



Abbey's



Friday
18th September
2026

Friday Bulletin

OUR WEEK AT ABBEY PS!

We have had another busy and exciting week at Abbey Primary School. All of the P1s have now settled in brilliantly! P2-P7 have been busy learning lots of new things and exploring their new topics.

DON'T FORGET

School will be **CLOSED** for pupils on Friday 25th September. Staff will be completing a TransformED day in relation to the new curriculum.



YEAR GROUP SPOTLIGHT

What we have been up to in P1?

P1 are all in school now! They have had a great time getting to know all their new friends, teachers and classrooms! They have had a great time playing and exploring new toys.



YEAR GROUP SPOTLIGHT

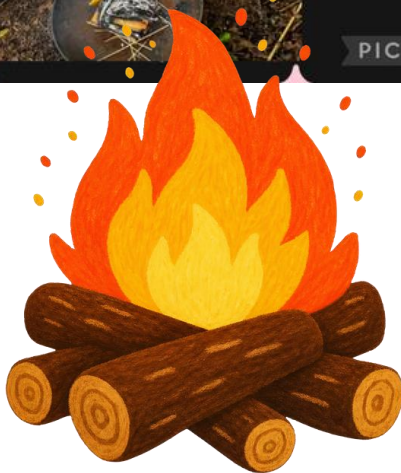
What we have been up to in P1?



WHAT'S HAPPENED THIS WEEK?

Autumn Forest School

P3W had a very exciting lesson during the week! They began learning all about Autumn by completing a scavenger hunt, creating pictures using loose parts and even enjoying a tasty autumnal snack on the campfire - Sugar Apples! The boys and girls are very excited for their next Forest School adventure.



WHAT'S HAPPENED THIS WEEK?

Autumn Forest School



P5 Somme Poems are in the News!

Ards pupils' poetry on WW1 lauded in France

POEMS by pupils at a Newtownards primary school have been lauded by a tourist organisation in France, dedicated to the history of the First World War.

The three P5 classes at Abbey Primary School undertook a Remembrance project, under the direction of their teachers - Denise Campbell, Karen Hamilton and Rebecca Kermaghan - to write poems based on what they had learned about The Great War. Denise explained: "Every year we mark Remembrance as a year group, to recognise the importance of stopping and remembering the sacrifice of those who served in conflicts."

"In P4, the children learn about World War Two, so they have a lot of background knowledge, and when they are in P5 they learn about why we have Remembrance Day, and what the poppies mean."

"Usually, they are asked to write an acoustic poem using Remembrance, and each letter has a reference to what remembrance day means."

"Last year, the kids got into it so much, and wanted to write their own poems."

The children were so inspired by what they had learned, and having read poetry from the First World War, created their own work. The results were beyond their teachers' expectations. Denise said: "They had worked so hard, and what they had learned clearly had a big impact."

"One aspect that made an

impression on the kids was how young the soldiers were; some of the children had brothers of the same age."

Impressed with the results of the children's insight and dedication to the subject, Jeff Magill, an auxiliary staff member at Abbey, asked if he could bring nine of the poems to France, where he along with a group of friends visit memorials and places connected with the battles of the First World War, particularly the Somme.

It was decided to hold a ballot on which nine poems should be chosen, and the voting was carried out by users of the Scrabo Residents' Association's community house in Cuan Place.

Three poems were chosen from each of three classes, and those were the examples of the children's work taken to France.

One of the locations Jeff visits when he and his friends are on their pilgrimage is Betancourt, a small village in the Somme department and home to the Office of the Poppy Country - or the Office de Tournesir Poppy de Coquelicot. The tourism director there is Céline Jusisk, whom Jeff has come to know well due to his many visits to the area. Céline was delighted to receive the poems, and arranged for pupils of a local junior school to translate the Abbey primary poems into French. The poems, in both languages, are now on display at the tourism office. The deputy mayor of Betancourt, Stephen Callieres, attended the launch along with Céline's husband, Vincent, president of the Association of the Bridge of Hope, Yvonne Lantier, secretary of the association.

A local pupil's winning poem

THE poem voted as the main winner in the Scrabo Residents' Association ballot, was written by

a pupil in Rebecca Kermaghan's P5 class at Abbey Primary School

Remembrance

Ards clanked to trembling hands
Finding lives now lie in peace
Remember those dull every painful days
Forever young

Soldiers lay those who sadly passed - for our Peace
The heartbreaks and pain that lie beneath
Many sacrifices families made
Peace and love in the foggy red skies
The night, the year passed by

Poppies - what beautiful symbols of sacrifice
Of the long passed
What a bright colour
But means something darker and darker

Don't forget the beloved soldiers
Or those who sacrificed lives
Those who fought for Peace
To save us in this day

The Peace gives us life
Lives that cannot, who fought
So always stop
Take two minutes' silence

Remember them - we won't forget.

NEWS



Jeff Magill with Céline Jusisk, director of the Office of the Poppy Country.



Some of the Abbey Primary pupils whose poems are now on display in France.



The poems, in both French and English, on display in Betancourt.

AMAZING!



WELL DONE

REMINDERS



Start and Finish Times



P1 - P7: School begins at 8:45am

Children should wait in their line for their teacher.

P1: Finish at 12PM (September)

P2 and P3: Finish at 2PM

P4 - P7: Finish at 3PM

**Whole School:
Finish at 2PM on Fridays**



REMINDERS

Sparkles and Waiting Club

Breakfast Club begins at 7:45am.

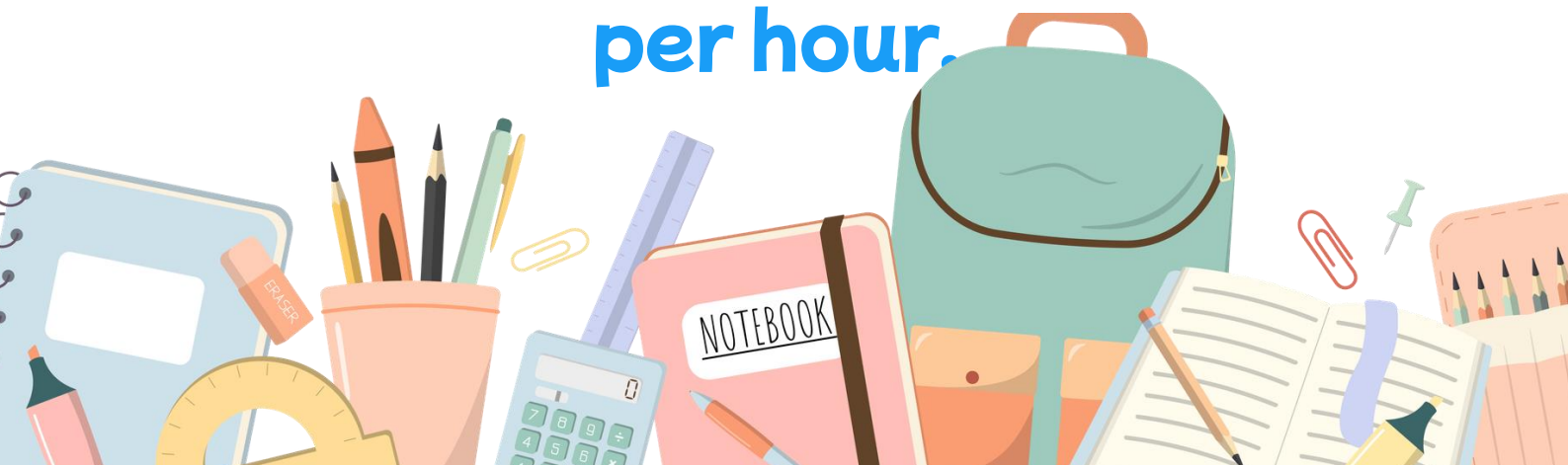
Last entry is 8:30am.

Breakfast Club is £3.00

**Waiting Club runs from 2:00pm -
4:00pm.**

**Sparkles runs from 2:00pm -
6:00pm.**

**Please book via ParentPay - £3.50
per hour.**



DIARY DATES



From Monday 14th September	Teacher led after school activities will begin
Friday 25th September	School Closed - Staff Development Day
Tuesday 29th September - Friday 2nd October	P7 Interviews P7 pupils will leave school at 1:30pm.
Thursday 8th October	UPDATED DATE: Nursery Interviews AM
Friday 9th October	High 5 Friday P1-P4
Week beginning Monday 12th October	NSPCC PANTS Week
Monday 12th - Friday 16th October	Whole School Maths Week 
Thursday 15th October	Nursery Interviews PM
Friday 16th October	High 5 Friday P5-P7
19th - 23rd October	Parent/Teacher Interviews - All pupils finish at 1:30PM
23rd October	Children finish for October Half Term





DINNER MENU

MONDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER – FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Oven Baked Fish Goujons Garden Peas & Sweetcorn Chips	Homemade Cottage pie & Gravy Baton Carrots Oven Roasted Diced Potatoes or Mashed Potatoes	Chicken Curry & Mini Naan Bread Broccoli & Roasted Butternut Squash Boiled Rice	Roast Beef and Yorkshire Pudding with Stuffing & Rich Gravy Seasonal Veg of the Day Oven Baked Roast Potatoes or Mashed Potatoes	
Chicken Jambalaya Rice Stew Garden Peas & Sweetcorn	Margarita Pizza Baton Carrots & Salad in Season Oven Roasted Diced Potatoes	Roast Mediterranean Chicken with Vegetables Broccoli & Roasted Butternut Squash Boiled Rice or Couscous	Penne with Creamy Roasted Tomato & Basil Sauce Seasonal Veg of the Day	
Yoghurt Tub & Melon Slices	Brownie and Orange Wedges	Pineapple Upside Down Cake with Custard	Jellywhip & Pear Slices	

Dinners are £3.10 per day – £15.50 for 5 days.

All dinners must be booked via ParentPay (Abbey App) by 8:30am for the current day.

Cancellation with a full refund must be done via ParentPay.

If anyone has any allergies, or changes to allergies, please inform the school office.

Children on Free School Meals do not have to book through the app.



HARVEST

Dear parent

This year, at Harvest time, we are asking children to 'Think About Others' by supporting the Newtownards Foodbank.

We are asking the children to bring in a variety of items from a list given to us by the Foodbank. We would be grateful if your child could bring in one item from the following list:

- ✓ Large tinned ham
- ✓ Tinned corned beef
- ✓ Long Grain Rice
- ✓ Custard
- ✓ Instant Coffee
- ✓ Any small tinned meats – ham, meatballs, sausages
- ✓ Toilet Rolls

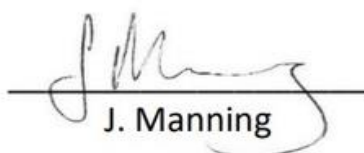


These are items the foodbank has identified as the main needs at the moment. However, donations of any food / non-perishable items are always welcomed.

We would ask that items are brought into school by Tuesday 29th September.

Please note that the Foodbank can only accept items in date (Use By and Best Before)

Many thanks for your anticipated support.


J. Manning

Conclusion: If a school, no matter its size, wants to support an outbreak of infectious disease, they should follow the City School



MUMS & TODDLERS



A warm welcome awaits you and your child each Tuesday morning.

Ards Elim Church
10am-11:30am

Play time, arts and crafts, stories, sing-along, free time, and snacks.

Come along and enjoy freshly brewed coffee and tea while your child laughs and learns in a safe, caring environment.

For more information contact
Marbeth 07689783048

£1.50 per parent/childminder

*All leaders and volunteers are AccessNI checked and hold up to date safeguarding certificates.





Campaigners NI

Youth & Children's Ministry

Ards Elim Campaigners
Starting back
Monday 7th September 2026

Inters and Craftsmen (P7- Age 18)
Monday 7th 7:00pm - 8:45pm

Eagles (Age 4-P2)
Tuesday 8th 6:15pm - 7:30pm

Junos (P3-P6)
Tuesday 8th 6:15pm - 7:45pm

All boys and girls welcome

Please contact Rhoda 07446034489

Children and Young People Discovering Life

SPIRITUAL - PRACTICAL - PHYSICAL - COMMUNITY




K4C

Kids 4 Christ (K4C) is our fun, action packed Sunday morning ministry for P1-P7, from 11am to 12:30pm, during our Morning service with Bible lessons, games, crafts, and worship!






One of our P4 pupils is taking part in a charity run (Cancer Fund for Children) next month on 11th October and he's trying to raise some money for sick children. If any of our Abbey community could help him to reach his target of £100 it would be much appreciated.

Please follow the link below if you can make a donation.

[Cancer Fund for Children: The Bog Run 2026](#)