

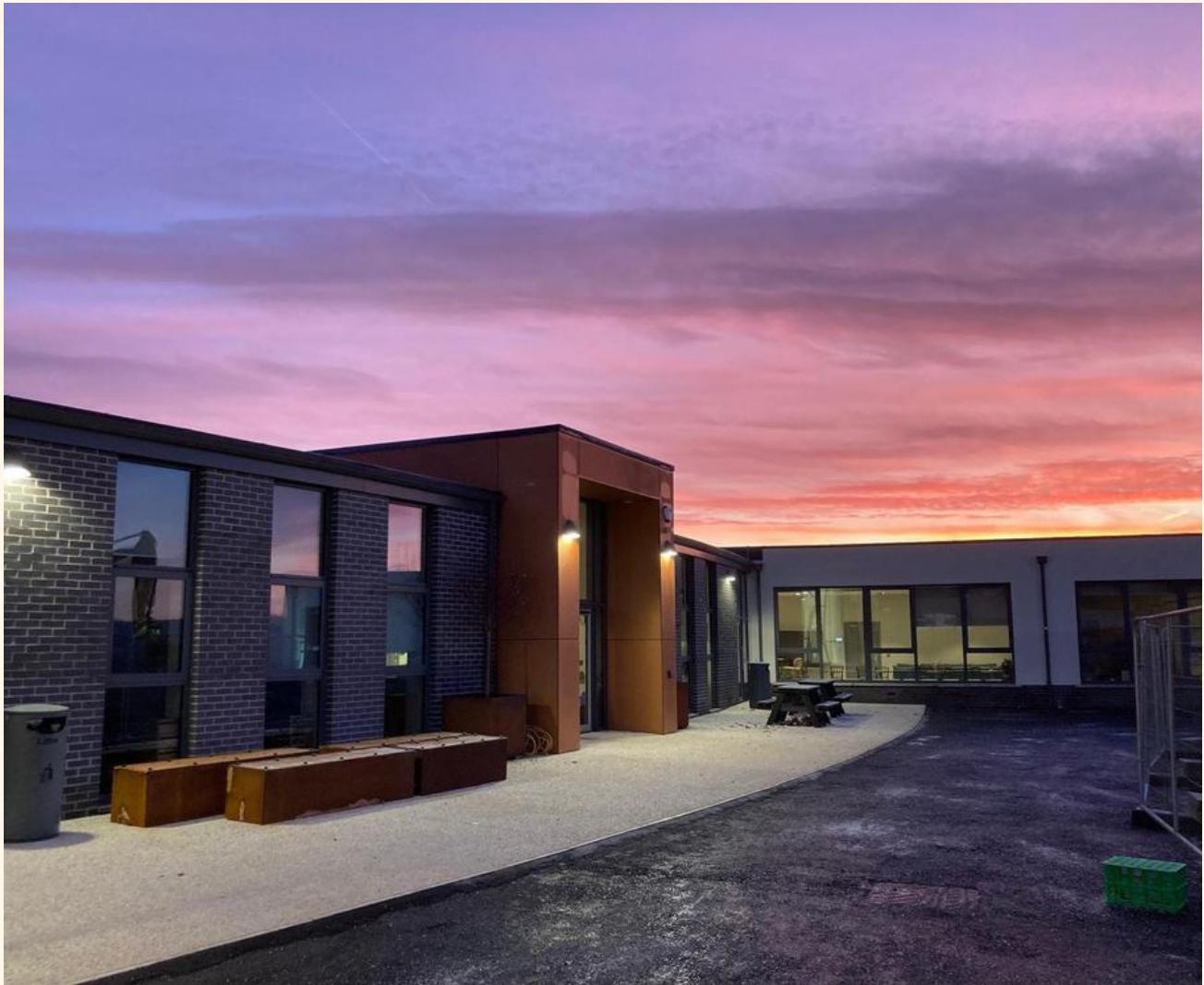
Rowandale Integrated Primary School

Newsletter November 2025



Rowandale
Integrated Primary School

Rowandale In All Its Glory



As the nights close in and the days get shorter, we have been treated to some beautiful sunrises and sunsets.

This picture was taken by Mrs Gracey.

Work on the new car park continues apace. While progress may seem slow, it's clear that there's a lot happening and we look forward to having lots of space for staff and visitors in the coming months.

Rowandale Integrated Primary School

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Enrolment for Nursery and Primary in September

2026/2027



Private Tours with the school Principal available every Friday from 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM.

Open House visits available from:
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM.

Email: amorrow193@c2kni.net



Rowandale
Integrated Primary School



Rowandale
Integrated Nursery



Rowandale
Community Playgroup



We understand that not everyone is available to attend our Open Events, so make sure to tell friends and family about this unique opportunity to visit the school and meet the Principal.

Rowandale Integrated Primary School

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You are warmly invited to our Open Afternoon

Date: Saturday 10th January 2026

Time: 1:30pm - 3:30pm

Location: Rowandale Integrated Primary School



We encourage you to register your interest in attending to help us with planning. Please RSVP by Wednesday 7th January by contacting the school office:

Phone: 02892613946 Email: amorrow193@c2kni.net

We look forward to welcoming you and your child to our school community!



Rowandale
Integrated Primary School



Rowandale
Integrated Nursery



Rowandale
Community Playgroup

Open Days are a perfect way to get a feel for a school.

With lots of staff in attendance to answer your questions, you will feel reassured in making the decision about the next step in your child's educational journey

Rowandale Integrated Primary School

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Rowandale Community Playgroup

The children have moved to their new playgroup building and are loving their new surroundings. This month we had our prince and princess day, with all the children having great fun dressing up. We also had Pirates day - and played lots of pirate themed games. We are now starting our Christmas craft and learning new songs in preparation for the festive season.



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Rowandale Community Playgroup

Rowandale Community Playgroup is always a hive of activity - the children follow a full and comprehensive programme of lessons, activities and outings.

Caoimhe and Alex are also looking forward to the busy months ahead, moving into their own premises on the school grounds, meeting lots of new children and continuing to provide an excellent pre-school experience for the children of Moira and the surrounding areas. Each year, Playgroup receives exemplary reports in their inspection.

Contact us on 028 9261 3946 for information about pre-school and pre-pre-school places.



To Do List

- Call Rowandale Playgroup
- Arrange a visit
- Relax

**Call us on
028 9261 3946**



18 Clarehill Road, Moira, BT67 0PB

Rowandale Integrated Primary School

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Rowandale Integrated Nursery

Anti-bullying week in Nursery:

At the beginning of November, our whole school marked Anti-Bullying Week, and Nursery joined in by celebrating Children in Need. We learned all about Pudsey, enjoyed a wonderful story called The Thread of Hope by Tom Fletcher, made colourful party hats and finished with a special teddy bear picnic. The children were so proud to bring in their bears from home, show them to their friends and tell the teachers their names. It was a joyful day of celebrating kindness, friendship and helping others.



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Rowandale Integrated Nursery

Taking Turns in Nursery:

This half term, we have been focusing on the important skill of taking turns with our friends. The children have been playing lots of games that involve sharing and waiting for their turn. One of their favourites has been our “squirrel game,” which has helped to develop their fine motor skills through pinching, as well as their hand–eye coordination.

We have also introduced a range of exciting games that support early number skills, fine motor development and, of course, turn-taking.

Using our special turn-taking card for each activity, the children have shown brilliant teamwork, followed the rules beautifully and demonstrated fantastic resilience. We are so proud of them!

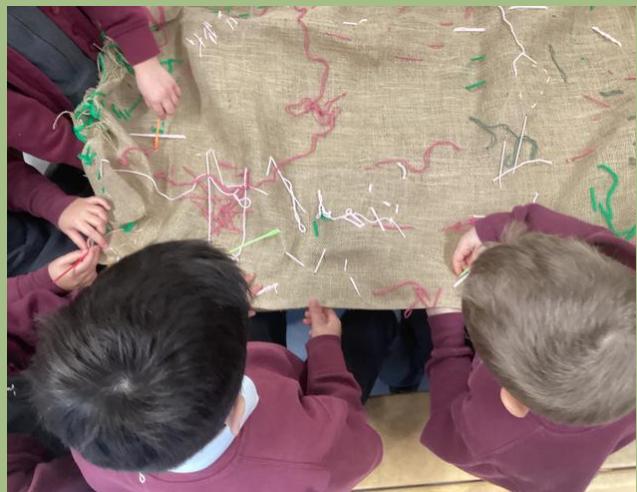


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Year 1 Sewing

Sewing is fantastic for promoting fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination as little hands learn to control the needle and thread. The children in 1A also learned that the needle was called a bodkin and that they were threading into the 'eye' of their bodkin. Sewing also boosts concentration and patience as they focus on the repetitive action. Plus, completing a small project, even a simple stitch, nurtures a huge sense of achievement and confidence! It's a calm, creative way to explore design, pattern, and texture.



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Year 1 Outdoor Play

Year 1S enjoyed playing in our sand pit. Through digging, shaping, and pouring, the children built upon fine-motor control and hand-eye coordination. They compared quantities, filled containers, and experimented with textures, they explored early math and science concepts.

Sand play also supports language development and social-emotional growth as children collaborate, negotiate roles, and share ideas



Year 2 Learning Through Play

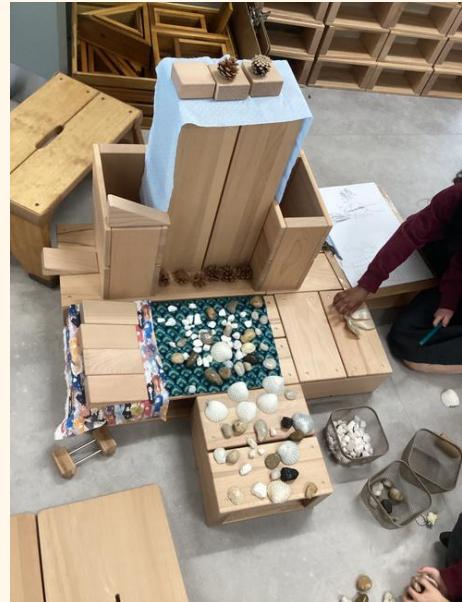
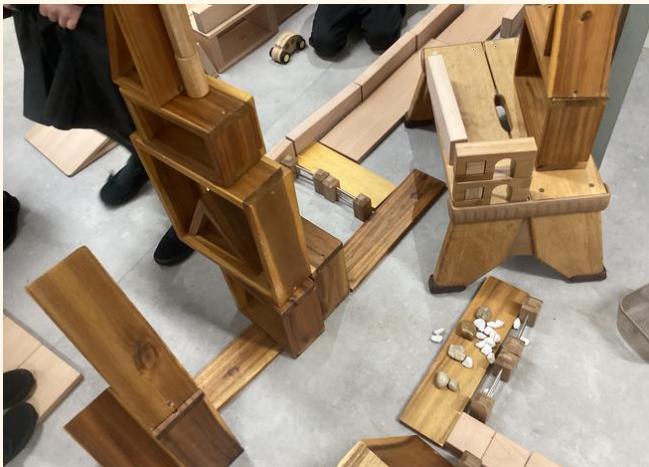
Year 2 are thoroughly enjoying all of the elements of play in our new Foundation Stage resource area. Some love to fire their imagination by creating all manner of buildings, vehicles and structures from the blocks - engineers, architects and problem-solvers of the future. Some use hessian and wool to practise their sewing skills, developing those all important fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. And when it's time for outside play, there's water, sand, tricycles, scooters and much more to keep everyone busy and engaged. Super fun and lots of learning happening, too.



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Year 2 Learning Through Play



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Year 3 experiment with oil pastels

Year 3 experimented with oil pastels and made an outer space picture including all the exciting elements of space! This is linked to their creative dance project too, which we will be hearing more about very soon!



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Year 3 Science Fun

Year 3 have been focusing on sound in Science. We created string phones to demonstrate how sound travels through vibrations.



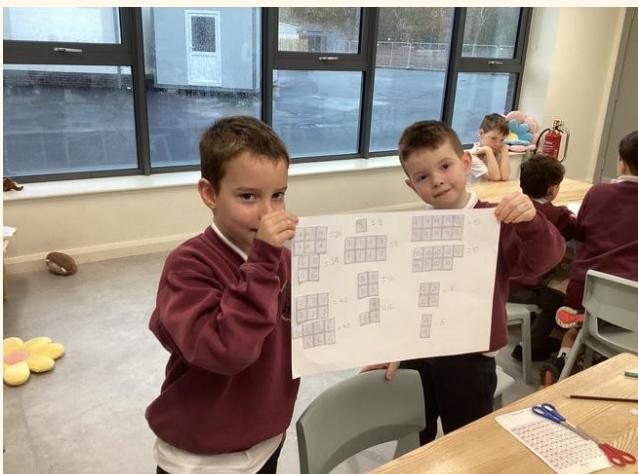
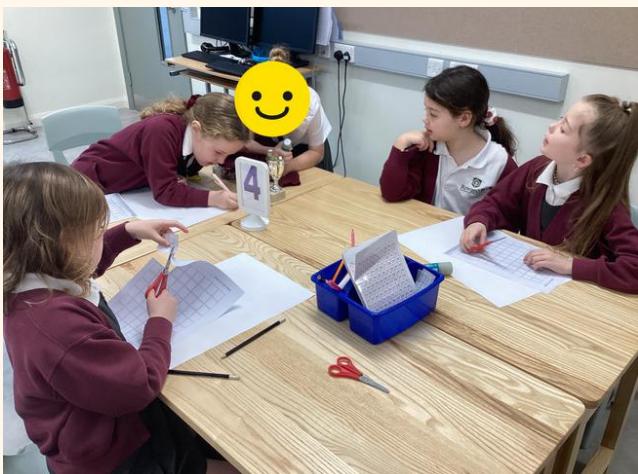
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Year 4M Maths Activities

Y4M have spent the last week exploring different practical models of multiplication. They have done a great job working on different tasks with their numeracy partners.

Mrs. McConkey has been really impressed with the range of strategies they have shared and their willingness to share with the whole group.

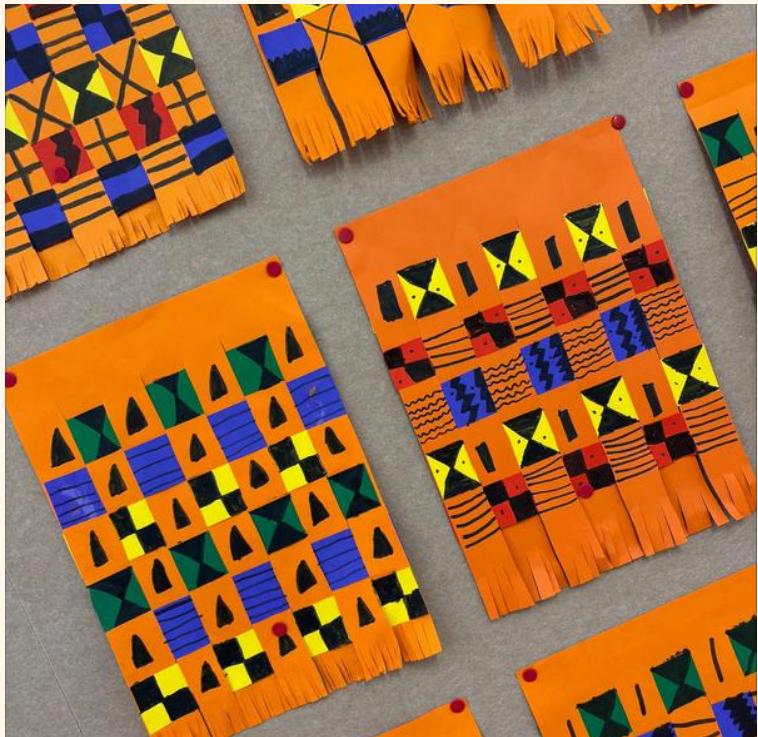


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Year 4R Art

Year 4R have been exploring patterns during art lessons recently. They created vibrant artwork inspired by Kente weaving patterns.



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Year 5F - Going Around In Circles!

Year 5F introduced a new circle - concentric circles! This allowed us to work with a new partner for each part of our drama lesson on 5 senses acting

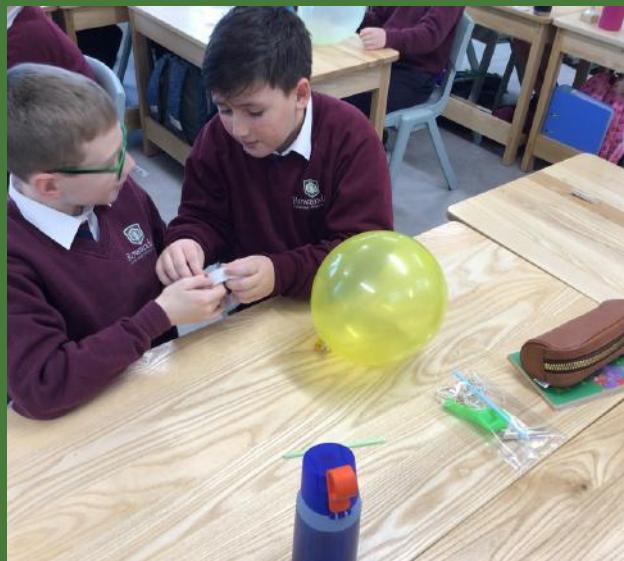


For Fun Friday Maths, year 5F used dominoes to recap our learning on place value. We made 4, 6 and even 8 digit numbers using dominoes! The extra challenge was that when the dominoes touched, they had to have the same number!



Year 6M Science

Year 6 working on their new topic of Space. Children investigated the force of thrust by making their own balloon rockets. Attaching a balloon to some string, children learned how this force makes rockets move. The experiment was then adapted to change the amount of thrust that was included along with the gradient of the piece of string.



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Year 7 visit to Dream Space

Year 7 enjoyed a fabulous visit to Dream Space at W5. We completed some coding activities using micro:bits and Sphero Indi robots. It was a great morning of exploring and collaborating with our friends. @W5_Life @MS_eduIRL #MSDreamSpace



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Roots of Empathy

5F were delighted to have their first Roots of Empathy visit from our teacher, Sonny, and his mummy, Leah. We got to ask all about Sonny's likes and dislikes, and measured Sonny's weight and length.

Throughout the Roots of Empathy programme, Sonny will visit us every 3 weeks so that we can observe how he grows and new skills that he develops!



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Rowandale Footballers

Another fine performance on Thursday from our Rowandale Football Team in the Lisburn & District Schools' League. The team battled hard, showing great skill, teamwork and determination in every match. From solid defence to impressive goals, the players gave their all and represented our school with pride.



Parents Council



Hi my name is **Aidan Malone** I am the **Chair** this year on the parents council. I have two daughters at the school Nora (p6) & Erin (p5) I'm a director in Malone Accounting and I'm looking forward to helping the committee & the school as best I can this year



Hi, I'm **Keri**. I'm mummy to two boys – one in P2 and one who's counting down the days until he can join his big brother at Rowandale. I'm really looking forward to participating as **secretary** on the parent's council. I'm a science teacher, so it's great to get more involved in the other side of school life!



Hi, my name is **Tracy Price**. I have two girls, Isabella who is in P4 and Rosa, who has just started P1. For work, I'm a Quantity Surveyor and I am taking on the role of **treasurer** for the Parents Council. I'm looking forward to lots of fun and fundraising as much as possible for school.



MEET THE TEAM!



Hi I'm **Cat Barter**! My daughter Orla is in P5. I'm stepping into the role of **Vice Chair** on the Parents' Council this year. This year I will continue to focus on delivering arts experiences and theatre adventures to the pupils, staff and families of our Rowandale community, whilst supporting the committee to host social and fundraising events.



Hi I am **Aimee**. I have two sons at the school Alexander (Yr3) and Sebastian (Yr2). I do stock control and social media for M&S and this year I will be helping with **PR** for the Parents Council. Looking forward to some lovely events throughout the year.



Hi, I'm **Ruth** and my sons Abel (Y3) and Hugh (Y2) are at Rowandale. You'll usually find me throwing horrendous moves at Kiss & Go! As **Volunteer Coordinator** I'll be encouraging lots of parents to volunteer at events to support the work of Parents Council!

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Parents Council Raffle

Rowandale 12 Days of Christmas Raffle

The annual 12 Days of Christmas Raffle is well underway, thanks to Parents Council. With numerous prizes and with tickets priced at just £1, there's no reason not to try your luck! Simply click on the link above to purchase online.

Thank you for your support.

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Thank you for your support.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE 2025

Rowandale Parents' Council would like to invite you to enter our fabulous

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THE LOCAL BUSINESSES THAT DONATED THE AMAZING PRIZES

TICKETS ONLY £1!!!

The Pie Shop, Moira

Centra

g l u m e.

TEMPTED
IRISH CIDER

FRANCHINE YOUNG
IRELAND

MUD
—IRELAND—

escapades

LISBURN GOLF CLUB

MAK'S

LEGENDS
SINCE 1993

INDIE FUDÉ

GO FLY YOUR KITE

CARTHAGO

Moira
Physiotherapy & Sports Injury Clinic

MADE AND MEASURED

COUNTRY BLOSSOMS & HOME
INTERIORS

WINE MARK
Wine Merchant

BTY

BLACKSHEEP

RODDER
BARBERSHOP

GG HAIR & DESIGN

the fat gherkin

PRISON ISLAND
BELFAST

McCartney's
of Moira
Established over 140 years

Pool's SuperValu
Moira

THE QUIRKY CAFE
SOCIAL ENTERPRISE CAFE

Cairoz Coffee

Malone Accounting

LANGTRY LANE
BARNES HOME CAFE

FINE
EMPORIUM

Mini Moira
Your Village

Rowandale Integrated Primary School

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Smartphones and our Children

On Tuesday the 4th of November, Rowandale hosted a Smartphones and Children Community Information Evening. At the event, parents and carers heard more about the Smartphone Free Childhood campaign and the impact of Secondary Schools in removing phones from the school day. Moreover, a PSNI representative highlighted some of the dangers which young people face, and local MLA Michelle Guy was also on hand to provide a Stormont update. The evening was concluded with a question and answer session featuring three P7 parents who are all navigating the issue first hand, and this led to some engaging discussion around online safety.



Please sign the Parent Pact by clicking on the link below

<https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk>

Rowandale Integrated Primary School

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Smartphones and our Children

<https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk>



Children and Smartphones

The five schools in the Moira and Magheralin area have grouped together to start a discussion on children's use of smartphones. We believe this is a very important topic, particularly given recent items in the news on the potential dangers children can face online despite the best efforts of parents to keep them safe.

We are keen to understand parents' views on the use of smartphones and will be circulating a short parent survey across the five schools in the coming weeks. This is to help determine what information and support we can provide, with a view to potentially holding an information session for parents.

In the meantime we wanted to share an initiative and some media on the topic that has been highlighted to the schools by some parents. Please note that some of the media linked below does contain some difficult and sensitive themes.



Smartphone Free Childhood is a grassroots movement of parents who believe childhood is too short to be spent on a smartphone. The aim is to bring parents together, empower parents to wait to give their children a smartphone and demonstrate that parents are demanding change. <https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>



Assignment - Ireland's first smartphone free town. This podcast follows the story of the 8 primary schools in the Greystones area of County Wicklow, which made headlines in recent years due to a pact made by parents to delay the introduction of smartphones until the age of 12. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/w3ct5mss> (can also be found on usual podcast platforms)



Swiped - the School that Banned Smartphones - Two-part documentary series that see Emma and Matt Willis explore the use of smartphones by children and the dangers they can face. The program also focuses on a group of year 8 students who give up their smartphones for 21 days and the impact this had on their well-being and mental health. **Available on demand on the Channel 4 On demand player.**

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REAP Programme

Last year, The Parents' Council secured some funding through the Rural Engagement Arts Programme (REAP) supported by The Arts Council NI and The National Lottery.

At the end of June and during this past autumn term, the final projects were delivered to the pupils and the wider community of Rowandale.

A Fairy Big Adventure

Earlier this year, just before the summer holidays, one portion of funding was used to provide an outdoor immersive storytelling adventure for Playgroup, Yr1 and Yr2. The children went on a magical journey in Moira Demesne with Flora and Fauna, the summer fairies. They sang songs about the magic of nature and practiced calming and wellbeing strategies while helping a little lost robin find his way home. At the end of the show, the children were gifted a feather to put under their pillow.

The children
were mesmerised
by all of it

My son told
stories about
the fairies and
walks in the
woods

I was so happy to
have experienced this with
my child

A one off
experience

She told us about
the feather making you
have good dreams if you put
it under your pillow and we
had to do this for a few
nights

What the grown-ups had to say:

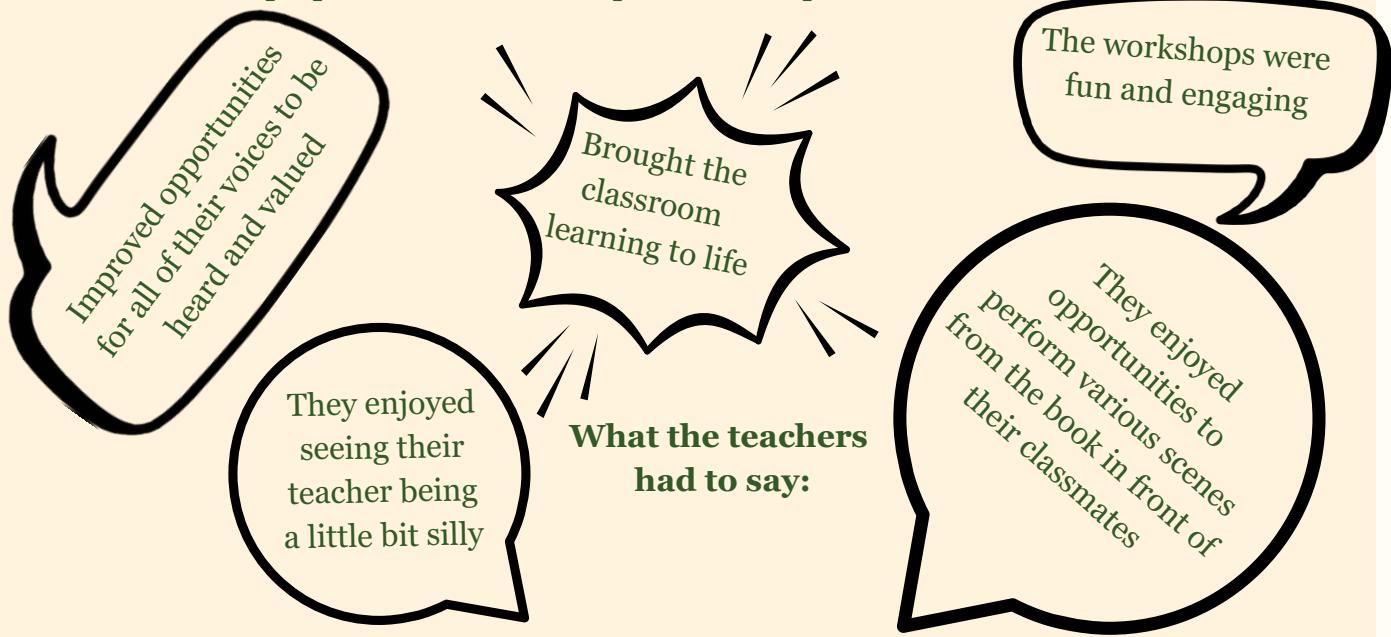


REAP Programme

Drama Workshops

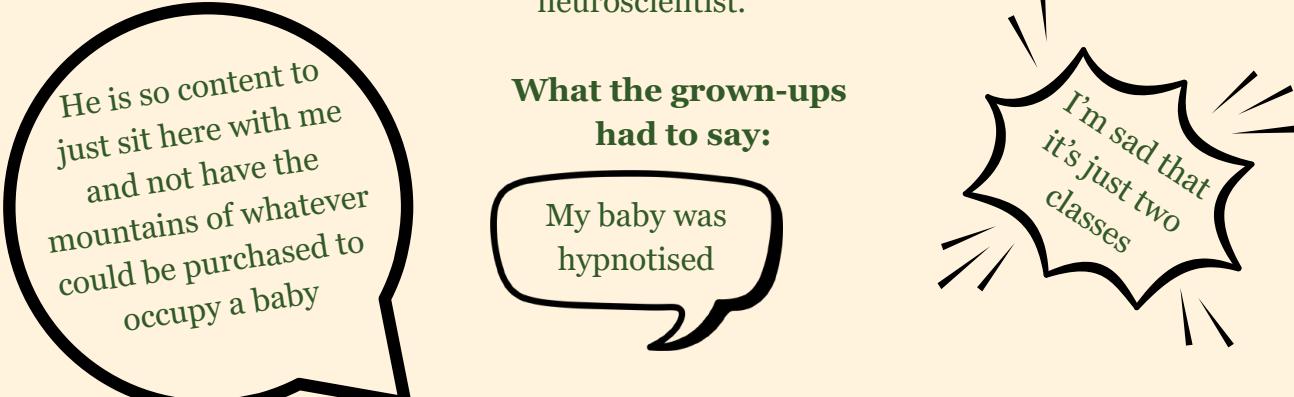
One portion of the funding was used to provide drama workshops to the year groups who put on theatre productions for the public. Three artist facilitators visited the school on a number of occasions to lead drama games in connection with the curriculum.

Year 3 explored Healthy Eating and Myths & Legends, while Year 7 explored their class novel, War Horse. The children, and some brave staff members, were introduced to acting techniques, voice and movement skills, improvisation, character development and creating scenes. They had a wonderful time laughing and being silly together before building up the courage to prepare and share short performance pieces for each other.



Baby Bonding Workshops

Another portion of the funding was used to provide free workshops for small groups of parents and babies under 12 months old. Each group took part in two short sessions designed to share practical strategies that can transform daily stress into important moments of connection, strengthening a baby's brain development. These sessions were created by performing artists with support from an internationally renowned babytheatre director and a developmental neuroscientist.



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REAP Programme

Some of the interactions were breathtaking

I felt like I was getting more oxygen. Breathing seemed easier

I went, as result (of the workshop), and cleared away some of the toys

It's like a therapy

It was a really lovely experience. Having time together alone without other distractions and not feeling guilty about it



RURAL
ENGAGEMENT
ARTS
PROGRAMME



Rowandale Integrated Primary School

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Extra Curricular Activities & Achievements



Jane and Clodhna (Year 4R) had lots of fun taking part in the Belfast Branch Christmas Feis, and were awarded 3rd place for their two-handed reel. Well done girls!



Róisín McMahon (Y2DB) has participated in her first ever Feis on 29th November and she did very well.



James and Ollie in 7M play for Ballymacash FC 2014s Under 12s Lisburn league shield final

James and Ollie in 7M beat Lisburn Rovers 3-1 on penalties in the semi final against Lisburn rovers. James and Ollie both scored penalties to send them through to the final. The final will be played on 27th December against Taughmonagh football club at Oxford Sunnyside Fc football ground.

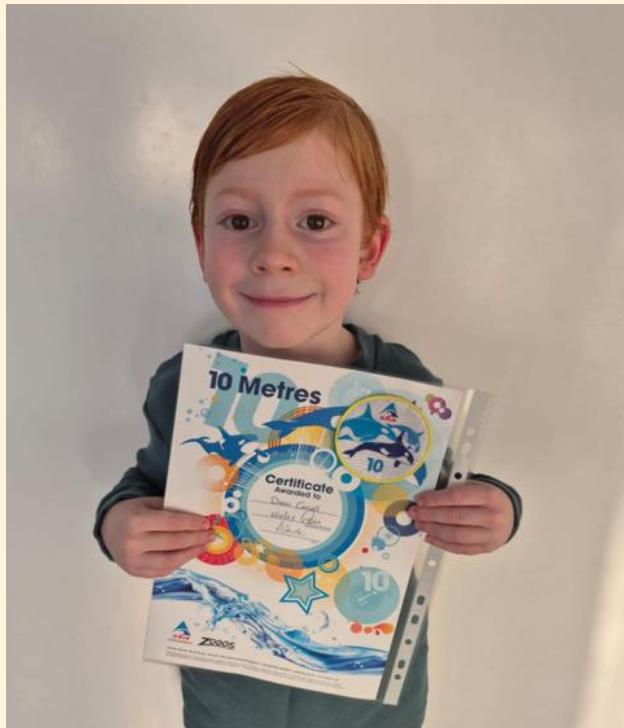
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Extra Curricular Activities & Achievements



After weeks of trials, Alexander Voce (6W) has secured a place in a Regional Football Training Centre to train as a Goalie in partnership with Bolton Wanderers FC. He is thoroughly enjoying the challenge. Well Done, Alexander!



Congratulations to Drew (Yr 2) who has achieved his 10m badge in swimming.



Amy recently attended Lisburn's Twilight Night Halloween celebration. She joined the magical lantern parade before taking to the stage with her drama group for a spooky dance performance.

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Extra Curricular Activities & Achievements



Sophie paraded on Remembrance Day with Moira Presbyterian Church Girls Brigade. This was her 1st parade from moving up to Juniors.



Henry wants to be a pilot when he's older, here are some pictures of him taking a lesson and flying over Rowandale! How exciting!

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Kiss and Go - Meet the Team

Our Kiss and Go Volunteers are a vital part of the daily routine at Rowandale. In all weathers, you will see a group of smiling faces ready to greet your child/ren and bring them safely from your car to the school gate.

This helps to keep traffic flowing, reduces congestion on the road and allows you to continue your journey to work without delays.

It also fosters independence in children, allowing them to start their day with confidence. The music is an added bonus and puts us all in a good mood, ready to face anything!



Mrs Hughes



Fiona



Suzi



Ursula



Lesley



Fiona



Kerri



Christina



Ruth



Lorna



Ellen



Fiona

Rowandale Integrated Primary School

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Kiss and Go - Meet the Team



Beverly



Sarah



Laura



Maria



Christine



Laura



Emma



Cassandra



Kseniia



Leanne



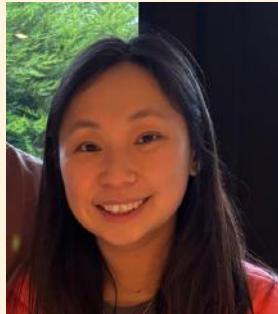
Akie



Catherine



Maria



Lai-Ping



Femi



Bronagh

Rowandale Integrated Primary School

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Can You Volunteer?

If you would like to volunteer for Kiss & Go, Reading Partnership or any aspect of school life, please send a WhatsApp to Fiona on 07725 355 899



Facilities for Hire

Our state-of-the-art facilities are available to hire. If you are a group looking for a place to hold your meeting, sports practice, event or other gathering, call us on 028 9261 3946 or email lrichards962@c2ken.net



**We would like to wish all of
our children and their families
and loved ones a very
Happy Christmas
and New Year.
See you all on January 5th 2026.**



**We would like to sincerely thank Langtry Lane for our
stunning Christmas Tree. It is a beautiful and festive
addition to our first Christmas in our new school.**