

MPS Newsletter

www.maghaberryps.com

Friday 27th February 2026



World Book Day - 5th March

Thursday 5th March 2026 is World Book Day! 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!



DIARY DATES

Thurs 5 March
World Book Day.
Dress up as a book character

Tues 10 March
P6 Post Primary
Information Session
2:30pm in school

Mon 16 & Tues 17 March
School closed St
Patrick's Day - EA
non-operational day

Fri 27 March
School closes at
12noon for Easter

Mon 13 April
School reopens for
the summer term

Mon 4 & Tues 5 May
School closed for the
bank holiday

**Mon 25 May and
Tues 26 May**
School closed for the
bank holiday
weekend

Sports News - Football

Under 10 Cup vs Ballymacash

Maghaberry 2 - 4 Ballymacash

A fast start in our boys first match saw them 2 down to a strong Ballymacash team. We rallied well and got a foothold in the game a by half time it was 3-2. A strong start to the second half saw us create lots of opportunities through some lovely passages of play. Unfortunately, with all of our pressure we were unable to score and as we continued to press for an equaliser Ballymacash scored a 4th goal to seal their victory. Well done to our footballers on a resilient performance.



Girls Cup at Hillsborough Boys

Our girls made the journey on Wednesday to Hillsborough Boys to take part in the Girls' Cup. We played 5 games, winning 3 and losing 2. We started the day with a narrow defeat to St Coleman's in a well contested game. After adjusting to the conditions and the bounce of the ball our girls really found their stride and won the next 3 games against Killowen, Lisburn Central and St Joseph's with great team performances and some superb individual moments of brilliance. A

special thank you to

Mr Armstrong for his support and refereeing the games. Well done, girls. You were all fantastic!

Outreach Cup Round 1

We returned to the Bluebell for the first round of the Outreach Cup and left undefeated. We had the opportunity to play in 6 matches.

1-0 v Tonagh

2-1 v Harmony Hill

0-0 v Lisburn Central

0-0 v Ballymacash

0-0 v Meadowbridge

1-0 v Harmony Hill

Well done boys on some great football and an incredible desire to



keep playing under pressure.

We created plenty of opportunities and could have scored many more goals. Keep up the great effort, boys, and well done. ⚽

Sports News - Netball

Three matches were played yesterday at Lisburn Racquets Club.

The girls played very well - we are so very proud of their play and their sportsmanship! We lost narrowly to Meadowbridge and to Wallace Prep. Tonagh beat us 4 -0. We are incredibly proud of them representing our school at these matches. A huge thank you to our parents for providing transport and support from the sidelines.



LET'S CELEBRATE



P1 to P4 Pupil of the Month Winners - LOVE



P1 to P4 Pupil of the Month Winners - LOVE



P5 to P7 Pupil of the Month Winners - LOVE



Netball Players who attended a tournament at Lisnagarvey HS



Congratulations to Ryan and Noah who both tried out and were chosen for Lisburn Select Football Club



P2 to P4 Lexia Certificate Winners



Accelerated Reader Target Achieved Certificate Winners

Updated School Calendar

The school calendar has been updated on the school website to reflect the 2 additional TransformED training days given to all schools by the Department of Education.

[Please follow this link to a letter from Mr Spratt regarding the Department of Education's addition of 2 staff development days to ALL schools.](#)

For our school these dates are:

- Monday 16th March 2026 (prior to St Patrick's Day)
- Tuesday 5th May 2026 (following Bank holiday Monday)

An updated holiday list can be found on the school website: <https://maghaberryys.com/key-dates/>

Parents Online Safety Evening - Please Support this important event!

We are delighted to be able to offer our parents an opportunity to attend a valuable workshop called “FACE TO FACEBOOK” on:

WEDNESDAY 4th MARCH 2026
At 7pm in school

This interactive workshop will provide an up-to-date overview of what's happening online, exploring topics such as cyberbullying, social media and practical tips about boundaries that could be helpful in the home. Face to Facebook builds the confidence of parents & carers, equipping them to deal with the opportunities and challenges online, and inspires them to use their unique influence as we all navigate our ever evolving digital world.

This session will be lead by a group called Love for Life who also run our growing up workshops with our P7 children in school. [IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY, CLICK HERE TO BOOK YOUR PLACE.](#)

Maths Workshops

This week we welcomed Katrina from NumeraSee who lead staff development sessions and practical maths sessions with each year group. The children really enjoyed the fun, interactive maths activities. This is another step towards development of our practical maths curriculum in school.



Key Stage Assessments

This March, our school will participate in the Department of Education's Literacy and Numeracy assessments. A random selection of P4 and P7 pupils has been chosen to complete these short, paper-based activities during the normal school day.

These assessments are designed to help the Department understand educational trends across Northern Ireland; please note that the results are anonymised, and no individual results for pupils or schools will be published. There is no need for any preparation at home or school, as the questions are based on the standard curriculum. We will send information letters home to those randomly selected next week. If your child has been selected, we encourage you to reassure them that these assessments are nothing to worry about, they just need to do their best.

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](https://maghaberryprimaryps.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Miss-School-Miss-Out-Leaflet.pdf)" 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://maghaberryprimaryps.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%.

DON'T FORGET THE PTA NEWSLETTER BELOW!





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:
Mr J Watson
and Mr K McCarthy

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



MAGHABERRY PS PTA

Get Ready for our first Duck Derby!

On Friday, 1st May 2026, Maghaberry Primary School and Nursery Unit will be running their very first Duck Derby.

All pupils will be given a number which corresponds with a duck which will compete in the race.

On Friday 1st May, all the ducks will be released from the top of a bouncy slide where they will tumble, slide, bounce, and wiggle their way to the bottom.

The first duck to reach the bottom wins and each child who has that number will win a prize! Not to mention that all of the children will get to try out the bouncy slide.

We are asking parents to sponsor your child's duck as well as encouraging family and friends to sponsor their duck too.



Keep an eye out for more information.

Lisburn Fun Run



After the success of last year, we are hoping to take part in this year's Lisburn Fun Run which will be held in June.

Further details will be forwarded in the future but if you intend to take part, please register through the school so we can raise some money!

Who's who in the PTA

Name: Sonya McKillop

Children: Sophie, Logan and Molly

Role: Helping when I can, in charge of the disco playlist

Most used phrase: "Sure, it is what it is"

Where I can often be found: Portrush where my family is from

Likes: family days out, music, sewing, learning new skills like crochet or bread making!

Dislikes: sitting still!



Penny Wars

The tinkle of coins has been very steady as pupils are raiding money boxes and grandparents pockets for our Penny Wars Initiative!

The PTA are so grateful to everyone for taking part.

The money will be counted over the Easter holidays and the winning team for this term will be announced at the start of Term 3. Good luck!



Small Businesses

If you are a small business and would be in a position to provide sponsorship or prizes for upcoming events, we would be delighted to hear from you!

We rely heavily on the support of local businesses and are always grateful for any donations given.

Get in touch

📞 Helen - 07867471981

✉️ maghaberrypspta@hotmail.com

🌐 www.maghaberryps.com/pta

NEWS



MAGHABERRY PS PTA

Don't Have Time to Help Out? – Sign up to EasyFundraising

Easyfundraising is a super simple way for all parents to get involved with fundraising for Maghaberry Primary School.

All you have to do is sign up through the website, find Maghaberry Primary School in the search box, add the extension to your web search and you can get donations from over 8000 retailers.

Turn your daily shopping into
everyday magic for us with
easyfundraising

You shop, brands donate to us. It won't cost you any extra!



easyfundraising

Help us make a difference when you shop.
Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk



1 Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk

2 Sign up and search for us

3 Your favourite brands donate to us
whenever you shop with them

Shop with 8,000+ brands including:

Booking.com

ebay

M&S

GROUPON

Argos

TUI

JOHN
LEWIS



Viking

ASOS

BT

Uber Eats

- £67 million raised
- 2.5 million users
- 190,000 causes

Help Maghaberry Primary School PTA claim unlimited £2 donations before it's too late!

Until 28th February, Easyfundraising will give £2 every time someone joins you in supporting them on easyfundraising via their app

If we can get 10+ new supporters, it will unlock further bonus donations – but time is running out...

Can you help us?

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

We are currently looking for volunteers who will be free on Thursday 4th June 2026 to help out at our annual summer fair.

The summer fair is a lovely end to the school year which brings everyone together for some fun and raises much-needed funds for the school.

If you can commit to 30 minutes - an hour to help us out, please contact Helen Gray on 07867471981.

Upcoming events

- ▶▶ Monday 9th March 2026 - PTA meeting @ 730pm
- ▶▶ Friday 27th March 2026 - Penny Wars jars to be counted.
- ▶▶ Friday 1st May 2026 - Duck Derby sponsored event.
- ▶▶ Wednesday 17th June 2026 - Lisburn Fun Run
- ▶▶ Thursday 4th June 2026 - Summer Fair

Get in touch

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