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**Principal: Mrs. Keira McCallan BA (Hons), PQH**

Monday, 26th February, 2024.

Dear Parent/Guardian,

- We are so proud of all our Cross Country runners who took part in the **Ulster Final** on **Friday**. Making it to the final was a huge achievement for our primary school and speaks volumes about the courage and determination of our Boys' Team and Girls' Team. Out of the 20 teams in the final, our **Boys' Team** finished **6<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>** best Boys' Team in the whole of NI. Well done, boys! Our very young **Girls' Team** knew going into the final that it was all about gaining experience for the years ahead and they executed the mission perfectly. The future looks very bright for St Patrick's Eskra.

A sincere thank you to the huge number of Eskra supporters who travelled to Mallusk. The Ulster Final is a huge experience for the children and seeing their loved ones cheering them on was a massive encouragement. Thank you to Miss. Devine and Mrs. Shevlin who made the long journey and assisted the children all day. A special Thank You to **Mrs. Tracey Scullion** for her continued guidance, support and dedication to the children.

- I am delighted to inform you that our school is due to receive a new mobile classroom to replace the current Year 1/2 mobile classroom. Installation of the mobile will take approximately 16 weeks and is due to commence after the Easter holidays. In order to manage the clearing out of the current mobile and the movement of resources and classroom furniture to another area, our school will close at **12pm** on **Friday, 22nd March** for **all pupils** for the **Easter holidays**. All pupils are asked to return to school on **Monday, 8th April**, as planned. Remote learning will be provided for all pupils on **Monday 25th, Tuesday, 26th** and **Wednesday, 27th March**. Further information will follow from your child's class teacher regarding their remote learning. Arrangements regarding a temporary classroom for pupils in Year 1/2 during the installation period will be communicated shortly.

- 4 books of raffle tickets **per family** have been sent home today for our **Easter Raffle**. Please try to sell as many tickets as you can. All proceeds are in aid of school funds. Please note that parents are not expected to buy 4 books, rather we would appreciate it if you could try to sell them. There will be a prize for the child who sells the most tickets. All ticket stubs and monies are to be returned to school by **Friday, 15th March**, please. The raffle will take place on **Tuesday, 19th March, 2024**. Extra books of tickets will be available from the parents' display. If anyone would like to donate a **voucher** as a prize, it would be greatly appreciated. All proceeds are in aid of much needed school funds to buy resources.
- All our pupils in **Years 3 to 7** have been invited to the **Knockmany Running Club's Primary Schools' Cross Country Event** on **Friday, 8th March** at the pitches behind **Augher Central Primary School**. Pupils will travel by bus and will be accompanied by school staff. Please complete the permission slip attached and return it to school by **Friday** of this week.

Pupils are asked to bring spikes/football boots, a change of clothing and a **packed lunch** with them. Please ensure your child has an appropriate number of layers of clothing, depending on the weather forecast for the day of the race. Pupils will return to school before home time. Parents are asked to make a contribution of **£5** towards the cost of the bus.

- Our **Nature Rangers Clubs** continue this week, as follows:  
**Monday (2pm – 3pm):** Year 1/2 with Mrs. Barrett and Mrs. Dodenciu  
**Monday (3pm – 4pm):** Year 3/4 with Mrs. Mullin and Mrs. McGarvey  
**Thursday (3pm – 4pm):** Years 5, 6 and 7: Miss. Devine and Mrs. Shevlin  
**Friday (2pm – 3pm):** Year 1/2 with Miss. McNulty and Miss. O'Donnell

Please checkout **Forest School Families** on the **Forest School Website** – [www.forestschooolsni.com](http://www.forestschooolsni.com) and on our school website for fun ideas that all the family can get involved in the evenings and at weekends.

- **Parents of Pupils in Year Four:**  
The **Sacrament of Penance** (First Confessions) will take place on **Thursday, 14th March @ 7pm** in **St. Patrick's Church, Eskra**.

The **Sacrament of the Eucharist** (First Holy Communion) will take place on **Saturday, 18th May @ 12pm** in **St. Patrick's Church, Eskra**. Light refreshments will be served afterwards in **Eskra Community Centre**.

- **Parents of Pupils in Year 6:**  
Miss. Devine and I will be delivering a **Year 6 Transition Information Session for Parents** on **Thursday, 29th February @ 7.00pm**. The aim of this session will be to inform parents of current and proposed arrangements to aid and support pupils' transition from Year 6 into Year 7, to provide appropriate information for parents to help them make an informed decision regarding their child's participation in preparation for and completion of the Transfer Test, to outline support provided

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by school and how parents can help their child at home. This session will be beneficial to all Year 6 parents.

- **Parents of Pupils in Year Seven:**

A **Service of Light**, in preparation for Confirmation, will take place on **Thursday, 7th March** in **St. Patrick's Church, Eskra @ 7pm.**

The **Sacrament Of Confirmation** will take place in **St. Macartan's Church (The Forth) in Augher** on **Sunday, 14th April @ 3pm.**

A **Confirmation Practice** will take place in **St. Macartan's Church (The Forth) in Augher** on **Thursday, 11th April @ 7pm.**

A **Confirmation Information Evening** for parents of pupils in **Year 7** has been arranged for **Thursday, 29th February @ 6.30pm.** All Year 7 parents are welcome to attend.

Yours sincerely,

*Keira McCallan*

Mrs. Keira McCallan (Principal)



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**Permission Slip – Knockmany Running Club**  
**Cross Country Competition**

I/we allow/do not allow my/our child/children \_\_\_\_\_  
to participate in the **Knockmany Club's Primary School Cross Country  
Competition** on **Friday, 8th March, 2024**, travelling to **Augher** by bus.

Full Name:

Signed:

Date: