat, scarf and gloves. On snow days, pupils should bring a change of clothes, snowboots/wellie boots and a change of socks. On snowy and icy mornings, priority will be given to clearing the pathways at the front of the school, including to the Nursery entrance, the main school entrance and the front classroom doors. Yrs 1—4 should access the school via the front classroom doors on such mornings. Please take care when accessing the school premises on such days.

Should school be required to close in any exceptional circumstances, parents will be informed via a text message, our social media channels and the school website. When necessary, a phone call to parents/guardians will also be made.

Parent and Teacher Association

Many thanks to all who attended the Christmas Table Quiz night. Over £600 was raised which will be used to help purchase further resources for our school.

The next PTA meeting will be online on Monday 20th January, the next event is an Easter Eggstravaganza on **Saturday 5th April** at 10 a.m.