



# Hollybush Primary and Nursery School

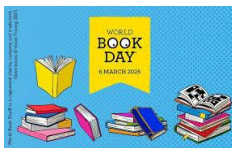
## March/April 2025 Newsletter



Dear Parent/Guardian

This newsletter is intended to give you an overview of things that are happening here at the school in March and April, and to highlight important events and activities that are planned for the near future. Please keep an eye on our app and Facebook page for other day-to-day events/information.

### World Book Day:



Keep an eye in the local papers for pictures of the kids dressed up for World Book Day. A huge thank you to George Murphy and to Eibhlin O'Donnell for helping to make the occasion special with storytelling and song.

### Confirmation Party:

Our Primary 7 Confirmation party took place on Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. Family members joined the pupils in the hall for cake and goodies. Thanks to all those who organised the event.

### National Tree Week:

This week is National Tree Week. Local author and storyteller, David Simpson, did some reading with our Primary 4 pupils today to mark the occasion. David writes children's books, often with trees as a central theme. He will return in May to work with another year-group.



### St. Patrick's Assembly:



Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup> is La Glas, or Green Day. Pupils will have a special celebration of the life of St. Patrick and of our cultural heritage in the form of song, dance, poetry and drama on the previous day. The senior citizens from the Acorn Centre will be here to see a selection of the performances too. The school will be closed on Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, and Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. We will reopen at the normal time on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup>.

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### Thornhill Ceilidh:

The Primary 6 girls will be attending a ceilidh in Thornhill College on Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup> from 1.30p.m. – 2.30 p.m. Transport is provided.

### Primary 7 Post Confirmation Retreat:



The primary 7 Post Confirmation Retreat takes place on Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> from 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. in the Iosas Centre. More details to follow.

### Gardening Club:

Ms Sutherland will be working with Mrs Mc Cormack on a new gardening club after St. Patrick's Day – more details anon. We keep our own grounds here at the school, without any help from outside, but a lot of work is involved. Thanks to Andy, Mrs Mc Cormack, Ms Sutherland and our pupils for all their hard work outside.



### Foyle Schools' Poetry Competition:



Once again, our pupils have had huge success in this competition. With over 1000 entries from schools across the Foyle area, we had a first place, Meadhbh Cradden, in Key Stage 2 and a second place, for Odhran McElduff and Darragh Farren in Key Stage 1. Lucy Dobbins came third in Key Stage 1. We also had pupils who were highly commended! A full list will be posted after the prize-giving on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Well done to our budding poets!

### Dogs:

We love dogs here at Hollybush, but school is not the best place for them. Some children have allergies, and dogs can become stressed by large groups of children, leading to defensive behaviour. Please keep dogs outside the school gates and under control, in the interests of safety.

### First Confession:



First Confession for Primary 4 pupils takes place on Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 6.00 p.m. in Steelstown Chapel. More details to follow.

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### **Creative Writing/Arts and Crafts:**



A huge thank you to the staff at the Culmore Hub for taking creative writing and arts and crafts sessions with our Primary 5 classes. The creative writing workshops have already begun.

### **After-School Activities:**

The Primary 6 literacy/numeracy classes begin on March 31st. This takes place every Monday from 3.00 – 4.00 p.m. P6 parents have already received notification.

### **World Poetry Day:**

World Poetry Day is Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup>. Our classes are all learning and reciting poems at the moment, and these will be performed, recorded and put up on our Facebook Page on that day. It's nice to see and hear the children learning and reciting poetry together throughout the school.

### **Easter Draw:**

There will be lots of lovely Easter prizes in our annual Easter Draw, as always. A huge thanks to those who contribute every year. We are in the late stages of planning a big project outdoors, so all proceeds will be put to very good use.



### **Friends of Hollybush:**

The next meeting of our new group takes place on Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 6.00 p.m.

### **Walk to School:**

Our next walk to school takes place on Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. Anyone taking part is asked to meet at the Culmore Country Park at about 8.10 a.m. The first group leaves at 8.15 a.m. This time, we will be counting participants as we are keeping a record for Sustrans, the group which promotes walking/cycling to school. The Big Walk and Wheel Week begins on Monday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, and we have a number of activities planned for that week. More details later.



**"Bonum Videre Optimum Educere"**

## **Sporting News:**

As you know, sport and music are two of our big loves here at Hollybush. It's a rare occasion that one walks around the school without hearing singing or instruments, or sees a sporting team engaged in practice. Here is a list of the most recent sporting successes;



**Cross country - won the Northwest league in both boys' and girls' competitions**

**Girls' indoor 5 aside gaelic team qualified for the All County finals on 13<sup>th</sup> March**

**The swimming team had a great success at the Ulsters, the team now goes on to compete in the All Irelands on 30<sup>th</sup> March**

**Netball team were undefeated at their recent blitz in Broadbridge PS.**

### *Upcoming fixtures*

**Soccer blitzes on Feb 25<sup>th</sup>, Mar 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, Apr 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>**

### *Gaelic fixtures*

**Mar 7<sup>th</sup>, Mar 14<sup>th</sup>, Mar 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Girls' Gaelic club championships 4<sup>th</sup> April**

**Boys' gaelic club championships 11<sup>th</sup> April**

### **Hurling**

**5 aside indoor championship Mar 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Outdoor hurling championship Mar 28<sup>th</sup>**

### **Primary 7 Finishing Date:**

**This year, the Primary 7 pupils will finish on Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>. The Leavers' Mass takes place at 11.00 a.m. on that day, and pupils are free to leave after Mass. How quickly time flies!**

**Kind regards**

**Mr Friel**