

Rowandale Integrated Primary School



Rowandale
Integrated Primary School

Newsletter January 2026

Car Park Update

Work on the new car park is progressing very well and we are looking forward to having the finished product up and running.

In the meantime, we are pleased to announce that Kiss and Go will resume after half-term at 8.30am.



Thank you for your patience and cooperation over the past few weeks when essential works were being carried out and the existing car park was inaccessible.

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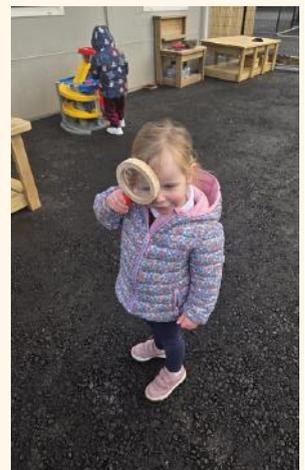
Newsletter January 2026

Rowandale Community Playgroup

The Playgroup children have had a great January, enjoying outside play, using magnifying glasses to explore and building with wooden blocks. They also enjoyed the mud kitchen and playing on the balancing beams.

The children made snowman craft as part of this months topic 'Winter' and made melting snowmen biscuits, which they loved.

The children also took part in dancing and movement to music activities.



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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, Alex and Jayne are also looking forward to the busy months ahead, meeting 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

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Rowandale Integrated Nursery



Our Nursery scientists have been busy exploring the wonders of ice this month! Using their senses and some handy tools, the children investigated how ice feels, how it changes, and what happens when it begins to melt.



They practised their fine motor skills by using brushes and tools to "rescue" toys frozen inside the blocks. It was a fantastic way to develop curiosity and early scientific thinking right in our classroom!



The Nursery children had a wonderful morning completing their Daily Mile. Not only are they getting their steps in, but they also got to see the exciting progress of the construction work taking place! The children loved waving to the builders and seeing the big machinery in action. We even took a moment to investigate the beautiful winter berries in our planters. Learning and exercise all in one!

Parentline NI



Parentline NI
0808 8020 400

Parenting children can throw up all sorts of challenges, questions and situations and it can be confusing where to look for support or find out what services are available.

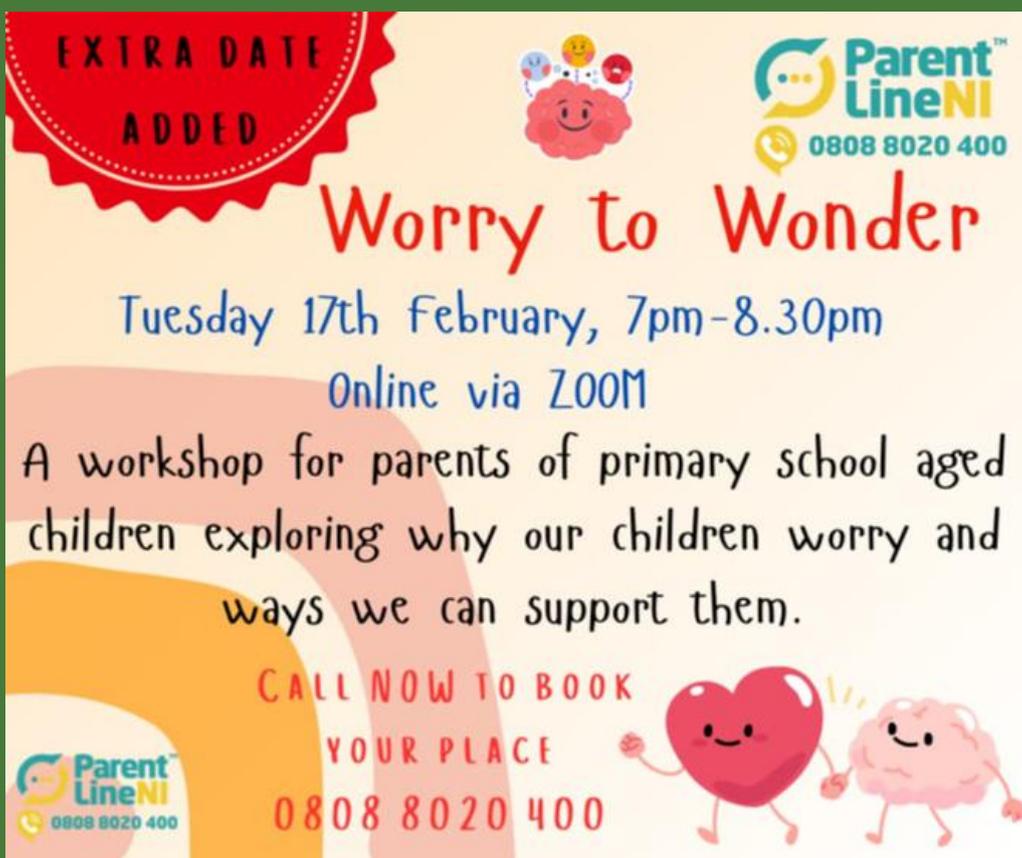
START HERE

Start with Parentline.

We can point you in the right direction. ANY question, big or small we can support you to find services available, offer advice and most importantly an ear to listen.

0808 8020 400
Mon-Thurs 9am-9pm
Fri 9am-5pm
Sat 9am-1pm

Parentline NI
0808 8020 400



EXTRA DATE ADDED

Parentline NI
0808 8020 400

Worry to Wonder

Tuesday 17th February, 7pm-8.30pm
Online via ZOOM

A workshop for parents of primary school aged children exploring why our children worry and ways we can support them.

CALL NOW TO BOOK
YOUR PLACE
0808 8020 400

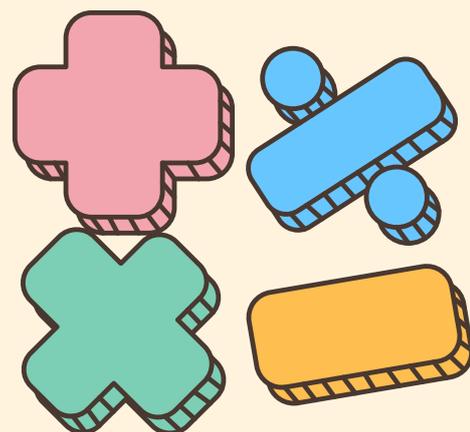
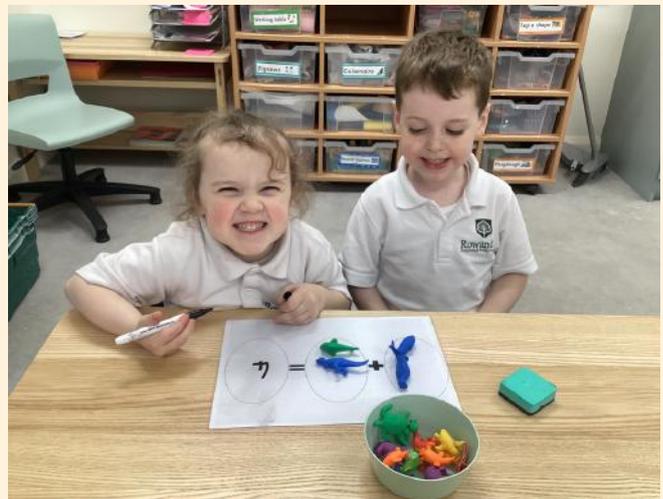
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Year 1 Maths in Motion!

In Year 1, we believe that math isn't just about numbers on a page—it's something you can hold in your hand! This week, our classroom was buzzing as the children used blocks, counters, and toys to physically visualize addition. By taking two distinct groups of objects and bringing them together, the children could see exactly how two parts become a whole. It was a fantastic way to bridge the gap between counting and calculating, and the "lightbulb moments" were happening all around the room!



Year 1 World of Owls Visit

Year 1 recently had a visit from Mike from World Of Owls. They enjoyed hearing all the interesting facts that Mike was able to tell us about owls. Then we got a chance to actually hold them. What a thoroughly thrilling experience!



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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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Year 2 Learning Through Play

Hammering home the learning in play! By using golf tees and old packaging, the children in Year 2 are building muscle memory and grip strength essential for early writing. It's a high- engagement way to develop focus, patience and coordination.

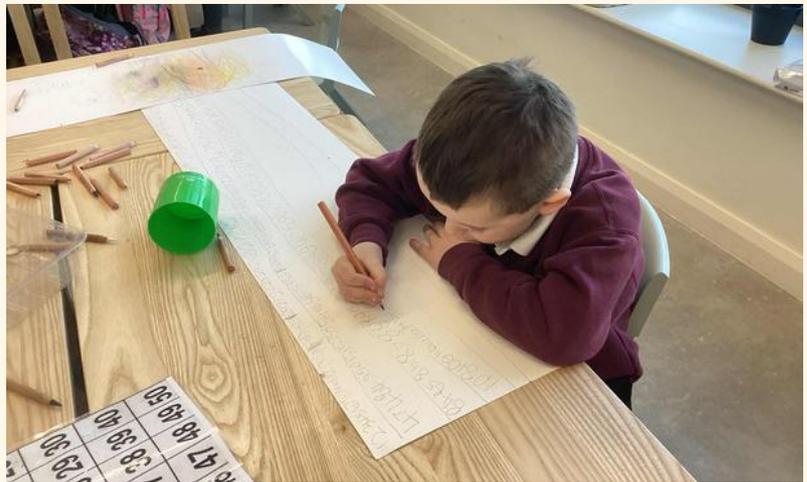


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Year 2 Large Scale Art

Year 2 have been experimenting with large scale art. Using extra large pieces of paper, they have enjoyed the freedom of letting their imagination and pencils run wild. Without the restrictions of having to work within confines of space, the children made flowing, expressive pieces of art that we know will be treasured by the grown-ups at home.



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Year 2 Large Scale Art



Dinosaur Fun in Year 3!

Year 3 are deep into their Dinosaur topic and have been learning all about fossils! During an art lesson, they made their very own dinosaur fossils out of pasta, creating their own dinosaur ideas and bringing them to life.

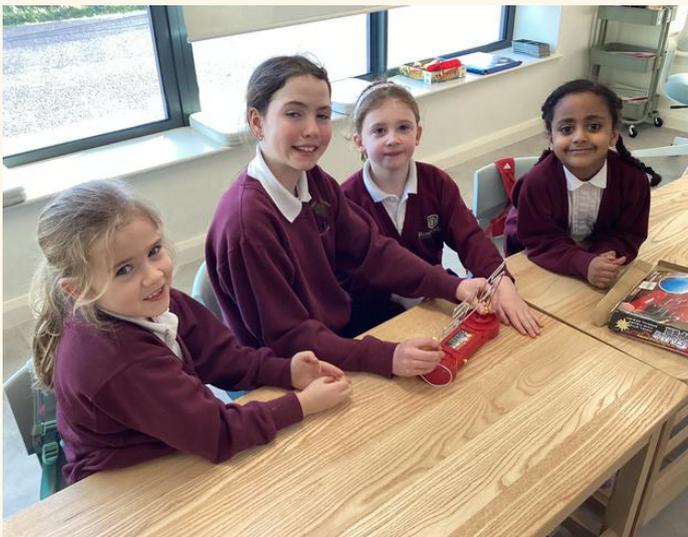


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Year 3 Buddy Initiative

As part of our new school wellbeing initiative, two classes at Rowandale are buddying up once a month. Y3E have met up with their new buddies in Y7M. Our classes got the chance to get to know each other and play some games in January.



Year 4 Titanic Journey

Both Y4 classes embarked on an unforgettable journey back in time with a visit to Titanic Belfast. We enjoyed exploring the slipways, standing exactly where the Titanic was built and launched. We could see clear outlines of the ship and lifeboats and we were amazed at the sheer size of the vessel. The fun continued as we stepped aboard the SS Nomadic, the Titanic's original tender ship. The children loved exploring the different decks, getting a real feel for what life was like for passengers before they reached the big ship. The highlight for many was our guided tour through the galleries. Expert guides led us through the sights and sounds of Belfast's shipways. The interactive displays brought the story to life from the initial designs and the "Gantry" ride to the ship's final tragic moments and its discovery on the ocean floor.



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Year 4 Titanic Journey

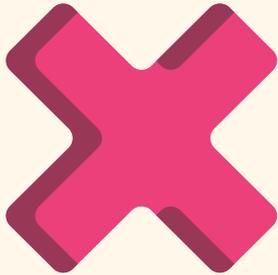


Year 4R Times Tables

Year 4 have been diving into times tables during Numeracy, using the Number Link resource to strengthen their understanding while keeping learning fun and interactive! It's been great to see their confidence grow as they make connections and build fluency with numbers.



$$3 \times 3 = 9$$



$$2 \times 2 = 4$$
$$3 \times 1 = 3$$

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Year 5M Have Snow Fun



Year 5M had great fun when we had snow at the beginning of the month. There's nothing quite like building a snowman and throwing snowballs to make a great start to the day!



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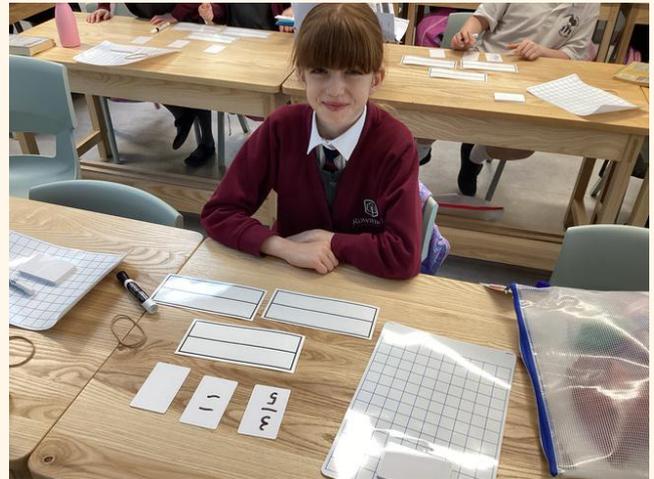
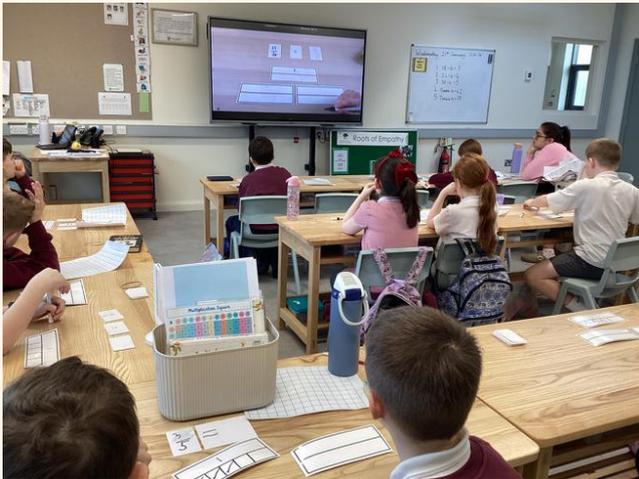
Year 5M Watercolour Art

As part of their water topic, Year 5M designed their own sunset waves art, using watercolours.



Year 5F Number Stacks

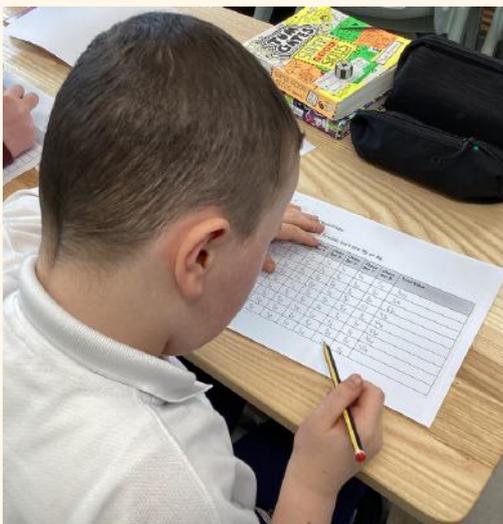
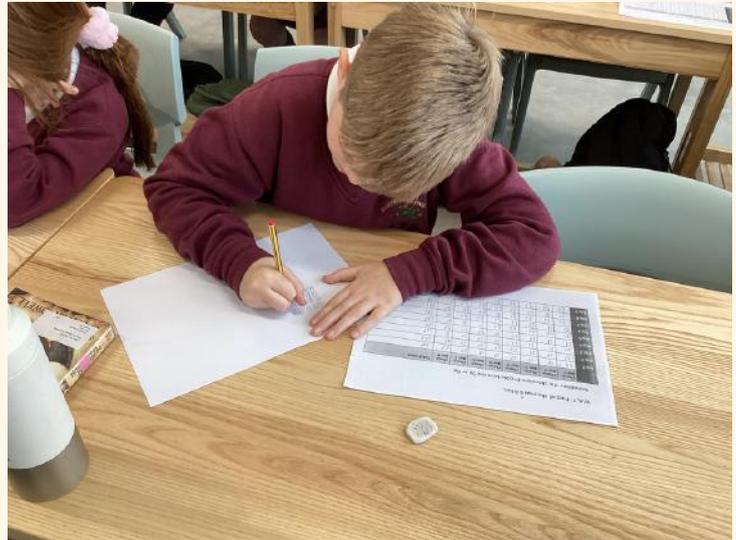
Year 5F have been exploring mixed numbers using our Number Stacks resources. The children reported that they found the video helpful and enjoyed using the practical resources to help them!



5F have had great fun exploring our BBC Microbits. They created an algorithm to show a beating heart animation. The children love exploring the code and seeing it come to life!

Year 6 Maths and Logic

Year 6 pupils tackled a challenging "Finding All the Possibilities" investigation. The focus of the lesson was on moving away from random guessing and instead developing logical, mathematical systems. The children recorded their findings in organised tables and lists and worked methodically to ensure they found every single possibility.



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Year 7 Bee Safe Event

Year 7 enjoyed attending the Bee Safe event organised by Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council. We attended sessions on Internet Safety, Fire Safety, Home Safety, First Aid and Bus Safety.



Football Success for Rowandale

Rowandale played in the latest round of the U11 Cup at Bluebell Stadium. They faced a very tough opponent in St Colman's, Lisburn. A tight encounter ensued, defined more by strong defensive grit than flashy scoring plays. The game eventually finished 0-0, which meant a penalty shootout decider. Ryan, Bobby and Peter calmly stood up, taking three superb penalties to win the match 3-1. Special mention goes to James for saving a penalty and for an outstanding second half performance in goals.

**A real gritty, battling performance from every player on the team.
Rowandale now progress to the QF of the U11 Schools' Cup.**



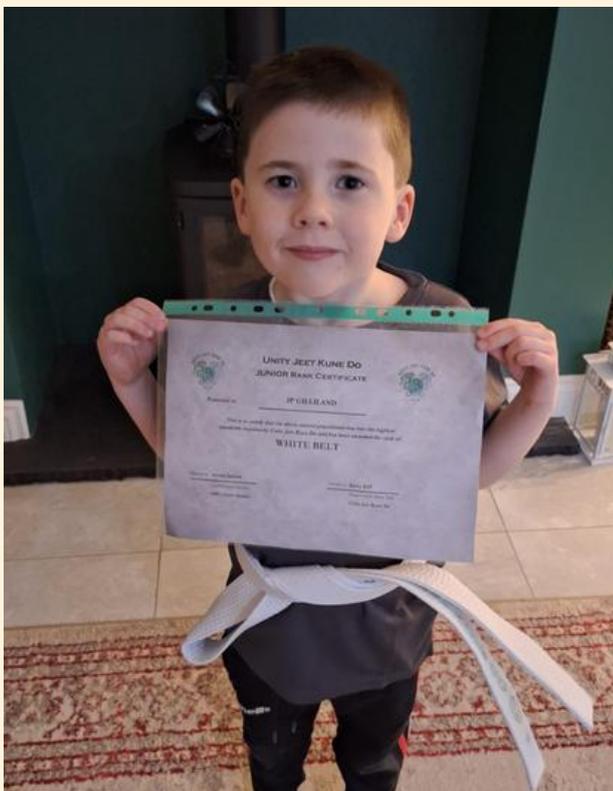
Extra Curricular Activities & Achievements



Isabella (4McC) getting her Primary and Rosa (1S) getting her Preliminary ballet exam certificates



Isla (Y6M) is thrilled to have been selected to represent NI in the Dance World Cup with four qualifying routines. She is so excited for her first time on the world stage this summer.



Joseph-Patrick in Year 2H who recently received his white belt in Unity Jeet Kune Do.



Pippa represented Rowandale in the Swim Ulster Primary School Cup and Championships held in Bangor and qualified for the Irish Minor Schools Championships which will be held in the National Aquatic Centre, Dublin in March.

Extra Curricular Activities & Achievements



Charlotte Neill (Y3E) was delighted to receive a bronze medal in her first ever trampoline competition in Saintfield.

A poster for 'Fun Football Fridays' with a light green background. It features illustrations of a boy and a girl playing football, several soccer balls, and a logo for 'PRO EDGE ELITE COACHING' which includes a kettlebell and a heart rate line. The text is in blue and black.

FUN FOOTBALL FRIDAYS

These sessions are all about:

- Building confidence
- Improving football skills
- Making friends
- Burning energy in a positive way
- Learning through games (no pressure!)

What to expect:

- Fun football games
- Skill-building drills disguised as play
- Age-appropriate sessions
- Positive coaching
- Loads of smiles 😊

6-6.30PM Ages 3, 4 & 5
6.30-7PM Ages 6, 7 & 8

£30 for 6 weeks
Sibling discount available

For more info and to book in.
Jonny : 07832035532

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Parents Council - Meet the Team



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 **Kerri**. 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!

Dance World Cup - Sponsorship Opportunities



Six current students from Rowandale and One previous Student, have qualified for this year's Dance World Cup which is being held in Dublin. This is an amazing opportunity and the girls are now official members of Team Northern Ireland.

We completely understand that times are tight, but if any small businesses would like to sponsor the girls on their Dance World Cup journey, it would be very much appreciated.

When attending the Dance World Cup, the girls are given their countries flag that are used repeatedly throughout the competition. These flags provide a fantastic opportunity for your business logo to be showcased across various media platforms, including social media, Facebook, Instagram, and live TV coverage of the event—helping to promote your business to a wide audience. There are also sponsorship opportunities on the Official Team Northern Ireland Kit that all of the girls will be wearing throughout the 10 days of competition in July.

Any contribution, big or small, would be hugely appreciated.

Please contact Emma on 07976546493 for more information.



<p>Reign of Dance Bronze Sponsorship Sponsorship cost £50 includes</p> <p>LOGO PLACEMENT Your business logo will be prominently displayed on one of our dancers, team bags ensuring visibility throughout the event.</p> <p>SOCIAL MEDIA POST One social media post across various social media platforms, showcasing your brand to our engaged audience.</p> <p>TAGGING ACROSS SOCIAL PLATFORMS Benefits from being tagged in our fund raising events on all social media channels, increasing your exposure.</p> <p>PHOTO OPPORTUNITY Capture a memorable photo with one of our World Cup team for your business's social media, enhancing your brand's image.</p>	<p>Reign of Dance Silver Sponsorship Sponsorship cost £100 includes</p> <p>All of the benefits of our bronze package plus....</p> <p>ADVERTISEMENT WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY Advertisements will be placed in our dedicated WhatsApp group for parents, ensuring visibility among community members.</p> <p>BUSINESS ADVERTISEMENT PLACEMENT Businesses will be featured advertisements in our annual showcase program, providing an excellent opportunity to reach a wider audience.</p>
<p>Reign of Dance Gold Sponsorship Sponsorship cost £200 includes</p> <p>All of the benefits of our bronze and Silver packages plus....</p> <p>BUSINESS BANNER PROMOTION Take advantage of our annual showcase by placing a banner or promotional literature at the prominent foyer entrance. This prime location provides an excellent opportunity to reach a wider audience and increase visibility for your business.</p> <p>ADDITIONAL SOCIAL MEDIA POST An additional social media post across various social media platforms, showcasing your brand to our engaged audience with a larger write up.</p>	<p>Reign of Dance Platinum Sponsorship Sponsorship cost £500 includes</p> <p>All of the benefits of our bronze, Silver and gold packages plus....</p> <p>TEAM NI KIT LOGO PLACEMENT Your business logo will be prominently featured on the arm of our Northern Ireland team kits for all our qualifying dancers. This ensures high visibility during the event and across all social media platforms.</p> <p>SHOWCASE POP UP STALL Maximize your exposure at our annual showcase by setting up a pop-up stall in the prominent foyer entrance. This prime location allows you to engage with dancers and their families, promoting your products or business as they arrive for the event and during the interval break. Don't miss this excellent opportunity to connect with your audience!</p>

Donate now!



gofund.me/hire.lead.fact

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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 Irishards962@c2ken.net

