

Rowandale Integrated Primary School

Newsletter January 2025



The Big Build



Storm Eowyn wreaked havoc a couple of weeks ago. Rowandale did not escape - we lost a storage shed, some guttering and some roof tiles. The hoarding around the new school build also came down and was replaced with a metal fence - meaning that we can now see the amazing new school and get a real feel for how it's going to look. We can't wait for the weeks and months ahead when we move into this fantastic new building.

Rowandale Integrated Primary School

Newsletter January 2025

Happy Birthday Mrs Gracey



Mrs Gracey celebrated a special birthday at the beginning of January and we were delighted to be able to celebrate with her.



MLA Visit



We were so pleased to be able to welcome Michelle Guy MLA to Rowandale for a visit. Michelle and Mrs Hughes discussed the current issues facing the education sector, especially the lack of funding and the negative impact that this has on our children. We look forward to working with her and her colleagues to try to address this very important issue.

Michelle looked at the plans for the new school and shared our excitement about the next stage of the Rowandale story. We look forward to seeing you again soon, Michelle!

Rowandale Integrated Primary School

Newsletter January 2025

Playgroup Fun in the Snow

The children in Playgroup had great fun in the snow in January. They wrapped up warm and went outside to play and explore.



Rowandale Integrated Primary School

Newsletter January 2025

Year 1 Owl Babies

Year 1 have been learning all about nocturnal animals for their Night and Day topic. The children used sponges to print The Owl Babies: Sarah, Percy and Bill.



Year 4 Titanic Trip

Year 4 enjoyed a trip to the Titanic Museum in January. They loved seeing artefacts and film relating to their Titanic topic.



Rowandale Integrated Primary School

Newsletter January 2025

Year 5 Watercolours



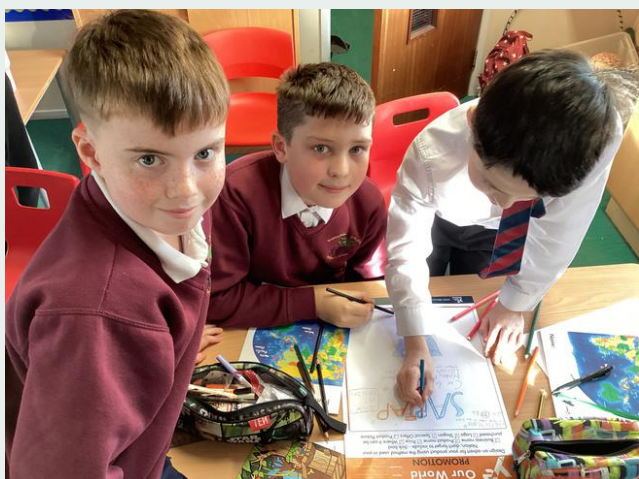
Year 5 have enjoyed using watercolours to create artwork related to their topic of Water. Their paintings are of waves and sunsets and look absolutely beautiful.



Rowandale Integrated Primary School

Newsletter January 2025

Year 6 Young Enterprise



Year 6W showcased their creativity during a Young Enterprise workshop. They helped to design, market and present a range of innovative products.



Rowandale Integrated Primary School

Newsletter January 2025

Year 1 Cold Play

Year 1 loved getting out in the snow to play - but they also enjoyed the opportunity to play indoors and use their imagination to create lots of different games and have fun.



Rowandale Integrated Primary School

Newsletter January 2025

Rowandale Football Team Success



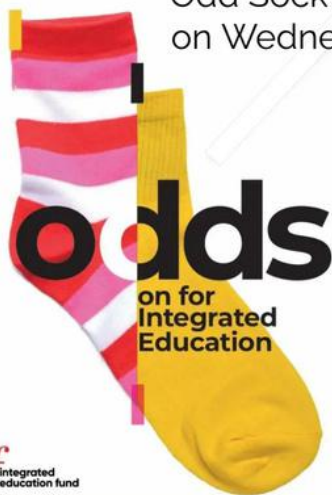
Well done to our Rowandale Football Teams who participated in the first round of the Outreach Cup at Bluebell Stadium. All children demonstrated great skill, determination and teamwork throughout their games. We look forward to the next round in February.

Rowandale Integrated Primary School
It's OK to be different!

Odd Sock Day will be held
on Wednesday 21st March

Wear your odd
socks to school
and let's
celebrate our
differences!

Voluntary
donation of £1
payable on
SchoolMoney



Date for the diary:
Odd Sock Day in aid
of Integrated
Education.

Nanny T Retires



At the end of January we said farewell to Nanny T, who has retired after nine years working in Rowandale as part of the housekeeping team. Her last day was spent visiting each class to say goodbye to the children, all of whom love Nanny T! Needless to say, there were tears! It was then on to the Staffroom where a delicious Afternoon Tea had been prepared for Nanny T and all the staff to enjoy.

Nanny T's last day finished up with a guard of honour by the entire school. What an amazing send off for an amazing lady. Thank you, Nanny T, for everything!

Rowandale Integrated Primary School

Newsletter January 2025

Nanny T Retires



Rowandale Integrated Primary School

Newsletter January 2025

Nanny T Retires



Rowandale Integrated Primary School

Newsletter January 2025

Teacher in Focus - Mr Evans



How long have you taught in Rowandale?

I have taught in Rowandale for nearly four years now. The time has flown by and I'm so excited to move into the brand new school building.

What is your favourite memory of Year 3?

I have made so many memories with my four classes in Year 3, and it is really hard to choose one. I love Christmas time in Year 3 when the children are so excited for the season, and I can play Christmas music at lunchtimes to lift everybody's mood.

What do you enjoy most about teaching Year 3?

The children laugh at all of my (terrible) jokes. I feel like a stand-up comedian until everyone I know outside of school brings me back down to earth.

What do you enjoy doing outside school?

Anyone who knows me will be aware I am an Everton fan so watching the games would be something I enjoy (and sometimes endure). Since moving here in 2021, I have loved visiting the North Coast and making the most of my weekends. I also have two nephews who live in Ballymena, so it's always fun visiting and running after them.

Rowandale Integrated Primary School

Newsletter January 2025

Teacher in Focus - Mr Evans

What is your favourite food?

Any Mexican food but enchiladas are my favourite.

What is your favourite country?

I was very fortunate to visit a lot of places and experience different cultures growing up. My number one choice would be Vietnam, the coconut basket boats were a lot of fun.

If you could do anything....what would that be?

If teaching didn't work out, I wanted to be a pilot, so I would quite like to be able to fly.



Rowandale Runners

We have an incredible EIGHT teams taking part in this years Belfast City Marathon. That's forty eight parents, carers and staff members willing to put themselves through the paces to raise money for our school.

Watch out in the very near future for details about how you can sponsor the Rowandale Runners.!



Rowandale Integrated Primary School

Newsletter January 2025

Extra Curricular Activities & Achievements



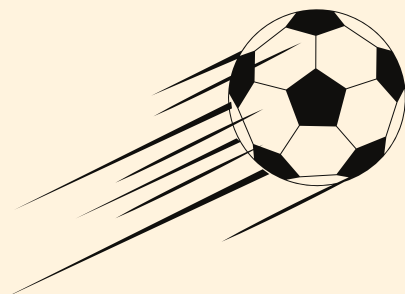
Callan in Yr 7 got two bronze medals in the 25m Freestyle and 25m Breaststroke events at the recent Keith Buchanan New Year Gala at Lisburn Leisure Plex. He swims for Lurgan ASC. Well done, Callan!



Eric in Year 1 started swimming lessons at the end of October and was very excited to receive his first medal before Christmas. Congratulations, Eric!



Tom in Year 3W went to watch a Glenavon match - they won and he even got to meet the players afterwards. How exciting, Tom!



Rowandale Integrated Primary School

Newsletter January 2025

Extra Curricular Activities & Achievements



Orla tried out a new recipe for muffins. They had bananas, blueberries and chocolate chips. They were delicious! Don't forget to make us some next time, Orla!!



Mya Mcfaul has been working so hard in the dance studio and her dedication to dance has paid off.

She trains five days a week for multiple hours each day to excel at what she loves and has a passion for.

Mya recently competed to represent Northern Ireland at the dance World Cup (olympics of dance) in Spain this summer and has earned a very sought after space to compete.

Also competing is Rowandale past pupil Casey Froemling, who also travels to Spain to represent NI.

Congratulations, Mya and Casey, we look forward to following your progress. Good luck in Spain!

Rowandale Integrated Primary School

Newsletter January 2025

Extra Curricular Activities & Achievements



Archie (Year 1B) adopted Rex, a seal pup he'd visited at Exploris in Portaferry last year.

Rex had been abandoned as a young pup but luckily was rescued and spent five months at the Seal Sanctuary.

The sponsorship money went towards his vet visits, medicine and feeding.

And in December, we got the great news that Rex was finally well enough to be released into the wild! Archie was invited to help release Rex at Knockinelder beach in Portaferry just before Christmas. He opened the cage, and we all watched Rex and two other seal pups shuffle down the sand and make their way into the sea.

They hung around for a while, playing in the waves, before swimming off on their adventures as we waved them farewell!

Now they can look forward to living another 25-40 years in our native seas, playing a vital role in our coastal ecosystems.

Archie, what an amazing thing to do. You must be so proud!



Rowandale Integrated Primary School

Newsletter January 2025

Extra Curricular Activities & Achievements



Grace in Year 6M attended East Down Pony Club prize-giving evening where she was awarded highest placed team in area dressage (1st place team mini assisted dressage Northern Ireland) and 1st place mini assisted dressage individual.

Congratulations, Grace!

Saturday Clubs - free fun for pre-schoolers



Spread the word about these FREE fun sessions, aimed at pre-school age children and their families. Free tea and coffee!

Sign up to the school monthly newsletter for upcoming dates and characters (Bluey, Paw Patrol, Peppa etc)

[Click HERE](#) to sign up to our Saturday Clubs newsletter

Rowandale Integrated Primary School

Newsletter January 2025

Parents Council

CALLING ALL... PARENTS
TEACHERS
CLEANERS
GUARDIANS
CATERING ASSISTANTS
CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS

SIGN UP
FOR OUR

ABSEIL

DOWN

THE EUROPA
HOTEL

**SUNDAY
6 APRIL**



GET YOUR SPONSORSHIP
LINK SET UP WITH
AIDAN

ROWANDALEPC@GMAIL.COM



Rowandale Integrated Primary School

Newsletter January 2025

Key Dates

Rowandale Integrated Primary School

Key Dates

February Half-term: 10th - 14th inc

March 17th: St Patrick's Day

Easter Holidays: April 14th - 25th inc

Bank Holiday: 5th May

Bank Holiday: 26th May

A BIG THANK YOU...

...to our amazing Kiss & Go team who brave all weathers to help keep the traffic flowing.

Aisling, Alison, Brenda, Bronagh, Caroline, Christina, Christine, Claire, Dana, Deborah, Emma, Janette, Jodie, Julia, Kseniia, Laura C, Laura D, Laura G, Laura K, Lorna, Maria, Michaela, Nicole, Ruth, Sian, Susanne, Ursula, Niall, Frances and Fiona. We are all so grateful for your time.

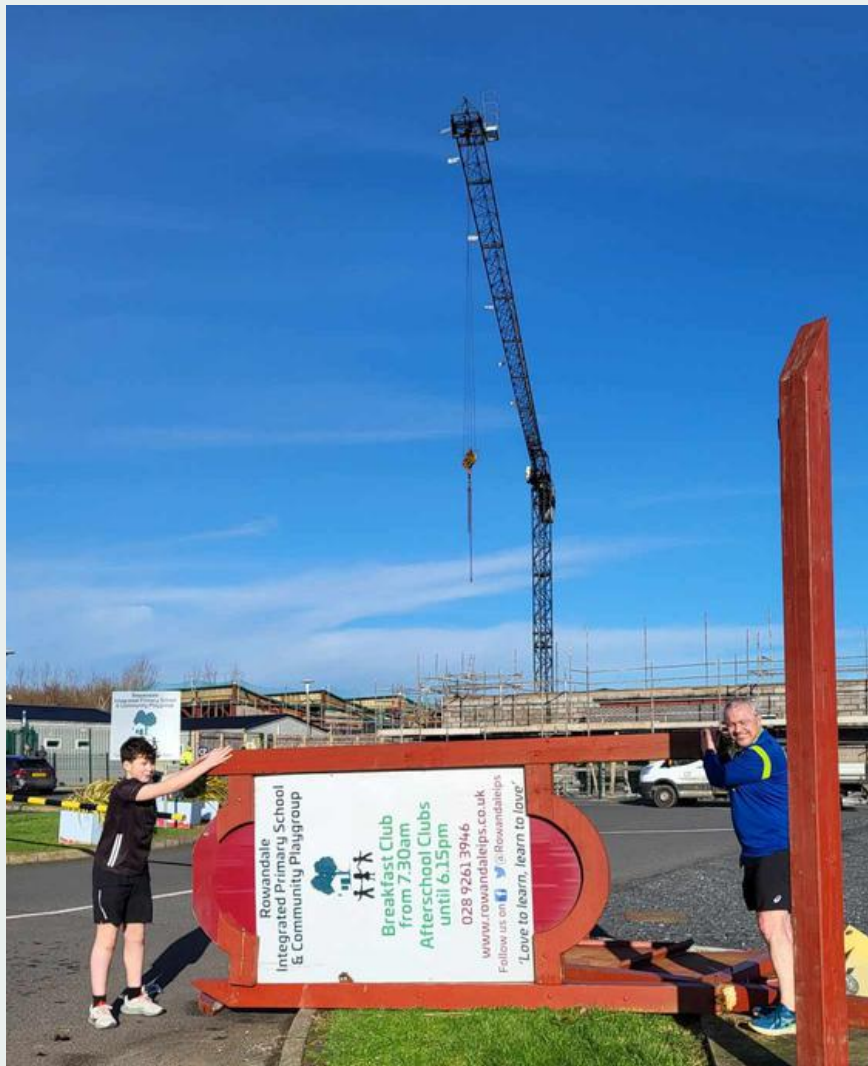
If you would like to volunteer for Kiss & Go, Reading Partnership or any aspect of school life, please send a WhatsApp to Fiona on 07725 355 899



Rowandale Integrated Primary School

Newsletter January 2025

Our school sign, which has stood for many years, fell victim to Storm Eowyn. Luckily, Brian (Chair of our Board of Governors) and his son Rory (Rowandale past pupil) were on hand to help move the fallen sign and make it safe. We would like to thank Fiona Maree, Miss Whiteway and Dee for clearing debris, carrying out repairs and making the school safe following the storm.



Contact Information

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