



TOGETHER WE LEARN, TOGETHER WE SUCCEED
IN HARMONY

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February 2026

Additional School Development Days

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to inform you of important developments within our school and to explain arrangements for two additional School Development Days taking place immediately after the Easter holidays.

First and foremost, we would like to share some excellent news.

Our school has been selected by the Department of Education to take part in the Read Write Inc (RWI) Northern Ireland Schools Project 2026. This is a significant opportunity and reflects the confidence placed in our school to be part of a small group leading high-quality literacy practice during a period of curriculum reform.

We are delighted to have been formally welcomed into this project. Read Write Inc is a highly structured, evidence-based phonics and literacy programme that has been shown to significantly improve children's reading, writing, confidence, and long-term attainment. Being part of this project means our pupils will benefit from:

- Highly trained staff delivering consistent, high-quality phonics teaching
- Early identification and support for children who need extra help
- Improved reading fluency, comprehension, spelling, and writing
- A strong foundation for success across the whole curriculum

Ultimately, our main goal is – and always will be – achieving the very best outcomes for your children. This programme is a major investment in that goal.

Additional School Development Days

As part of the TransformED Programme and ongoing curriculum reform, the Department of Education has directed that schools may access two additional non-contact School Development Days this year. These days are not a school-level decision and are additional to our existing School Development Days.

To minimise disruption as much as possible, these days will be added onto the Easter holiday period and will take place on:

- **Monday 13th April – Numerasee Training**
(This training was originally scheduled for 5 January but had to be postponed due to school closure following adverse weather.)
- **Tuesday 14th April and Wednesday 15th April – Read Write Inc Training**

On these days, pupils will not attend school while staff undertake intensive professional training. This means pupils will be off week beginning 30th March – Wednesday 15th April (2 weeks for Easter and 3 staff training days). Pupils will return Thursday 16th April.

We fully recognise that extending the Easter break will be disappointing and may cause inconvenience for families. This decision has not been taken lightly. However, the training is essential to ensure that staff are fully equipped to deliver new curriculum expectations and to implement Read Write Inc with fidelity and impact.

The Department of Education has been clear that upskilling staff during this period of reform is critical in order to secure the best possible educational outcomes for children. The quality of teaching your child receives is directly linked to the quality of training staff undertake, and these days will have a lasting benefit well beyond this academic year.

We are extremely grateful for your continued support and understanding. We are confident that the investment of this time will result in stronger teaching, improved literacy outcomes, and long-term benefits for every child in our school.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely,

Elaine Johnston
Principal

