



PORTAVOGIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Annual Board of
Governors Report*

2025 – 2026

*“ Nurturing Each Child's
Unique Potential ”*



COMMUNITY



RESPECT



ENVIRONMENTAL
AWARENESS



DIGITAL
SKILLS



RESILIENCE



EXCELLENCE



The Governors are delighted to present the Annual Report for 2025/2026. We, along with the staff, are committed to continuously monitoring, evaluating, and reviewing both the achievements and experiences of our pupils. This dedication ensures that we provide the highest quality education for our children. We greatly value the excellent partnership we have established with parents over the years and encourage its continuation.

We hope you find this report both engaging and informative, offering you a comprehensive and current overview of the dynamic and thriving life at Portavogie Primary School.

Mr J Miskimmin

(Chairman)

Mrs V Murray

(Hon. Secretary)

Our Vision

At Portavogie Primary School, we strive to create a nurturing educational environment where every child thrives. Guided by respect, resilience, and a commitment to excellence, we foster a supportive community that celebrates diversity and inspires lifelong learning.

Our Values

Community: We cherish unity and cooperation, valuing each individual's unique contribution.

Respect: We promote kindness, empathy, and inclusivity, honouring the dignity of all.

Resilience: We cultivate perseverance and adaptability, empowering students to overcome challenges with courage.

Environmental Awareness: We instil a sense of responsibility for our planet, fostering environmental stewardship.

Excellence: We set high standards for academic achievement and personal growth, nurturing curiosity, and critical thinking.

Digital Skills: We equip students with essential digital literacy and technological proficiency, preparing them for the demands of the digital age.

Together, guided by our shared vision and values, we empower students to become confident individuals, preparing them for success in an ever-changing world.

Nurturing each child's unique potential.

The Board of Governors

2025 / 2026

The Board was reconstituted in December 2024, during the Winter Term.

Board of Governors

Elected by the parents of the school: Mr J Bailie & Mrs C Sloan

Elected by the teaching staff of the school: Mrs K Hughes

Appointed by the Education Authority: Mr S Mawhinney & Mr S Breen

Transferor's Representatives: Mr J Miskimmin, Mr S Doherty, Mrs C Palmer & Mr P Johnston

(Transferors' representatives reflect the local churches and community.)

The Chairperson of the Board of Governors: Mr J Miskimmin.

Vice Chairperson of the Board of Governors: Mr S Mawhinney

The Secretary to the Board of Governors: Mrs V Murray (Principal)

The principal is an ex officio member of, and secretary to, the Board of Governors. As such the Principal is a non-voting member of the Board of the Governors.

Responsibilities of the Governors

Governors participate in regular meetings of the Governing Body. They are expected to engage with all school activities and stay informed about general educational developments. Additionally, Governors are invited to attend training sessions provided by the Education Authority.

Key responsibilities of the Governors include:

- Supervising the School Development Plan
- Managing staff appointments
- Overseeing pupil admissions
- Compiling the Annual Report
- Handling the school's financial management
- Ensuring efficient use of resources
- Maintaining pupil discipline
- Monitoring the curriculum, policies, and procedures
- Addressing initiatives from the Education Authority and Department of Education

We are deeply grateful to the Governors for their generous commitment of time, ensuring the smooth and effective administration of Portavogie Primary School.

The school has spent the past year working on their new 3-year School Development Plan for 2025 – 2028. All the relevant stakeholders were consulted, and the school has prioritised the main areas to focus on. The School Development Plan and corresponding annual Action Plans are available upon request. The Board of Governors reviews this document annually.

The Governors would like to formally express their appreciation for the efforts of the teaching and non-teaching staff. They recognise the dedication and expertise of the staff, each of whom contributes to making Portavogie Primary School a thriving and happy educational environment.

Portavogie Primary School Staff

Teaching Staff 2025/2026

Principal – Mrs V Murray

Nursery – Mrs C Johnston

Primary 1 – Miss H Armstrong

Primary 2 – Mrs K Spence

Primary 3 – Miss J Johnston

Primary 4 – Mrs L Hughes

Primary 5 – Mrs K Hughes

Primary 6 – Mrs C Mawhinney

Primary 7 – Mrs J McFadden

Learning Support Teacher & SENCO - Mrs L Bourne

Classroom Assistants (General & SEN)

Nursery – Mrs N Mahood, Mrs P Moore & Mrs E Drysdale / Miss K Gilmore

Primary 1 – Mrs P Thompson, Mrs J Magee (SEN) & Mrs K Hughes (SEN)

Primary 2 – Mrs C McBride, Mrs J Magee (SEN) & Mrs LJ Reid (SEN)

Primary 3 - Mrs S Thompson (SEN), Miss R Kelly (SEN), Mrs M Donnan (SEN) & Mrs E McClurg (SEN)

Primary 5 - Mrs K McKeown (SEN) & Mrs K Hughes (SEN)

Primary 6 – Mrs K Palmer (SEN) & Mrs LJ Reid (SEN)

Primary 7 – Mrs E McClurg (SEN)

Executive Officer – Mrs A Adair

Building Supervisor – Mr W Bailie

Domestic Supervisors – Mrs D McCully & Miss L Ledlie

Meals Supervisor – Mrs B Lyons Crossing Patrol – Mrs L Green

Senior Leadership Team

Mrs V Murray, Mrs K Hughes, Mrs J McFadden & Mrs K Spence.

The effective functioning of our school depends on the dedication of all our staff. Each member plays a significant role in ensuring the best possible experience for our pupils and their families. The Governors greatly appreciate their continued contributions.

Staff Responsibilities

Mrs C Johnston – Nursery

Miss H Armstrong – Play Based Learning & Forest Schools

Mrs K Spence – Head of FS & KS-1, Designated teacher for Safeguarding, Music co-ordinator and R.E co-ordinator.

Miss J Johnston – ICT co-ordinator, World Around Us co-ordinator and Eco Schools co-ordinator.

Mrs L Hughes – Literacy co-ordinator and school council

Mrs K Hughes – Head of KS-2, responsibility for the school in Mrs Murray's absence & Numeracy co-ordinator.

Mrs C Mawhinney – Extended schools co-ordinator, P.E. co-ordinator and Art co-ordinator.

Mrs J McFadden – Assessment co-ordinator and Residential co-ordinator

Mrs L Bourne – SENCO and PDMU co-ordinator

Attendance for 2025 / 2026

Overall attendance – 95%

Here are photographs of the termly attendance prizes for those children with 100% attendance

Autumn – 21 pupils



Spring – 30 pupils



Summer – 30 pupils



Any child whose attendance falls below 85% is monitored closely, parents are contacted, and Education Welfare Officer begins involvement with the child and family if necessary.

Standardised Tests & Assessment

Assessment is a crucial element of the teaching and learning process at Portavogie Primary School. Pupil attainment is consistently monitored and evaluated. We maintain detailed records of pupil progress and achievement, using this data to set future targets for the entire school, specific groups, and individual students. We use the GL Assessment online package to support our assessment practices.

Primary 1

- Teacher's individual baseline assessment

Primary 3 to Primary 7

- CAT4 (P4 & P6 pupils only)
- Progress Test in English (PTE)
- Progress Test in Maths (PTM)
- Single Word Spelling Test (SWST)
- New Group Reading Test (NGRT)

Boosting Reading @ Primary

This year, seven of our Classroom Assistants successfully completed the Boosting Reading @ Primary Reading Partners training programme over two days. As improving reading remained a key priority within our School Development Plan, trained classroom assistants provided targeted one-to-one reading support for selected pupils in Primary 3 to Primary 6, working with them three times each week. The programme had a significant impact, with all participating pupils making considerable improvements in their reading ages.



Curriculum – Priority Areas for 2025/2026

Numeracy

- Continued to promote Mathletics both in school and at home to consolidate learning and encourage enjoyment of mathematics
- Delivered targeted numeracy booster groups for identified pupils using assessment data.
- Continued to develop pupils' reasoning and problem-solving skills through practical and investigative activities.
- Built on last year's successful focus on Shape and Space through the introduction of coding activities across the curriculum.

Literacy

- Improved reading attainment through the introduction of new high-quality fiction and non-fiction reading books across the school.
- Embedded guided reading sessions and running records to support assessment and improve pupil progress.
- Classroom Assistants completed Boosting Reading @ Primary training and delivered targeted reading interventions for identified pupils.
- Used assessment data, including the NGRT and Dyslexia Screener, to identify pupils requiring additional support and inform targeted interventions.

ICT

- Introduced a progressive coding programme from P1–P7 using Bee-Bots, Scratch Jr, Micro:bits and Sphero.
- Continued to embed the use of Just2Easy across the curriculum to enhance teaching, learning and home-school communication.
- Provided staff training to further develop confidence in coding and digital technologies.
- Extended opportunities for pupils to apply digital skills across a range of curriculum areas.

Leadership

- Participated in the School of Leaders programme to strengthen middle leadership.
- Provided opportunities for Literacy, Numeracy and ICT co-ordinators to collaborate with colleagues from partner schools.
- Developed the leadership skills of subject co-ordinators through professional learning, monitoring and curriculum development.
- Strengthened collaborative working across the school and the North Down Primary Principals' Group.

Health & Wellbeing

- Participated in the EA Being Well, Doing Well programme to promote emotional health and wellbeing across the school.
- Introduced the Peace Plus programme for P6 and P7 pupils in partnership with St Mary's Primary School.
- Promoted the school's values through the monthly CREED Value Champions initiative.
- Continued to foster a nurturing, inclusive environment where every child feels known, valued and supported.

Special Educational Needs

- Delivered targeted reading and numeracy interventions for identified pupils.
- Continued to use Personal Learning Plans (PLPs) and Targeted Progress Plans (TPPs) to support children requiring additional intervention.
- Used the Dyslexia Screener and assessment data to identify pupils requiring additional support.
- Maintained an inclusive learning environment where all pupils are supported to achieve their full potential.

SEN Support

Portavogie Primary School is an inclusive school and is committed to ensuring that every child is supported to reach their full potential.

Staff work closely together to identify pupils' individual needs at an early stage, using professional judgement alongside assessment data and classroom observations. Personal Learning Plans (PLPs) and Targeted Progress Plans (TPPs) continue to be used to support pupils requiring additional intervention in literacy and numeracy, with parents involved throughout the process.

The school continues to work closely with a range of external agencies, including the Educational Psychology Service, RISE, Speech and Language Therapy and other specialist services where appropriate, ensuring pupils receive the support they need.

This year, the school introduced the GL Dyslexia Screener for pupils in Primary 3 to Primary 7. The information gathered has enabled staff to identify pupils requiring additional support and implement the Toe by Toe reading programme. The programme has proved highly successful, with pupils making excellent progress, and it will continue to be used during the 2026/2027 school year.

As improving reading is a key priority within our School Development Plan, all teachers from Primary 1 to Primary 7 completed Boosting Reading @ Primary professional development, while seven Classroom Assistants completed the full two-day Reading Partners training programme. This has strengthened the school's capacity to deliver targeted reading intervention for identified pupils.

Miss Armstrong (Primary 1) and Mrs Johnston (Nursery) also completed the Nurturing Talk in the Early Years programme at the beginning of the school year. The training has further strengthened staff knowledge and skills in supporting children's speech, language and communication development during the early years.

To further enhance support for our youngest learners, Mrs Johnston and Mrs Mahood completed Makaton training during the Autumn Term. This has provided additional strategies to support communication, language development and inclusion within the Nursery Unit.

Throughout the year, staff continued to demonstrate their commitment to providing a nurturing, inclusive environment where every child is valued, supported and encouraged to achieve their full potential.

Eco-Schools

Portavogie Primary School continues to place a strong emphasis on environmental awareness, sustainability and healthy lifestyles through its participation in the Eco-Schools programme. We were delighted to be awarded our second Green Flag in June, recognising the ongoing commitment of our pupils, staff and wider school community to caring for the environment.



This year, the school successfully completed Year 1 of the Active School Travel Programme delivered by the Walk Wheel Cycle Trust.

Working alongside Tom O'Dowd, pupils took part in a wide range of activities including scooter and cycling sessions, Dr Bike maintenance checks, Healthy Hearts workshops and road safety awareness. Staff also benefited from cycle skills training, while pupils learned about the importance of being visible during the darker autumn and winter months. We look forward to continuing this exciting partnership during Year 2.



The school enthusiastically participated in Cycle to School Week in October and the Big Walk and Wheel Challenge in March. Walking buses once again proved extremely popular, with pupils embracing active travel throughout the fortnight. In recognition of the school's outstanding participation compared to schools of a similar size, Tom O'Dowd presented the school with a special award.



Our Eco Council continued to play a leading role in promoting sustainability throughout the school. Working alongside Karina through the Growing Schools Programme, funded by Ards and North Down Borough Council, pupils developed their understanding of biodiversity, food growing and caring for the environment.



Physical wellbeing remained an important focus throughout the year. In October, the whole school enjoyed another successful Fitness Day led by Fitness Freddy, with members of East Coast Day Opportunities joining us for part of the day. The school also continued to offer a wide range of extra-curricular sporting opportunities, including gymnastics, martial arts, football and rounders, encouraging pupils to develop healthy, active lifestyles beyond the classroom. Healthy eating continued to be promoted through our Healthy Break initiative, with classes recording the percentage of healthy breaks each week. The class achieving the highest percentage was rewarded with additional outdoor playtime, encouraging pupils to make healthy choices while enjoying the benefits of being active outdoors.



Environmental education was further enhanced through a visit from arc21 Recycling, where pupils created Christmas crafts using recycled materials while learning more about reducing waste and reusing everyday items.

Pupils also continued to care for their local environment through a number of beach cleans and litter picks organised in partnership with the Portavogie

Regeneration Forum. Primary 4, Primary 7 and the Eco Council all took part in these events, helping to protect our local coastline and village. Pupils also planted fruit trees generously donated by the Portavogie Cultural and Heritage Group, helping to improve biodiversity within the school grounds.

The school's clothing recycling bank continues to be very well supported by both families and members of the wider community, helping to reduce waste while supporting sustainable recycling.

These initiatives continue to demonstrate Portavogie Primary School's commitment to developing environmentally responsible citizens who understand the importance of protecting the world around them while leading active, healthy lives.



School Council

At the beginning of the academic year, a new School Council was elected, with two representatives from each class from Primary 3 to Primary 7 chosen by their classmates. The majority of members were newly elected, while some pupils were re-elected, providing a balance of fresh ideas and experience. The School Council continued to be led by Mrs Louise Hughes and met throughout the year as required. Following each meeting, pupils shared their ideas and feedback with the Principal, ensuring that pupil voice remained an important part of school life.



The School Council played an active role in organising and supporting a number of school initiatives. At Christmas, members helped organise and run activities during the school's Christmas Fun Day, including face painting, helping to make the day enjoyable for pupils across the school. They also organised a Christmas ballot, with all proceeds going towards the School Fund.



This year, the School Council also introduced a tuck shop at the end of term, selling treats to pupils as a special reward. The initiative proved popular with pupils and gave Council members the opportunity to develop their confidence, teamwork and organisational skills. We look forward to building on this initiative during the coming year.



The Council also continued to promote healthy lifestyles by encouraging classes to participate in the school's Healthy Break initiative. Members collected their class's weekly healthy break figures, with the class achieving the highest percentage receiving additional outdoor playtime in the playground of their choice.

Through these activities, the School Council provided pupils with valuable opportunities to develop leadership, teamwork and communication skills while making a positive contribution to school life. We look forward to continuing to develop pupil voice and providing even more opportunities for the School Council to take a leading role within the school community.

Being Well, Doing Well

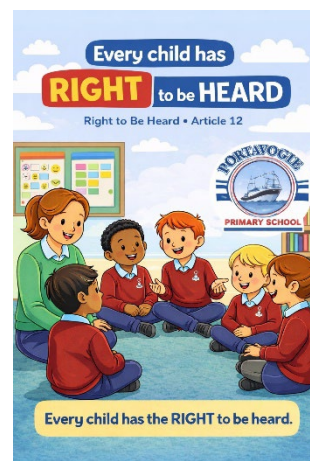
This year, Portavogie Primary School began its participation in the Education Authority's Being Well, Doing Well programme, introducing a whole-school approach to promoting emotional health and wellbeing.

During the Autumn Term, baseline questionnaires were completed by pupils, parents, teaching staff, non-teaching staff and governors. The feedback gathered helped to identify strengths and priorities for further development, informing the school's wellbeing action plan and future priorities.

Staff engaged in high-quality professional learning throughout the year. In January, all teaching and non-teaching staff attended the Promoting Positive Emotional Health and Wellbeing training delivered through the Education Authority. Mrs Louise Bourne also completed refresher training for the Helping Hands programme, further strengthening the school's capacity to support pupils' emotional wellbeing.

Pupils explored children's rights and emotional wellbeing through assemblies, PDMU lessons and our monthly CREED values. A particular focus was placed on the Right to Be Heard, Right to Be Safe, Right to Learn and Right to Play, helping pupils to develop resilience, confidence and positive relationships.

Our first year of the Being Well, Doing Well programme has strengthened our nurturing ethos and established strong foundations for continuing to develop emotional health and wellbeing across the school in the years ahead.



Safeguarding

The safeguarding and wellbeing of every child remains our highest priority. Portavogie Primary School is committed to providing a safe, caring and supportive environment where children feel secure, valued and listened to.

The school's Safeguarding Team consists of Mrs Victoria Murray (Principal), Mrs Kim Spence (Designated Teacher for Child Protection), Mrs Kerrie Hughes (Deputy Designated Teacher), Mrs Clare Johnston (Deputy Designated Teacher – Nursery) and Mr Sam Mawhinney (Designated Governor for Child Protection). The team is introduced to pupils through assemblies and information displayed throughout the school, ensuring children know who they can speak to if they have any worries or concerns.

Robust safeguarding procedures continue to be fully implemented across the school, with all appropriate pre-employment and AccessNI checks completed for newly appointed staff. Safeguarding information and key policies are also readily available to parents through the school website.

Safeguarding training remained a key priority throughout the year. Mrs Kim Spence delivered annual safeguarding refresher training to all teaching and non-teaching staff during the August Staff Development Days. In addition, all teachers and Classroom Assistants successfully completed the ABSIT Level 1 online safeguarding training programme.

To further strengthen safeguarding practice, Mrs Kim Spence and Mrs Victoria Murray completed the ABSIT Leadership training programme. This training supported the review and updating of the school's safeguarding policies and procedures, ensuring they continue to reflect current legislation and best practice.

The pastoral care of our pupils remains central to the ethos of Portavogie Primary School. Staff work hard to ensure every child feels safe, respected and supported, and that any concerns are listened to and addressed promptly and sensitively.

Preventative Curriculum

Preventative Curriculum work as follows:

- PDMU lessons continue to be planned and delivered across all year groups, promoting pupils' personal development, emotional wellbeing and decision-making skills.
- Weekly celebration assemblies continue to promote self-esteem and confidence while recognising pupils' achievements and reinforcing the school's values.
- Pupils are regularly reminded through assemblies of the members of the Safeguarding Team and who they can speak to if they have any worries or concerns.
- The P7 Buddy system continues to provide valuable support for younger pupils, helping them settle into school life while developing leadership and responsibility amongst our oldest pupils.
- The school's House System continues to be used effectively, encouraging teamwork, leadership and collaboration across the school. House Captains and Vice-Captains are elected annually from Primary 7.
- Anti-Bullying Week was marked in November, with all classes taking part in activities promoting kindness, inclusion and respect.
- Pupils participated in a range of workshops and programmes delivered by external agencies throughout the year, including Northern Ireland Chest, Heart & Stroke, Love for Life, NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe, Bee Safe, Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service and the PSNI, reinforcing important messages about personal safety, healthy lifestyles and making positive choices.
- Safer Internet Day was celebrated across the school, with each class participating in age-appropriate lessons to promote online safety and responsible digital citizenship.
- Through our participation in the Being Well, Doing Well programme, pupils continued to develop their understanding of emotional wellbeing, children's rights and positive relationships through

assemblies, classroom activities and the promotion of our monthly school values.

- Weekly assemblies led by local ministers and youth workers continued to encourage pupils to reflect on positive values, self-worth and the importance of making good choices.

Counsellor

- Through our Extended Schools funding, the school continued to provide access to a qualified school counsellor, offering pupils six-week blocks of counselling support.
- At the beginning of the academic year, counselling provision supported two pupils each week. Due to the continued demand for the service, this was increased to three pupils each week after Easter, enabling more children to access support for their emotional health and wellbeing.
- The counselling service provides pupils with a safe, confidential space to explore their thoughts and feelings, helping to build resilience, improve emotional wellbeing and ensure they are better equipped to engage with school life and learning.

Security Arrangements

Outside signage directs all visitors to the school's main entrance. Once all pupils have arrived, the vehicular gates are closed to ensure the safety and security of everyone on site.

The main entrance is fitted with an electronic door entry system incorporating an intercom and CCTV camera, linked directly to the Principal's and School Secretary's offices. All visitors are required to identify themselves before being granted access to the building. The same secure entry system operates within the Nursery Unit. Pupils are aware that they must never open external doors to visitors.

The Nursery Unit is linked to the main school via an internal telephone system, and each classroom, together with the Learning Support room, is

equipped with a telephone, enabling effective communication throughout the school.

Portavogie Primary School also operates a comprehensive **CCTV** system, managed by **RJ Alarms**, to help maintain a safe and secure environment for pupils, staff and visitors. CCTV footage is managed in accordance with the **Data Protection Act 2018** and the **UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)**, ensuring that all personal data is processed lawfully and appropriately.

[Home – School Links](#)

The Board of Governors would like to acknowledge the vital contribution made by parents and carers in supporting their children's education. We greatly value the strong partnership between home and school and recognise the positive impact this has on pupils' learning and wellbeing.

- Each teacher delivers a class information meeting at the end of August, providing parents with an overview of the curriculum, homework expectations, class routines and planned educational visits for the year ahead.
- Induction meetings for Nursery and Primary 1 pupils and their parents are held each June, helping to ensure a smooth and positive transition into school.
- Parents of pupils from Primary 1 to Primary 7 meet with teachers during the Autumn and Spring Terms to discuss their child's progress and development.
- Annual Pupil Reports are issued to parents in June.
- The school continues to use Just2Easy as its home–school communication platform, enabling teachers to share information and communicate efficiently with parents.
- Parents are regularly invited to class assemblies, performances, sporting events and other special school occasions throughout the year.
- The school website provides parents with access to key policies, school information, class pages and updates on school events.

- The school's Facebook page continues to celebrate pupils' achievements, showcase learning experiences, promote school events and keep parents and the wider community informed about life at Portavogie Primary School.

Community Links

During the 2025/26 school year, Portavogie Primary School benefitted from important links with the following groups:

- Portavogie Regeneration Forum
- Tide and Turf festival
- Active School Travel Programme delivered by the Walk Wheel Cycle Trust
- ANBC Growing Schools programme
- Lawson Learners (Portavogie Culture and Heritage Society)
- Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful
- St Mary's Primary School, Kircubbin – Partnership through the PEACEPLUS Shared Learning Programme for Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils.
- Challenge Ministries, Eswatini fundraiser
- Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box Appeal
- Piano & Violin Tutor: Mrs Lorna Steele
- Community Police
- East Coast Day Opportunities
- Ards and North Down Borough Council
- Regent House – Tag Rugby
- Community Carol Service
- Students from Regent House, Glastry College, Glenlola & Strangford College.
- Teaching students from Stranmillis University & Coventry University
- Portaferry Credit Union
- Chest, Heart and Stroke
- Eco-Schools Northern Ireland
- Glastry Tournament, Portaferry Tournament, Killyleagh Tournament, ANBC girls football tournament & Peninsula Tournament.
- Portavogie PS Rounders and Football Tournament – 13 visiting schools
- Portavogie Seniors & Green Isle Residential Home

The School Year 2025 / 2026

During the year many events took place in Portavogie Primary School.

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| • Guided Reading training for teachers | 4 th September |
| • Active School Travel Programme surveys | 16 th September |
| • Booster Reading training for CA's | 23 rd & 26 th September |
| • Peace Plus workshops in P6 (6 weeks) | 25 th September |
| • Stuart Reid, author, reading assembly | 26 th September |
| • Choir singing for Eswatini fundraiser | 4 th October |
| • P5 Stone Age Day | 8 th October |
| • Fitness Freddy for Fitness Day | 10 th October |
| • Cycle to School Week | 13 th October |
| • Be Bright Be seen Day | 15 th October |
| • Scooter & Cycle Skills sessions | 15 th October |
| • Walking Bus | 16 th October |
| • P1 Dedication & Harvest Service | 17 th October |
| • Scholastic Book Fair | 20 th October |
| • P7 Beach Clean with PRF | 22 nd October |
| • PTA Halloween Disco | 23 rd October |
| • BWDW training for staff | 24 th October |
| • PTA Pumpkin Patch | 25 th October |
| • Chest, Heart & Stroke workshop in P5 | 5 th November |
| • Anti-Bullying week | 10 th November |
| • Remembrance service | 11 th November |
| • Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box collection | 19 th November |
| • Ulster Scots workshop P4-P7 | 26 th November |
| • PTA Jingle Bell Journey | 28 th November |
| • Peace Plus workshops in P7 (6 weeks) | 2 nd December |
| • Open Day | 3 rd December |
| • Santa Mile around the village | 5 th December |
| • Community Carol Service | 5 th December |
| • Nativity & KS-2 Christmas Play | 10 th & 11 th December |
| • Nursery Nativity | 12 th December |
| • P7 Class assembly | 12 th December |

• P7 to see Addams Family @ Strangford	15 th December
• Noel from Arc Recycling for crafts	15 th December
• Autumn Term attendance awards	16 th December
• Choir singing @ Green Isle	16 th December
• Christmas Fun day funded by ANDBC	17 th December
• Whole school cinema trip	18 th December
• BWDW staff training	5 th January
• P7 Taster Day at Glastry College	9 th January
• P5 trip to Ulster Museum	14 th January
• NADPSFA 5 a side football tournament	14 th January
• P6 Viking Day	20 th January
• Eco Council Beach clean with PRF	21 st January
• Rabbie Burns drama P4-P7	22 nd January
• Burns Night event	23 rd January
• 100 th Day of School activities	28 th January
• P7 trip to W5 Dream Space - Micro:Bits	29 th January
• Healthy Hearts sessions P4-P7	4 th February
• P6 to Glastry College to see Snow White	6 th February
• Credit Union Quiz (4P7's), Portaferry	6 th February
• Road Safety Quiz (4 P7's) Ards Arena	6 th February
• DJ Tommy & School Council Tuck Shop	6 th February
• P7 Residential to Delamont	18 th – 20 th February
• P7 to Bee Safe Event in Ards Arena	25 th February
• PTA Break the Rules Day	27 th February
• World Book Day activities	5 th March
• NSPCC class talks in P3, P6 & P7	11 th March
• PTA Mother's Day Sale	11 th March
• P4 World War 2 day	12 th March
• P6 residential trip to Ganaway	12 th & 13 th March
• Big Walk & Wheel (2 weeks)	16 th – 27 th March
• Aunt Sandra's visit for P5	18 th March
• Eco Council litter pick @ Muga	18 th March
• PTA Bag Pack in Tesco	21 st March
• P7 show	25 th & 26 th March

• Stuart Reid, author, Parents evening	25 th March
• Spring Term Attendance certificates	27 th March
• Medieval Days in P3	14 th & 15 th April
• P3 Planting fruit trees with PRF	16 th April
• Dairy Council for P5 & P6	17 th April
• Growing Schools Programme with Eco council	22 nd April
• NADPSFA 7 a side Finals day	23 rd April
• PSNI Internet Safety talks P1-P7	24 th April
• P3 trip to Carrickfergus Castle	29 th April
• LMC cookery demonstration for P6	30 th April
• P7 trip to the Somme Centre	5 th May
• RLNI visit	6 th May
• Bike Maintenance for P7 & ditch the stabilizers	7 th May
• PTA bike Night	7 th May
• Glastry Tournament	8 th May
• P6 tag Rugby session	12 th May
• PPS Football & Rounders Tournament	13 th May
• NADPSFA 9 a side tournament	14 th May
• P4 & P7 Kite Works Project	15 th May
• Sports Day & Nursery Fun Day	21 st May
• P4 Beach Clean with Keep NI Beautiful	26 th May
• P7 Apprentice Task	28 th May
• Johnny Pankhurst 121km Run event	29 th May
• Green Flag Awards in Bangor	1 st June
• Dog Safety Visit	3 rd June
• PTA ice cream treat	5 th June
• Old Toys event, North Down Museum for P1	9 th June
• Buddy's Got Talent	11 th June
• P3 African Drumming workshop	12 th June
• P1 & P2 class trip to Ark Farm	12 th June
• PIRLS - P6 class	15 th June
• Girls Peninsula Football Tournament	17 th June
• Tag Rugby Blitz for P6, Regent House	17 th June
• Dr Bike session and cycle skills for teachers	17 th June

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|---|-----------------------|
| • Choir singing for Portavogie Seniors | 17 th June |
| • P7 Science Fair | 18 th June |
| • Nursery Graduation | 19 th June |
| • PTA Father's Day sale | 19 th June |
| • Sports Assembly | 19 th June |
| • P4 trip to Exploris | 22 nd June |
| • House Sandcastle competition | 24 th June |
| • P3 Beach Day | 24 th June |
| • Primary Engineer Awards, University of Ulster | 24 th June |
| • Summer Term attendance certificates | 25 th June |
| • P7 Leavers Service / Prize Day | 26 th June |

Educational Trips

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| • P5 Ulster Museum | 14 th January |
| • P7 Dream Space in W5 | 29 th January |
| • P7 Residential to Delamont | 18 th – 20 th February |
| • P7 Bee Safe, Ards Arena | 25 th February |
| • P6 Residential to Ganaway | 12 th & 13 th March |
| • P3 Carrickfergus Castle | 29 th April |
| • P7 Somme Heritage Centre | 5 th May |
| • P1 & P2 Ark Farm | 12 th June |
| • P4 Exploris | 22 nd June |



Sporting Achievements

- NADPSFA 5 a-side football tournament A Team – runners up
- NADPSFA 7 a-side football tournament – Group B playoff winners
- Glastry Tournament Girls Rounders team – Winners of the Cup
Glastry Tournament Boys Football A team – Winners of the Cup
Glastry Tournament Boys Football B team – 3rd place in the Cup
- Portavogie Tournament Girls Rounders A Team – Winners of the Cup
Portavogie Tournament Girls Rounders B Team – Winners of the Plate
Portavogie Tournament Boys Football A team – Runners up in the Cup
Portavogie Tournament Boys Football C team – 3rd place in the Cup
- Girls Football Team in the Peninsula Tournament – Winners of the Cup
- Peninsula Tournament Boys Football A Team – Winners of the Cup



After School activities

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| • Rounders | Cookery club |
| • Football | Computer Club |
| • Gymnastics | Martial Arts |

P7 Class of 2026

Post Primary School Placements	
Regent House	12
Bangor Grammar	1
Strangford College	1
Glastry College	14



Staff from a number of the post-primary schools visited our transferring pupils during the Summer Term to support a smooth transition.

The Primary 7 pupils enjoyed a busy and memorable final year at Portavogie Primary School. A highlight was their three-day residential visit to Delamont Outdoor Education Centre, where they developed teamwork, resilience and independence while taking part in a wide range of outdoor activities.

Throughout the year, pupils embraced many opportunities to develop their leadership and teamwork skills. They supported younger pupils through the P7 Buddy system, participated in the PEACEPLUS Shared Learning Programme with St Mary's Primary School and took part in a range of STEM activities, including their annual Science Fair.

In March, the pupils delighted families with their production of 'Let Loose', before demonstrating their creativity and entrepreneurial skills during the Apprentice Challenge, where they designed, sourced and sold products as part of their financial capability learning.



The pupils also organised the annual Buddy's Got Talent show, planned and delivered their own science investigations and enjoyed a memorable final week together, culminating in a moving Leavers' Service, celebrations with families and friends, and a well-deserved send-off.

We are extremely proud of the Class of 2026 and all they have achieved during their time at Portavogie Primary School. We wish them every success and happiness as they begin the next stage of their educational journey.

Nursery

Our Nursery Unit continued to provide a caring, stimulating and nurturing environment where children were encouraged to learn, develop and thrive through a wide range of play-based experiences. This year, we were delighted to have a full enrolment of 30 children.

The Nursery team consisted of Mrs Clare Johnston (Teacher), Mrs Nicola Mahood (Full-Time Classroom Assistant) and Mrs Pamela Moore and Mrs Emma Drysdale (Part-Time Classroom Assistants). Following Mrs Drysdale's maternity leave at Easter, Miss Katie Gilmore joined the team for the remainder of the year.

Learning was carefully planned around the six areas of the Pre-School Curriculum, providing children with opportunities to develop their confidence, independence, communication, creativity and curiosity through practical, hands-on experiences.

Staff continued to enhance their professional learning throughout the year. Mrs Johnston completed the Nurturing Talk in the Early Years programme, while Mrs Johnston and Mrs Mahood both completed Makaton training, further strengthening the support available for children's speech, language and communication development.

The children enjoyed a wide range of enriching experiences throughout the year, including visits from Jo Jingles and Debbie Doolittle, which supported learning through music, movement and hands-on experiences with animals. Nursery pupils also took part in many whole-school events, including Fitness Freddy, World Book Day, the 121 Challenge and the Big Walk and Wheel Challenge, helping them to feel part of the wider school community from an early age.

The year concluded with a special Nursery Graduation, celebrating the children's many achievements and marking an important milestone as they prepared for the transition to Primary 1. We are extremely proud of all they have accomplished and wish them every success as they continue their learning journey.



Fundraising September 2025 – June 2026

PTA

We have a dynamic and incredibly supportive PTA group that has successfully raised essential funds for the school.

Credits to account 2025/26:

• Pumpkin Patch (Oct 25)	£1410.70
• Jingle Bell Journey (Nov 25)	£2745.75
• Money Wars (March 26)	£350.02
• Break the Rules Day (Feb 26)	£445.00
• Mother's Day Sale (Mar 26)	£520.21
• Tesco Bag Pack (Mar 26)	£900.00
• Bike Night (May26)	£1613.00
• Portavogie PS Tournament (May 26)	£694.41
• Father's Day sale (June 26)	£459.54

Total Profit

£9138.63



Contributed towards:

• iPads (ongoing)	£1068.00 quarterly
• Christmas Lights for Nursery	£64.00
• Cinema trip	£300.00
• Athletics annual subscription	£1116.00
• Playground equipment	£1000.00
• Classroom Supplies	£800.00
• Ice Cream	£50.00

Johnny Pankhurst 121km run (May 26)

£2771.00

