

MPS Newsletter

www.maghaberryyps.com

Friday 28th February 2025



Pupil of the Month - Love

Congratulations to our winners of February's pupil of the month! The target was Love, so we were looking for children who had shown care, love and kindness throughout the month.



The target for March is Creativity! We can't wait to see who the winners are.

Lexia Certificates

Congratulations to the children pictured below for achieving their targets and moving to the next level in the Lexia programme.



DIARY DATES

Mon 17 March
School closed - St Patrick's Day - EA non-operational day

Sat 22 March
PTA Table Quiz
7:30pm in the Community Centre

Fri 11 April
School closes at 12:00 noon for Easter Holidays

Mon 28 April
School reopens for the summer term

Mon 5 May
Bank Holiday - school closed

Wed 7 & Thurs 8 May
School Photos - more info in due course

Mon 26 & Tues 27
May Bank Holiday weekend - school closed both days

Mon 30 June
School closes at 12 noon for the summer holidays

Football Update

A huge well done to our footballers who took part in a tournament at Bluebell yesterday. They played against Moira PS and whilst the match was lost 4:2 it was still a thrilling game to watch. The boys were down 2:0 in the first half, but by half time they had equalised 2:2. Despite great pressure from Maghaberry and a few close misses, the other team won with a couple of lucky goals. Our boys really did us proud!



World Book Day

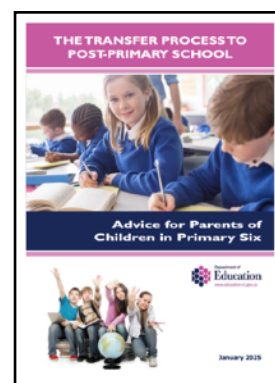
This Thursday (6th March 2025) is World Book Day! As you know we will be celebrating in school by dressing up as your favourite book character for the day. Pupils will also be doing lots of fun book and reading related activities in class. All to promote and celebrate the power of reading! We look forward to seeing the children on Thursday morning.



Information for P6 Parents regarding Transfer to Post-Primary School

The Department of Education has produced a document providing advice to parents of children in P6 on the post-primary transfer process. The purpose of this document is to ensure that parents receive timely information about the range of issues they need to take into account when making important decisions about the next stage in their child's education. Parents of children in P6 can follow the link below to access this document. A paper copy can be requested from the school office.

<https://maghaberryyps.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Advice-for-P6-Parents-January-2025.pdf>



Attendance

At Maghaberry Primary School we are committed to maintaining high levels of attendance and punctuality. You will find a copy of the Department of Education's "[Miss School, Miss Out](#)" leaflet via the link below. It makes interesting reading and highlights the advantages on maintaining your child's attendance at school. I would encourage all parents/carers to read this document.

<https://maghaberryyps.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Miss-School-Miss-Out-Leaflet.pdf>

100% attendance	Excellent	0 days missed
95% attendance	Satisfactory	9 days missed - 1 week 4 days of lost learning
90% attendance	Poor	19 days missed - 3 weeks 4 days of lost learning
85% attendance	Very poor/unacceptable	28 days missed - 5 weeks 3 days of lost learning
80% attendance	Unacceptable	38 days missed - 7 weeks 3 days of lost learning

Whilst there may be factors that can, from time to time, impact a child's attendance (such as sickness); regular, punctual attendance, ensures that your child gets the best possible outcomes in school. If there are any challenges or difficulties, that may be impacting your child's attendance at school, please speak to your class teacher as early as possible, so that we can try to resolve these together.

Please note that if your child is absent from school, you must inform the school of the reason for this absence.

During the school year we may write to parents if their child's attendance drops below 90% and we in some circumstances may be obliged to inform the Education Welfare Officer if attendance falls below 85%.

Morning Arrivals

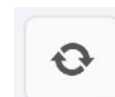
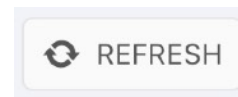
The window for arrivals each morning is 8:50am to 9:05am. This window is to help with traffic congestion during this busy 15 minutes. Please aim to have you child at school before 9:05am. After this time doors are locked and pupils arriving should enter through the main front door.

PTA Updates

Please see below for a new section of the newsletter dedicated to PTA news and information. Take take some time to read this!  SEE BELOW 

School Website Photos

Most of our classes have photos available to view on the school website. These galleries have been somewhat unreliable and we are looking into a resolution. However if you are having trouble accessing photos one possible solution is to tap/click the refresh icon in the top right corner of the gallery - this sometimes works.



Board of Governors

Our newly reconstituted Board of Governors met for the first time recently. We are looking forward to working together in the years ahead to make the school the best it can be for our children. The Governors consist of:

Transferor Representatives:

Mr John Watson (Chairperson)

Rev. Paul McAdam

Dr. Andrew Curry

Alderman James Tinsley

Education Authority Representatives:

George Ellis (Vice-chairperson)

Mrs Lynsey Piotrowska

Parent Representatives:

Mr Paul Montgomery

Mr Kyle McCarthy

Teacher Representative:

Mrs Ruth Millar

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Governors: Mr David Spratt



CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING TEAM

Designated Teacher for Child

Protection:

Mrs R Wilson

Deputy Designated Teacher for Child

Protection:

Mrs J Hamilton

Principal and Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection

Mr D Spratt

Governors responsible for Child

Protection:

Dr A Curry, Mr J Watson
and Mr K McCarthy

Copies of the Child Protection Policy
are available from the school website.

NEWS



MAGHABERRY PS PTA

Who We Are

Welcome to the first ever Maghaberry Primary School PTA newsletter! We are a small, dedicated group of parents and teachers who regularly team up to boost our school community and funding with a range of fundraising events and social shindigs to sprinkle some extra magic for our students and staff.

Our mission? To jazz up every child's educational journey, foster a tight-knit community, and keep Maghaberry Primary School buzzing with warmth and excitement!

HELP

How YOU Can Help

- **Join the PTA** and attend 1 meeting per month to discuss new fundraising ideas.
- **Join our Friends of the PTA group** and commit to giving half an hour of your time at PTA fundraising events.
- Join the **Maghaberry PTA facebook group** to stay up to date with new initiatives.
- **Contact us** if you have a business that would like to help in any way by providing sponsorship or prizes for raffles.

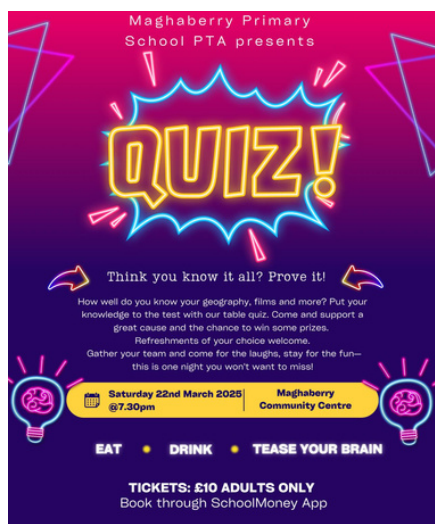
Join Us for a Fun-filled PTA Table Quiz!

Test your knowledge, enjoy great company, and help raise funds for our school! 🧠📚

📅 Date: Saturday 22nd March 2025

🕒 Time: 7.30pm

📍 Location: Maghaberry Community Centre



Get in touch

📞 Helen - 07867471981
✉️ maghaberrypspta@hotmail.com
🌐 www.maghaberryps.com/pta



Join Us at the Lisburn Fun Run!

Get active and have fun while supporting our school! Whether you're running, walking, or cheering, it's a great way to be part of our community.

Keep an eye out for how to register through the school app.

When the PTA met the school council

Hannah and Helen, from the PTA recently met with the School Council to discuss the potential benefits of new playground equipment. During the meeting, the School Council presented a well-prepared PowerPoint, showcasing how the new equipment would enhance outdoor play and support the children's development. Their thorough preparation and clear vision made a strong case for the need. As a result of this productive discussion, the PTA is delighted to contribute £2000 towards purchasing the new outdoor equipment, helping to create an even better playground experience for all students.

Upcoming events

- 10th March 2025 - PTA meeting
- 22nd March 2025 - Table Quiz
- 12th June 2025 - Summer Fair
- 18th June 2025 - Lisburn Fun Run

Maghaberry Primary
School PTA presents

QUIZ!

Think you know it all? Prove it!

How well do you know your geography, films and more? Put your knowledge to the test with our table quiz. Come and support a great cause and the chance to win some prizes.

Refreshments of your choice welcome.

Gather your team and come for the laughs, stay for the fun—this is one night you won't want to miss!



Saturday 22nd March 2025
@7.30pm

**Maghaberry
Community Centre**

EAT • DRINK • TEASE YOUR BRAIN

TICKETS: £10 ADULTS ONLY
Book through SchoolMoney App



Tips for Parents and Carers: Keeping you and your loved ones safe online

This Safer Internet Day we are starting a conversation about how to spot, respond to and report all types of scams online. Scams can take many forms and may target anyone, including young people. Use these top tips to keep you and your loved ones safe online.

■ Enjoy going online together and talk regularly about your family's online lives

The internet is amazing and can help us all to access information and entertainment. Spend time online with your child to understand how they are using technology and talk together about the good and the bad parts of being online. Talk about your own experiences and find other opportunities to get the conversation started, like stories in the news. Make sure your child knows they can talk to you about anything that they see or experience online.

▲ Take online security measures seriously

The internet can be a tool used by criminals to target their victims, but a few [simple steps](#) can help keep you and your accounts secure. Use [strong and separate passwords](#) for online accounts and [set up two step verification](#) (2SV) where it's available. You may also be able to [set parental controls](#) to prevent unwanted online purchases and limit children's access to harmful content.

● Look out for warning signs that someone or something online cannot be trusted

"It just seems too good to be true!" – Other common signs of a scam include contact that you weren't expecting or being asked for money or personal information (think: bank or contact details, passwords, or phone numbers). Scammers use [other tactics](#) to manipulate their victims into paying, like playing with your emotions, or building a sense of urgency so you are rushed into making a decision. If you aren't sure it's reliable, don't risk it.

◆ Remember that anyone can be a victim of a scam

Scammers are good at what they do and will target anyone. We all need to stay vigilant and support those who are most vulnerable including children and the elderly by helping them recognise what to look out for. If anyone in your family has been scammed, talk openly about it. There should be no shame in being victim to a scam and it's never your fault.

★ Know where to get help if something goes wrong

If you or someone you know has been the victim of a scam online, you're not on your own. Help is available and you are not to blame for what has happened. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, you can report fraud and cyber crime online to [Action Fraud](#) or by telephoning 0300 123 2040. In Scotland, report to Police Scotland by calling 101. You may also be able to report via social media, if the scam has taken place there or to another relevant organisation, like your bank, if you think your account is at risk.

Remember, if you or anyone else is in immediate danger, call 999 immediately.



Top Tips for use Tips for Parents and Carers of 3-7 year olds

This Safer Internet Day we are starting a conversation about how to spot, respond to, and report all types of scams online. Scams can take many forms and could target anyone, including young people. Whilst your 3-7 year old may not yet be ready to use the internet independently, use our top tips to start good online habits now that will help keep them safe in the future.

■ Enjoy going online together

Spending time online together with family is an important learning experience for the youngest internet users. Not only will you both enjoy the quality time together, but you can supervise their usage and guide them to make the safest choices.

▲ Talk about their online experiences

Help give your child the language to explain what they're experiencing online by starting conversations about the internet and technology as early as possible. Talking regularly about what they love doing online, as well as any worries they may have, will help establish this habit and mean they're more likely to come to you for help as they get older.

● Make use of settings, especially relating to online purchases

[Parental controls and other safety settings](#) can help protect your child from online harms, including scams. To avoid any nasty surprises on your bank statement, make sure in-app purchases or new downloads require a passcode, and don't set card details to autofill on devices your child has access to.

◆ Explain that not everything online is true

If your child is too young to understand what fraud is, you can still lay the groundwork to help them stay safe online as they grow. Start simple and talk about the difference between real and make believe. Help them recognise that not everything online is true and that some things they see or hear could be stories, jokes or tricks.

★ Make sure they know they can always come to you

The most important thing for your child to know is that you are always there to support them, online and offline. Encourage them to talk to you if anything they experience makes them feel worried or upset, and show them they can trust you to stay calm, listen and help make things better.

Our school code: 0504

SAFER SCHOOLS NI

Make EVERY Day A Safer Internet Day!

Download the Safer Schools NI App today.

Icons include: The Online World, Social Media, Online Safety Help, and a smartphone showing the app interface.

"Can I get a phone?"

"What age can I get a phone?"

"My friend has a phone, please can I get one?"



Sound familiar??

Maybe you are thinking of getting your child a phone or have recently got one? At Parentline NI we have put together a useful bumper pack full of helpful information and activities to do together with your child to prepare them for using a phone.

Packed full of useful links, support and guidance as well as helpful Q&A's to use with your child!



For your **FREE** pack
Call us now on **0808 8020 400**