



School Newsletter April & May 2026



The latest news and events from St. Colmcille's Primary School







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Tuesday 2nd June

Sacrament of Confirmation

Friday 5th June

Stem Workshop - Armagh Planetarium

World Environment & World Ocean's Day

Monday 8th June

New P1 Induction Day

Tuesday 9th June

New P1 Induction Day

Tuesday 9th - Wednesday 10th

Primary 7 Residential

Thursday 11th June

Gaelic Blitz at the RGU (P3)

Friday 12th June

Patrician Summer Show P5-P7

Wear Yellow Day - CF Trust

Wednesday 17th June

National Thank a Teacher Day

Thursday 18th June

P6, P7, LSC4 Talent Show

Wednesday 24th June

P7 Prize Giving Leavers' Assembly

July 1st - July 3rd & July 6th - July 10th

Summer Programme

Rights Team Attend Pupil Voice Conference




A selection of our Rights Team had a fantastic opportunity to attend a Pupil Voice Conference at Knockevin in Castlewellan, celebrating their incredible achievement of being accredited with the Rights Respecting Gold Award 🍌🌟

Throughout the day, we listened to a range of inspiring schools share how they promote and uphold children's rights in their own communities. It was wonderful to see **Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child** in action — the right for every child to have their voice heard and taken seriously 🗣️💬

Our own Rights Team proudly took to the stage to present the latest episode of our podcast, *Chats and Charters* 🗣️ — a brilliant showcase of how we are encouraging pupil voice and participation within our school.

We also had the opportunity to hear from a guest speaker from the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY), who spoke about the important work they do to support and protect children's rights across our country.

A massive thank you to Knockevin for their fantastic hospitality — our Rights Team had an amazing and inspiring day! 

St. Colmcille's Primary School Presents

P6 & P7 TALENT SHOW 2026



MUSIC



THEATRE



DANCE



and much
more!

Coming June 2026!

Preparations are well underway for our upcoming talent show as our pupils are busy working alongside their coaches, polishing their talents and putting in fantastic effort. We can't wait to see them shine and show off all their hard work on June 18th — it's going to be a brilliant day!

   Wednesday Multisports - 3 - 4pm   

Wednesday Multisports

3-4pm every Wednesday

Golf

Table Tennis

Football

Gaelic Games

Trampolining


And much more!



To provide as wide a range of sporting experiences as possible, a variety of sporting activities will take place in Multisport Club each Wednesday from 3-4pm. These will include, Golf, Table Tennis, team ball games and Gaelic Skills delivered by Sav Sports in association with RGU Rising Stars. There will be no Gaelic on Mondays. Children will also have access to our many outdoor areas including our Trampoline Zone. Children can book in for Multisport Club via SchoolMoney and can let their class teacher know which activity they would like to take part in during registration each Wednesday.

2026 Microsoft Dream Space Ambassadors!



We're proud to be a participating school in the Microsoft Dream Space Ambassador Programme, having been Platinum Award winners for the past four years! Our brilliant pupil ambassadors have been busy developing a wide range of digital skills over recent months alongside the team at Microsoft Ireland. As well as enhancing their digital skills across a vast range of ICT-related areas, these sessions included the development of leadership, teamwork, digital creativity and problem-solving. Over the coming weeks, they'll be putting these skills into action as they roll out their training and knowledge to children across the school, inspiring others to excel in digital skills through peer-led learning. We can't wait to see the impact they'll make as digital leaders in our school community! 

👉 Meet Lottie – our new axolotl! 👈



We're delighted to welcome Lottie, our new axolotl, who has very quickly become a star of the school! Pupils across all key stages have been fascinated by this amazing creature, sparking curiosity, thoughtful questions, and lots of enthusiastic learning conversations. Having Lottie in school has brought so many benefits for our pupils – from developing responsibility and care, to inspiring interest in science, habitats and animal welfare. Many pupils say spending time observing Lottie is also calming and helps them feel relaxed and focused during the school day. A special shout-out goes to Harry in P7, who has taken on a key role in helping to look after Lottie. Harry thoroughly enjoys caring for her and has been fantastic at teaching fellow pupils and school staff all about axolotls, confidently sharing facts and answering questions about this unique and wonderful animal. We're so proud of how Lottie has already enriched our school community – and we can't wait to see even more learning grow from her stay with us! ❤️

End of year trips!



Rafiki's Treehouse
Thursday 18th June

LSC1, LSC2, SPS

Foundation
Stage
(P1, P2)



Rafiki's Treehouse
Monday 15th June

Streamvale FARM
Streamvale Farm
Friday 26th June



Key Stage 1
(P3, P4, LSC3)

Key Stage 2
(P5, P6, LSC4)



Airtastic Craigavon
Friday 19th June

CARLINGFORD ADVENTURE
LAND SEA & SKY 
Carlingford Adventure Centre
9-10 June

Primary 7

Thank you to our brilliant PTFA, who generously donated £3,000 to school recently. As a result, each child's End of Year Trip will be reduced by £7.50. With rising transport costs and the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, we are sure parents will greatly appreciate this kind and thoughtful gesture.

📖 🌟 Girls in ICT Day – Thursday 23rd April 🌟 📖



On Thursday 23rd April, our school proudly celebrated Girls in ICT Day, a global event that inspires girls to explore the exciting worlds of Information and Communication Technology, Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths (STEAM). This day is celebrated worldwide to challenge stereotypes, spark curiosity, and show girls that digital skills and technology-led careers are for everyone. By giving children positive and practical experiences with ICT and STEAM, we help build confidence, creativity and problem-solving skills that will support them throughout their learning journey. Across the school, every class took part in a variety of hands-on activities, including coding, digital creativity, scientific investigation, problem-solving challenges and technology-based tasks. Pupils worked collaboratively, experimented with new

tools, and practised key STEAM skills such as logical thinking, innovation and teamwork. We were so proud to see the enthusiasm, engagement and confidence shown by our pupils as they explored how technology shapes the world around us. Days like these help inspire future innovators, engineers, designers and scientists — and most importantly, encourage curiosity and ambition in all learners. Thank you for supporting us as we continue to nurture ICT and STEAM skills across our school community. ❤️

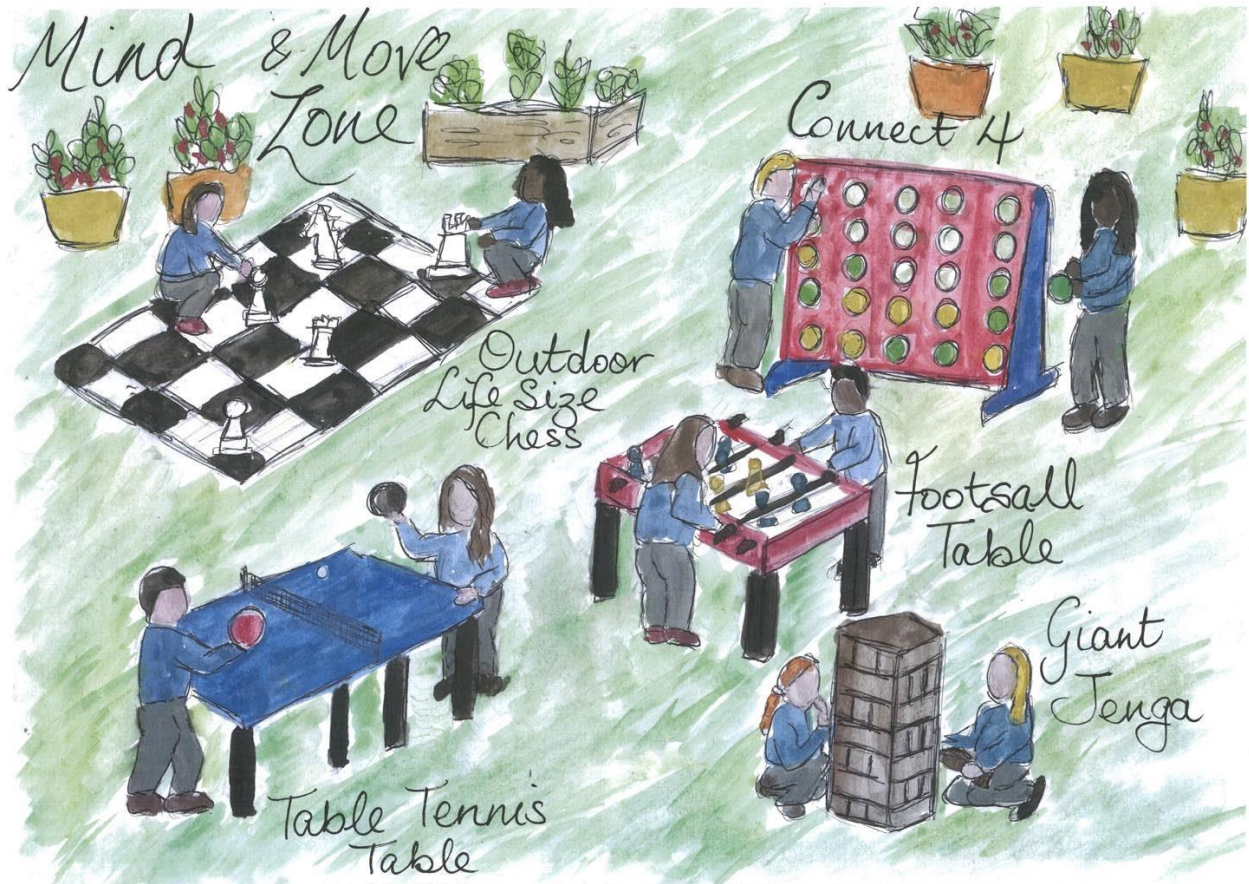
📖📚 Scholastic Travelling Book Fair – A Huge Success! 📖📚



We would like to extend a big thank you to all our parents and guardians for supporting our recent Scholastic Travelling Book Fair. Thanks to your generosity, we are delighted to share that we raised just over £1,500 in rewards, which will be used to purchase new books for our class libraries and reading scheme resources. The fair created a real buzz around the school, with children thoroughly enjoying the experience of visiting the book fair, discovering new titles and chatting excitedly about books with friends and staff. Seeing pupils so engaged, curious, and enthusiastic about reading truly made the event a fantastic success. This came at the perfect

time as we continue to promote the importance of reading during the National Year of Reading. The rewards earned will help to further enrich our literacy provision, ensuring our children have access to high-quality, engaging books that inspire a lifelong love of reading. Thank you once again for your continued support - together, we are making a meaningful difference to reading and learning across our school.

✨ Mind & Move Zone – Coming to Life! ✨



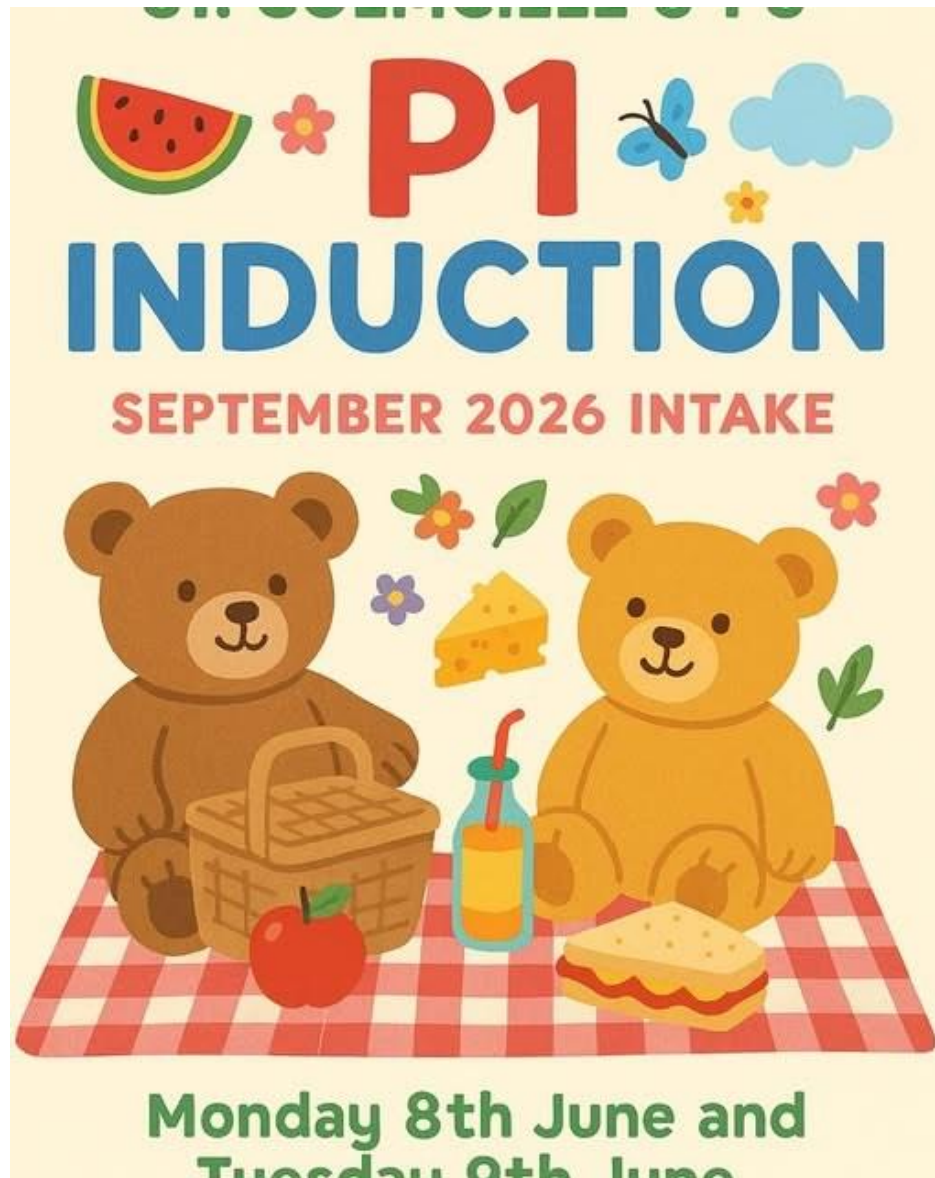
We are so excited to share that our brand new Outdoor Mind & Move Zone is currently under construction! This fantastic new space will include: ⚽ Football 🏓 Table Tennis ♟️ Outdoor life-size chess 🟡 Connect Four 🏠 Giant Jenga Tower 🎯 Outdoor Darts. We believe our pupils deserve the very best playtimes. When playtimes are active, engaging and fun, children return to the classroom happier, calmer and ready to give their very best 🌱 And there's even more to look forward to... 🗣️ We have two further outdoor areas starting shortly and will be sharing these with parents over the coming weeks. Exciting times ahead — watch this space! 🍌 ✨

✠ First Holy Communion ✠



Congratulations to our wonderful Primary 4 pupils who received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion at St. Patrick's Church, Downpatrick Parish. The pupils were outstanding throughout the service and were a true credit to their families and to our school. Sincere thanks to our Parish Priest, Fr O'Neill, and to our school chaplain, Fr Conway, along with Fr Kearney and Deacon Jackie, who concelebrated this very special Mass. A special word of appreciation also goes to our dedicated teachers and classroom assistants for their tremendous hard work and organisation in preparing the children so beautifully for this important sacrament. We hope all of our pupils enjoyed celebrating this special occasion with their families and had a wonderful bank holiday weekend.

🐻 🌸 Save the Date! 🐻 🌸



We are so excited to welcome our new Primary 1 pupils (September 2026 intake) to St. Colmcille's Primary School for our special Teddy Bears' Picnic! Join us on: 📅 Monday 8th & Tuesday 9th June 🕒 9:30am – 11:00am

🏃🏆☀️ Sports Day 2026 🏃🏆☀️



Congratulations to everyone on their fantastic efforts and sportsmanship on Sports Day! A special thanks to Mr Lyttle, Ms Dagen and all the staff who helped to coordinate Sports Day this year, which was great fun for all. Thank you to our PTFA for organising refreshments and tasty treats for everyone to enjoy. Sports Day this year was a hugely successful and enjoyable day for our pupils and families. Thank you also to all the parents, carers and families who came to support and contribute to making this event a success for our pupils. Lastly, many thanks to Fr O'Neill & Fr Conway for permitting use of the church grounds.



The Primary 5, 6 and 7 pupils represented the school with great pride at the Downpatrick Netball Club tournament held at the RGU. Throughout the day, the children demonstrated excellent teamwork, supporting and encouraging one another both on and off the court. Their positive attitude was evident in every match, as they showed determination, resilience and sportsmanship, regardless of the score. The pupils displayed a high level of skill, with confident passing, strong defensive play and impressive shooting, reflecting the hard work and practice they have put into developing their netball abilities. It was a fantastic experience for all involved, and the children should be extremely proud of their efforts and behaviour. They were wonderful ambassadors for the school and a credit to themselves

  Car Boot Sale – Downpatrick!  



CAR BOOT SALE!


6th June 2026


**St Colmcille's Church Car Park,
DOWNPATRICK**

SELLERS FROM 9AM

BUYERS FROM 10AM

Hosted by
FM105
DOWN COMMUNITY

 Looking for a bargain or planning a clear-out? Don't miss this fantastic community Car Boot Sale!

 Saturday 6th June 2026

📍 St Colmcille's Church Car Park, Downpatrick

🕒 Sellers from 9am

🕒 Buyers from 10am

Come along to browse great deals, pick up hidden gems, and enjoy a lively community atmosphere. Whether you're selling or shopping, there's something for everyone!

🏠 Hosted by FM105 Down Community

🦋 Exciting News for Our School & Community! 🦋



We are delighted to share that our school in collaboration with our wonderful PTFA has recently been successful in securing several grants that will have a real and lasting impact on our pupils and the wider community.

✅ Funding to further develop our growing area, giving children hands on opportunities to learn about nature, sustainability and outdoor learning

- ✔ Support towards a summer scheme, ensuring fun, inclusion and enriching experiences for our pupils over the coming months
- ✔ A food growing grant to strengthen links with our local community and promote healthy, home grown produce
- ✔ A Breakfast Club grant for May & June, helping us continue to support children with a positive, healthy start to the school day

We are incredibly grateful for this funding and the opportunities it will bring. Working together, we look forward to seeing our children—and our community—grow, learn and flourish.

🌻 #CommunityGrowing #OutdoorLearning #HealthyStarts #SummerFun #PrimarySchoolLife #StrongerTogether

☀️ Our Summer Programmes are Back! ☀️



Summer Programmes 2026

09:30am - 12:30pm
for current P1 - P7

12:45pm - 3:45pm
for current P4 - P7

at St. Colmcille's Primary School

at St. Colmcille's Youth Club

Week 1:
Wed 1st, Thurs 2nd, Fri 3rd & Mon 6th July

Week 2:
Tues 7th, Wed 8th, Thurs 9th & Fri 10th July

Week 1: Wed 1st, Thurs 2nd & Fri 3rd July

Week 2: Wed 8th, Thurs 9th & Fri 10th July

Week 3: Wed 15th, Thurs 16th, Fri 17th July

Multi-Sports
Arts & Crafts
Cookery
Gaming & ICT
Fun Days
Snack included

Football Coaching
Arts & Crafts
Sports & Games
Friday Trips
Snack included

£20 per week or £35 for both weeks

£20 per week or £50 for all 3 weeks

Deposit to be paid by Monday 1st June

Complete the form to book via QR above or link: forms.office.com/e/XcpJVCdyUw

We're delighted to announce that St. Colmcille's Primary School and St. Colmcille's Youth Club will be running our Summer Programmes this July! 🍌👧👦 Primary School Programme

(Morning) 🕒 9:30am – 12:30pm 📅 £20 per week or £35 for both weeks 📅 Week 1:

Wednesday 1st July, Thursday 2nd July, Friday 3rd July, Monday 6th July 📅 Week 2: Tuesday 7th July, Wednesday 8th July, Thursday 9th July, Friday 10th July ⚽ Youth Club Programme (Afternoon – P4–P7) 📍 Ballymote Sport & Wellbeing Centre 🕒 12:45pm – 3:45pm 📅 Week 1: Wednesday 1st July, Thursday 2nd July, Friday 3rd July 📅 Week 2: Wednesday 8th July, Thursday 9th July, Friday 10th July 📅 Week 3: Wednesday 15th July, Thursday 16th July, Friday 17th July ✅ Fun, engaging activities ✅ Safe, supervised environment ✅ Option to attend both morning & afternoon programmes 📌 Weekly booking only (no individual days) 📌 A deposit is required to secure your place (Payment links will be sent out tomorrow) 📌 Sign up now using the booking form! <https://forms.office.com/e/XcpJVCDyUw> We can't wait for a fun-filled summer! 🌞 #StColmcilles #SummerProgramme #YouthClub #SummerFun

📖 📚 Housing Executive – Story Time ! 📖 📚



Our P2 and P3 pupils recently enjoyed a visit from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. During the session, the children listened to the story Hattie the House, which teaches simple ways to keep homes healthy and encourages positive everyday habits.

Each child received their own copy of the book along with a colouring sheet to take home.

We would like to thank the Northern Ireland Housing Executive for visiting our school and providing such an enjoyable session for our pupils.

LSC1 & SPS Sports Day



LSC1 and SPS pupils had an amazing time at their Sports Day last week! From obstacle races to sprints and sack races, there was plenty of fun and excitement for everyone. It was fantastic to see so many parents there on the day, cheering on all the boys and girls and helping to create such a brilliant atmosphere.

👏 Well done to all the pupils in LSC1 and SPS for taking part – a great effort from everyone!



We love to connect with our school community!

Get in touch with us at:

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