

MPS Newsletter

www.maghaberryyps.com

Friday 27th March 2026



Happy Easter

It is hard to believe that term 2 is now over and we are heading into the summer! Time certainly does not stand still! We wish everyone connected with our school a very relaxing and well earned break. See you all on Monday 13th April!

Vision and Values Parent Survey

We are currently on an exciting journey to refine our school's vision and values, and we need your voice to help guide us. Following engagement, over the last couple of years with staff, pupils and parents, we have identified 15 key values that we need to narrow down. We are now inviting all parents to participate in a short survey to help us focus on the core principles that will drive our school's direction for years to come. Your input is invaluable in ensuring our vision truly reflects the community we serve. Please take a few moments to review the "Glossary of Values" and share your choices with us—together, we can build a bright future for every child at Maghaberry! It will only take a few minutes!

[CLICK HERE TO HAVE A SAY IN SELECTING OUR CORE SCHOOL VALUES](#)

EA Chief Executive Visit

We were delighted to welcome Richard Pengelly, Chief Executive of the Education Authority, to Maghaberry Primary School this week. It was a fantastic opportunity to showcase our vibrant learning environment, and Mr. Pengelly thoroughly enjoyed meeting our staff and pupils. During his visit, he saw our school in full swing—from high-tech ICT lessons and green screening to the hands-on exploration of Forest School and practical maths. As always, our children were excellent ambassadors for the school, impressing our guest with their engagement and enthusiasm. We are incredibly proud of our school community and grateful for the chance to share our success with the EA leadership.



New Story Telling Circle

We are thrilled to unveil the latest addition to our playground: a beautiful new storytelling circle! This dedicated space is designed to enhance our outdoor learning environment, providing a perfect setting for imagination to flourish as we head into the summer term. With its "Once Upon a Time" throne and surrounding benches, it offers a wonderful way for classes to enjoy fresh air while diving into their favorite books. Our P1 pupils have already given the circle a proper test run, settling in for a magical story session under the trees. We can't wait to see all our year groups making use of this fantastic new resource for lessons, quiet reading, and creative play!



DIARY DATES

Mon 13 April
School reopens for the summer term

Fri 1 May
PTA Duck Derby

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

Wed 13 & Thurs 14 May
School Photos to be taken

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

Wed 20 May
Garden party to open outdoor classroom

Thurs 28 May
Sports day - more info to follow

Thurs 4 June
PTA Summer Fair

Mon 8 to Wed 10 June
P7 Residential Trip to Lorne House

Fri 26 June
P7 Leavers Assembly. Time tbc.
P7 last day.

Tues 30 June
End of Term - School closes at 12noon

Holiday Dates 2026/27

For any families who wish to check next year's school holidays list please follow this link to the school website:

<https://maghaberryyps.com/key-dates/>

<https://maghaberryyps.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/School-holidays-2026-27-PARENT-VERSION.pdf>

LET'S CELEBRATE



P1 to P4 Pupil of The Month Winners - CREATIVITY



Chloe in Nursery Action Cancer Easter Egg Winner!

We raised
£382 for Action
Cancer! Thank
You!



P5 to P7 Pupil of The Month Winners - CREATIVITY



Ella and Freya Action Cancer Easter Egg Winners!



CONGRATULATIONS to the winners of the recent Eurospar colouring competition!



Accelerated Reader Millionaire! Well done Willow



Boys' Brigade - Best Boy Winner! Well done Daniel



Lexia Achievement Winners!



Accelerated Reader - Stars of the Month



TIMES TABLES ROCK STARS - Winners and Champions!



Accelerated Reader - AR Target Winners!

SPORTS UPDATES



Football

Recently, Maghaberry boys put in a great performance at the recent Lisburn area schools tournament, racking up a series of impressive wins. After a narrow opening loss to Downshire, the team bounced back with style, securing a dominant 3-0 victory over Old Warren and hard-fought wins against St. Joseph's and Brownlee. Though they faced a setback against a strong Ballymacash side, Maghaberry finished on a high note, proving they are a force to be reckoned with in Lisburn school sports.

Unfortunately this week's matches were postponed due to bad weather. We will keep you posted!

Netball

Our netball team delivered a magnificent performance this week, demonstrating incredible resilience and spirit by never giving up despite the final scoreline. Although we didn't secure the win, the progress the players have made over the last few months is clear to see as their skills sharpen with every match. We are immensely proud of their dedication and look forward to seeing their continued improvement throughout the rest of the season.

Athletics - Friday 20th March 2026

On Friday, some of our P7 children made the journey to Lisburn LeisurePlex to take part in the annual Primary Schools' Sportshall Athletics.

The day was split into both 'Track' and 'Field' events. We began with Javelin throwing followed by the Standing Broad Jump. After a break we recommenced with the Speed Bounce and Medicine Ball Throws. The athletes competed fiercely and gave their best in all of the field based events.

After lunch we competed in a number of track events consisting of Boys, Girls and Mixed Relays and two obstacle relays. Again, our athletes did our school proud with their effort and determination in all



events and gave a fantastic account of themselves as they represented our school.

Well done to all involved for your fantastic effort, competitiveness and sportsmanship throughout the day. 🏆

Religious Education Withdrawal

Following recent guidance from the Department of Education, we wish to ensure parents and carers are aware of their unqualified statutory right to withdraw their children wholly or partially from Religious Education (RE) and/or religious based school assemblies. This process is simple, confidential, and does not require you to provide a any reason or justification. If you wish to exercise this right, please complete our online form here:

[Religious Education Withdrawal Form](#)

Once submitted, the school will record the request immediately. Further details are on the form itself and can be accessed via the link above.

Translink Building Bridges Project

Year 7 students recently showcased their impressive teamwork and technical skills while participating in the Building Bridges Project, an initiative run by Translink. The highlight of the program involved the children constructing a large-scale suspension bridge, which they then bravely tested by walking across the structure themselves. Our Year 7s demonstrated remarkable problem-solving abilities, signalling their bright potential as the engineers of the future.



EA Fame

Well done to our own Omolara, who was asked to present a powerful new video produced by the Education Authority regarding autism and neurodiversity. In the video Omolara is helping to raise vital awareness and foster a more inclusive environment for neurodivergent young people across schools in Northern Ireland. Tap the image opposite to view the video.



Education Authority SEN Consultation

The Education Authority has officially opened the public consultation for the Enhanced Support Model (ESM) for SEN. This is a key part of the SEN Reform Agenda, and your feedback as school staff and classroom assistants is vital.

Key Details:

- **Deadline:** The consultation is open until Friday 22 May 2026
- **Resources:** You can find testimonials, FAQs, and comparison documents online via the link below.

Read the full letter and access the consultation here: <https://send.eani.org.uk/send-transformation-programme/enhanced-support-model>

PTA Duck Derby Sponsored Event

We are quack-tastically excited to announce our first-ever PTA Duck Derby fundraiser taking place on Friday, 1st May! Information packs have been sent home detailing



how your child can get involved. Each pupil will be assigned a numbered duck to "race" down a giant bouncy slide, with prizes waiting for the winners at the bottom! We are asking for families to help the children gather sponsorship for their ducks; every penny raised will go directly toward providing new learning materials for our pupils. Thank you for your continued support in making our school a better place to learn and play!

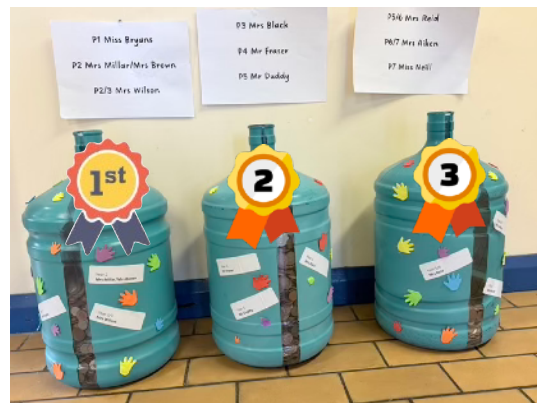
Penny Wars

PTA Penny Wars has been a great success! the children seem to have really enjoyed collecting the coins over this term! Thank you to everyone for supporting this initiative! The jars have been totalled (we are keeping the amounts secret for now!) and so far the 1st, 2nd and 3rd places are below:

1st Place classes win a movie morning after Easter with Popcorn provided by the PTA!

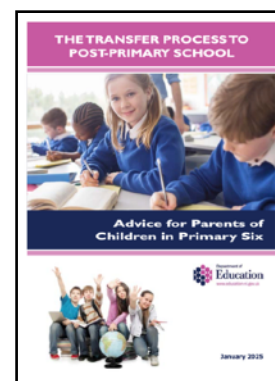
The competition will continue until the end of June! Keep bringing in those coins!

		
P1 Bryans P2 Millar/Brown P2/3 Wilson	P3 Black P4 Fraser P5 Duddy	P5/6 McMahon P6/7 Aiken P7 Neill



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, via the image on the right to access this document. A paper copy can be requested from the school office.





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 



MONCHUNKINS
AFTER SCHOOL

EASTER HOLIDAY CARE

JOIN US FOR AN EASTER CAMP TO REMEMBER!

BREAKFAST, MORNING & AFTERNOON SNACK INCLUDED

- LOTS OF FUN & GAMES
- BAKING
- EASTER CRAFTS
- GAMES & ACTIVITIES

LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE

Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April

Full Day 8:00AM - 5:30PM £31.50 Per Day

CLOSED FRIDAY 3rd - TUESDAY 7th April

Church On The Hill Maghaberry

PLEASE EMAIL: littlemunchkinskidsclub@gmail.com
ASAP TO BOOK YOUR CHILD'S PLACE!



Wednesday from 4-5pm in Craigmore Methodist Church and is £4 pay as you go.

CLADDAGH SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCING

Please contact the number below or message the dancing page for class info

Ages 2+ welcome!

@Claddaghschool

CONTACT - 07732034104



OATLANDS POOL

AVAILABILITY FOR LESSONS OF ALL AGES

TERM 4
11TH APRIL 2026

- Baby and Pre-school Lessons
- Beginner lessons over 4 years of age
- Children swimming lesson
- Adult Lessons

JOIN NOW

07548 706525
WWW.OATLANDSPOOL.CO.UK
BETWEEN HILLSBOROUGH AND MOIRA