



Hollybush Primary and Nursery School

May/June 2025 Newsletter



Dear Parent/Guardian

This newsletter is intended to give you an overview of things that are happening here at the school in May and June, 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.

Golf Classic/Astro Turf Play Space:



We are very indebted to our families and the local businesses who have shown unprecedented support for our fundraising efforts to establish an astro turf play area on the field. Only a couple of tee times in our golf classic remain to be filled, so anyone who would like to play on September 20th is asked to contact the school office as soon as possible. We are now working on the social event which will be held in The Squealing Pig, Muff, on the night of 20th September. This promises to be a great day and night! More details later.

Art and Crafts:



The after-school arts and crafts club has finished for this year and resumes in September. Some lovely pieces were produced by the boys and girls this year, especially on the special occasions like Mother's Day and St. Patrick's Day. Thanks to Mrs Baird and Mrs Parke for taking the club.

Culmore Hub:

The team from the Culmore Hub are currently working with our P5 pupils on Arts and Crafts, and on Creative Writing. Both classes will be going to the Tower Museum on the 14th of May, free of charge, for a trip to celebrate the end of the programme. Our P7 pupils had a great time at the Hub on Friday 9th May, where they produced some fantastic school crests, a memento of their time here with us. – a treat for our soon-to-be leavers! Thanks again to Una and the staff of the Hub.

Poly Tunnel/Gardening Club:

A huge thank you to Sharon from Natural World Products, and to Andy, Ms Sutherland and Mrs Patricia Mc Cormack for all the maintenance and planting work done in our poly tunnel, our 'no dig' beds and in our gardens this Spring. There'll be plenty for harvest later in the year!



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Homeplace Trip:



On Monday, June 2nd, Ms Sutherland's class will be having their trip to the Seamus Heaney Homeplace Centre in Magherafelt. This trip was part of the prize won by our very own Joe Hutcheon who was the national winner of the Seamus Heaney poetry competition.

Sports' Day:

Sports Day is pencilled in for Tuesday, June 3rd. The last thing we ever want to do is rearrange at short notice, but last year this became necessary because of the inclement spell we had. We have been really lucky most years, so fingers crossed for a nice day!



Salmon Ambassador Programme:

Our P7s had a great time working on the Salmon Ambassador programme. There was great success with our salmon hatchery and with the release. The pupils are now going to Foyle Arena on May 14th for a graduation and a celebration of the programme. Many thanks to the staff of the Loughs' Agency.

P.E. Uniform:

As you know, local firm, MFC, supply our P.E. uniforms. This year, MFC have provided some funding to support families who may be finding things a bit difficult. Anyone who would like to avail of this support can contact Mr Friel who will make the necessary arrangements in the strictest confidence.

North-West Primary Schools' Netball Finals:



Our netball team will be participating in this year's finals on May 21st. Best of luck to our girls! A huge thank you to Mr Mc Nulty, Ms Kelly and Mrs Lynch for all their hard work with the team.

Fun Day:

This year, we will be holding a fun day for the kids, free of charge, as a thank you for all the fundraising support we have received to date. Details later.



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Sunflower Planting:



Our pupils are currently planting up our sunflowers and we're hoping for another lovely display along the upper car park this summer.

Walk to School:



Our next walk to school, pencilled in for Friday, May 16th, will be from the Nearby shop, down along the shore and up the Ardan Road. The first group will leave at 8.15 a.m.

Primary 7 Cake Sale:

The P7s will be holding their annual cake sale on May 28th. Profits made will be offset against the cost of their end of year trip to **We are Vertigo** in Belfast.



End of Year Trips:

Keep an eye out on the school app for details of the end-of-year school trips.

Owen Mor:

Our choir will be performing for the residents of our local care home, Owen Mor, on Monday, June 9th at 11.00 a.m. Thanks to Mrs Matthews and Mrs Bradley for organising this event.

First Communion:



As you know, our First Holy Communion Mass takes place on Saturday May 31st at 11.30 a.m. in Our Lady of Lourdes, Steelstown. There will be light refreshments and photos back at the school afterwards. The photographer, Donnie, will be available at the Chapel from 10.30 a.m. for those who would like photos in the chapel grounds before Mass. The Primary 4 pupils are busy preparing for this important day.

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Hollybush Swimming Gala:



This year, our Hollybush Swimming Gala, open to swimmers in Primaries 6 and 7 who are confident in the deep end of William Street's big pool, took place on Thursday, May 1st. The children and parents had a great time. Some fine swimmers in these year groups! The North-

West Swimming Gala takes place on Wednesday, June 4th. Unfortunately, the organisers do not allow spectators at this gala.

Other Sporting Fixtures:

Girls' Gaelic City Finals: 16th May, Celtic Park

Futsal Tournament: 19th May, Claudy

Boys' Gaelic City Finals: 23rd May, Celtic Park

Ryan Mc Bride Tournament: 6th June, Bay Road

Na Magha Cup: 11th June

All County Gaelic Finals: 13th June, Owenbeg



Fan The Flame:



The diocesan Mass for all Primary 7 pupils takes place on Thursday, June 5th. This Mass is a very important annual event for our Primary 7 leavers. More details closer to the time.

Important Reminder:

We are a nut free school and products containing nuts are not permitted at break or lunch time.

Safeguarding/Child Protection:

The summary of our Child Protection policy and procedures is available on our website, and in paper form in our leaflet holder in the school foyer. Anyone with a child protection concern can speak to Mr O'Connor, Designated Teacher, Mrs Grace and Mrs Mc Gurren, Deputy Designated Teachers, Mr Friel or any adult at the school.

Kind regards

Mr Friel

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