

Rowandale Integrated Primary School

Newsletter February 2025



Autism Impact Award

We were delighted to achieve our Autism NI Impact Award for Education earlier this year. This award demonstrates our commitment to ensuring that we are providing an inclusive, supportive and accessible environment for all our children with neurodiversity including Autism.

During the award process staff received training to help develop an understanding of Autism and how best to support pupils using the most effective strategies and resources. We strive to ensure that all pupils, including those children with neurodiversity are able to access the curriculum to reach their full potential.



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Ellie the Penguin



Parent's Council secured some funding this year through the Rural Engagement Arts Programme supported by The Arts Council NI and The National Lottery. This was all made possible by Cat Barter (Parents Council). A big thank you to Cat for all her hard work on this project.

One portion of the funding was used to provide drama workshops to all of the Year 3 children in advance of their production of Ellie the Penguin.

Three artist facilitators visited the school, leading drama games to introduce the children to acting techniques, voice and movement skills, improvisation, and creating characters.



Ellie the Penguin



The show was brilliant. I was in the front row dancing.

It's hard to believe they're only 6 and 7

It was amazing.

Everybody should be proud of their kids up there today.

What the audience thought:

The children were so creative and confident.

The show married science and creativity together.

The kids put their hearts and souls into a brilliant show.

They were so happy to be on stage cheering each other on.

Better than a show in the opera house!

Ellie the Penguin



I was a narrator. I was nervous in my belly.

My favourite bit was singing.

I was happy.

I stopped my nerves by being brave. My favourite bit was speaking.

I felt butterflies in my tummy but they went away.

What the children thought:

I was the third main character. I had three lines. My favourite line was "No Problem!" I asked Mr Evans if I could say it and he said yes!

It was very exciting.

It's just like a practice with people in front of you.

My parents were there so I didn't feel that scared.

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Ellie the Penguin



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St Brigid's Cross Workshop in Year 7

We were delighted to welcome Judy Makem to Year 7 for the annual St Brigid's Cross workshop. St Brigid is one of three patron saints of Ireland, along with St. Patrick and St. Columcille. Her feast day marks the beginning of the pastoral year, or the coming of spring.

A big thank you to Judy Makem McKenna for coming in to tell our Year 7s all about St Brigid and to teach them how to make St Brigid's crosses. Judy has been supporting the school for a number of years and we are so grateful for her knowledge and input.



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St Brigid's Cross Workshop in Year 7



Road Safe Quiz Contestants



Some Year 7 pupils travelled to Lisburn Leisureplex in February for the annual Roadsafe NI Schools' Quiz. The children performed excellently and demonstrated fabulous knowledge and teamwork. Well done!

Football Success for James

Congratulations to James Teeney from Year 7 who was recently selected to represent the Lisburn & District Primary Schools' Select Team. James is the first ever pupil from Rowandale to be selected for this squad following 3 weeks of trials. We wish James all the very best over the coming months with his football endeavours.



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Netball Team Competitors



Some of the Year 6 and 7 netball team travelled to Lisnagarvey for their annual netball tournament. The girls showed excellent teamwork skills and had a lovely day!

Reading Success for Gio



Gio in Year 4 has achieved his purple certificate in reading from the Reading Doctor. We are very fortunate to be able to work with outside agencies such as the Reading Doctor in supporting our children. Gio is delighted with his success and we are too! Well done, Gio!



Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

2024/2025



Who are we?

We are Year 6 and Year 7 pupils.

We wear yellow badges.

We have had training about bullying behaviour.

We can listen to your worries and we will pass them on to an adult in school.

We are there to help you!

Year 6



Year 7



The Anti-Bullying Ambassadors ran a poster competition to celebrate diversity last term. They had such a hard job picking the winners as all the posters were fantastic!

Congratulations to our winners: Charlotte, Isaac and Anna!



Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

ANTI-BULLYING PLEDGE

Rowandale's Pledge

Opinions are heard

Welcome everyone

Appreciate differences

Nobody is left out

Diversity is celebrated

Always speak out

Learn to love

Explain what bullying is, and isn't!

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February in Playgroup



Playgroup have been learning all about differences this month. The children have celebrated the fact that each person is special and unique and we have had lots of fun creating ourselves with playdough. We really enjoyed the Chinese New Year tasting day.



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February in Playgroup



Rowandale Integrated Community Playgroup

**Saturday 29th
March 10am -
12 midday**



**Open
Morning**
**Everyone
welcome!**

18 Clarehill Road, Moira BT67 0PB
www.rowandaleips.co.uk

Please share this poster with family and friends

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Houses & Homes in Yr 4E

Year 4E have been very busy working on their houses and homes projects. Everyone created their very own dream house and shared their dream house with the rest of the class. Mrs Elliott was blown away by the amazing designs and creative ideas that everyone had. It looks like we have some architects in our class.

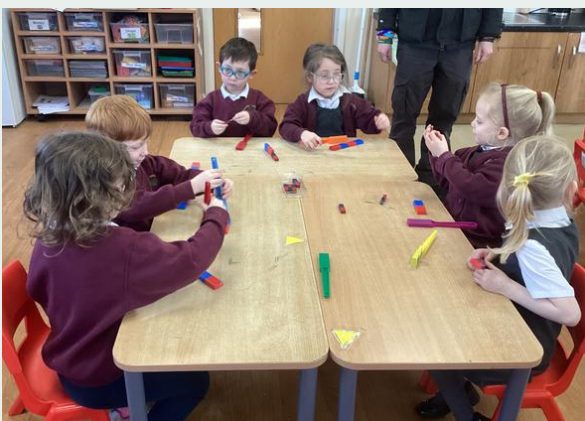


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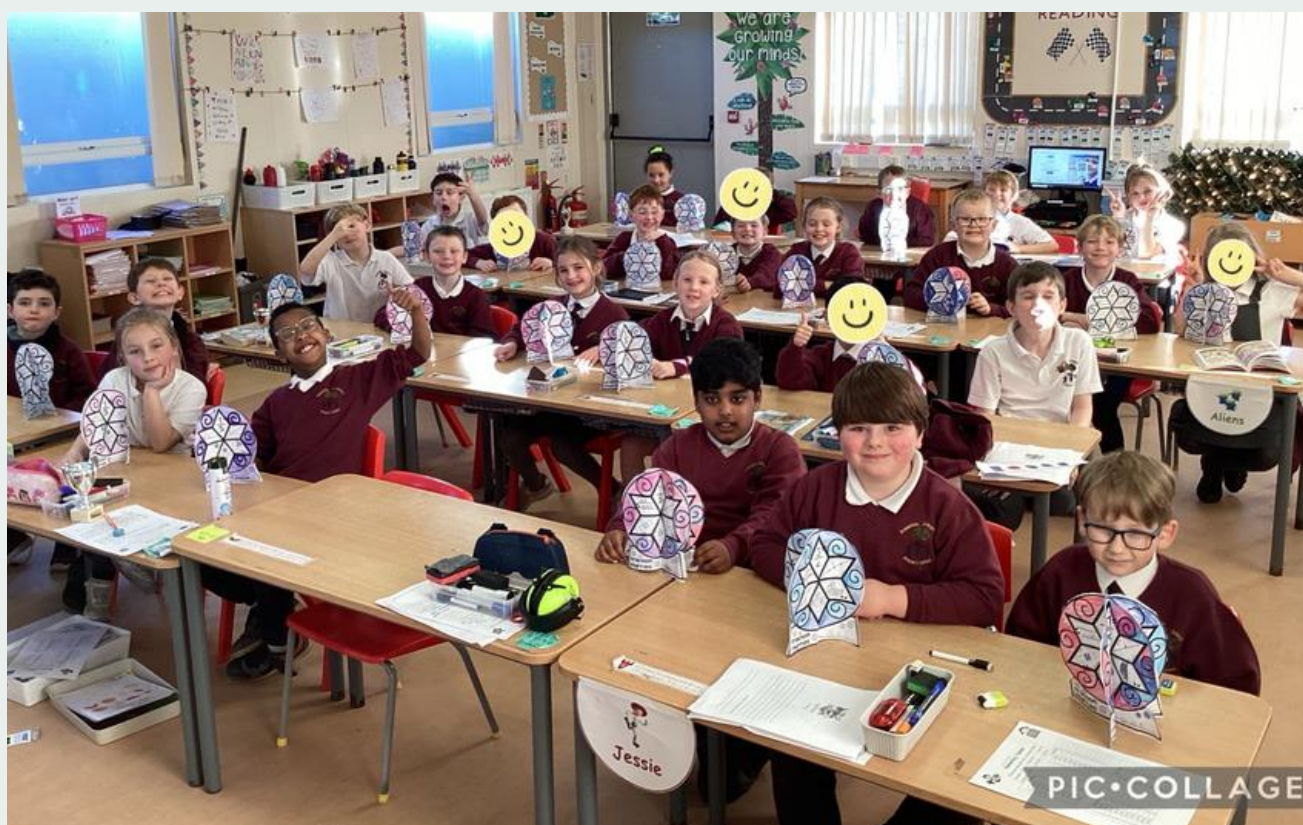
Science in Year 1

Year 1B enjoyed their first science lesson, learning all about forces, they explored the push, pull and twist forces



Fractions in Year 4R

Year 4R pupils using creative ways to explore fractions.
More proof that Maths really is fun.



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Roots of Empathy

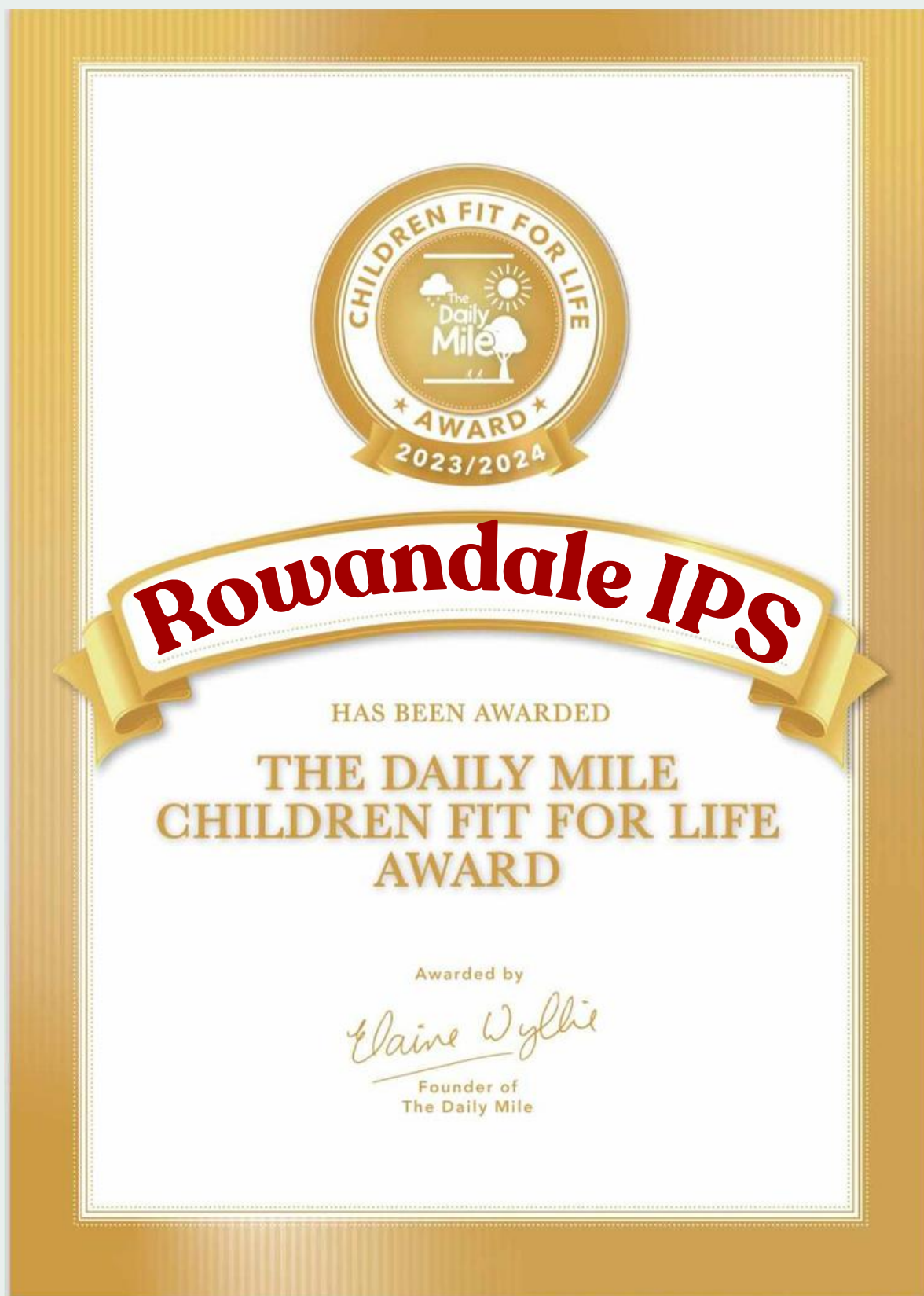
The Yr 5H Roots of Empathy baby came for a visit. It was so lovely to see Cullen and the progress he has made.



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Daily Mile Fit For Life Award



Smartphones and our Children



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.**

Teacher in Focus - Mrs Elliott

How long have you taught in Rowandale?

I have only taught at Rowandale since September 2024. I am really loving teaching at Rowandale with all the wonderful children and staff.

What is your favourite memory of Year 4?

I really love teaching Year 4 and there are so many memories that it is really hard to choose just one. I think my favourite memory of Year 4 so far was our trip to the Titanic Museum. We had been doing lots of amazing work on this important piece of History for many people and seeing the museum and artefacts really brought the topic to life for us all. Everyone had exemplary behaviour and manners and the buzz from everyone was so special.



What do you enjoy most about teaching Year 4?

Getting to know everyone in the class and trying to make everyone love learning. It is so important to make learning fun and interesting and it is so special seeing children find the subjects and topics they love and are really passionate about. This has to be the best part about my job.

What do you enjoy doing outside school?

Anyone knows me they know I love spending my time outside of school with my family and friends. I have two babies at home (one of them has 4 paws and lots of fur) who demand lots of attention and cuddles. I love to take the boys on walks, to cute cafes and have lots of fun playing with them. I love to cook, bake and travel as much as I can.

What is your favourite food?

I absolutely love food and love foods from all over the world. My favourite has to be Italian food. If I had to eat pasta for the rest of my life I could.

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Teacher in Focus - Mrs Elliott

What is your favourite country?

I have been very blessed to be able to travel to lots of different countries and would love to visit so many more. My favourite would have to be Vietnam. It was one of the most beautiful countries I have ever visited with so much history to explore. My favourite memory of Vietnam was exploring the islands of Ha long bay and eating all of the amazing Vietnamese food.

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

I have recently found a real love for flowers and being outside in the garden. If I could I would spend every day in gardens looking after flowers I think I would.



Extra Curricular Activities & Achievements



Ella McCauley -in Year 1D received her 5m swimming badge. What a fantastic achievement, Ella.



Big congratulations to the Quibael family on the birth of a beautiful baby girl. Alex is a very proud big sister!

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Extra Curricular Activities & Achievements



Willow in Year 7 passed her Grade 2 in ballet last June with a distinction and the examiner put her forward for a ballet scholarship.. Willow and her mum flew over for the weekend to Tamworth in Birmingham to compete with sixty dancers from Ireland, Northern Ireland, Wales, England and Scotland. She did amazingly well and, even though she didn't get one of the coveted six places, it was such a fantastic experience at the age of 11. Willow is now practising for her Grade 3 exam in April.

Well done, Willow!

Pipp recently took part in Portadown Speech and Drama Festival and took 3rd place in the non-prize winners category with her poem 'The Head's Hideout', which is about a Head teacher hiding in the dustbin to hide from parents and children!!

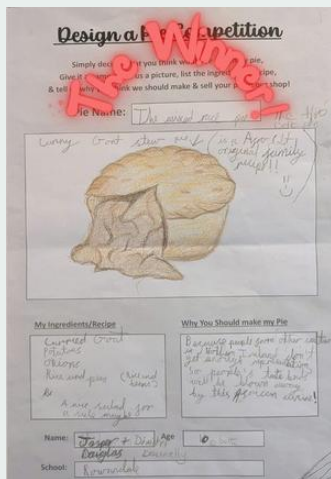
Congratulations, Pippa!



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Extra Curricular Activities & Achievements



Dimitri and Jasper won a competition in conjunction with The Pie Shop, Moira, with their original recipe
The Mixed Race Pie consisted of curried goat with rice and peas! 300 + votes were cast in total for all pies. We are so proud of you and we look forward to tasting the winning pie!



Congratulations to Isla in Y5H who took the stage for her first ever competition solo, performing 'Quiet' from Matilda in the song and dance category at Relevé, gaining 2nd place against some amazing performances. She also took home a gold, silver and bronze for her team performances in ballet, jazz and lyrical. Isla was also delighted this month to receive the news that she was successful in her audition to play Matilda in the DAPA/Active Dansa summer musical in Stranmillis theatre and also gained a distinction in her Grade 1 ballet exam. Well done Isla!



Well done to Charlotte in Y2DBA who danced her socks off in class and earned a certificate for great shuffles in tap class! Charlotte is also very excited to take part in the Matilda musical in the summer after working really hard for her audition! What a star!



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Rowandale Runners prepare for Belfast Marathon



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.!

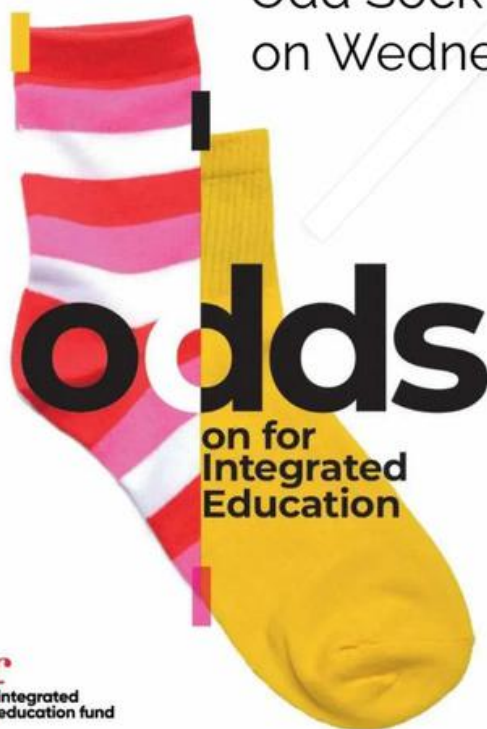
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It's OK to be different!

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



ief
integrated
education fund

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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

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Bingo Night Fun for Rowandale Parents



What a fantastic night at The Quirky Bird once again for our Parents' Council Bingo! Everyone was a winner with the fabulous array of donated prizes. See if you can spot a few familiar faces in the photos. Huge thanks to Roy and Andrea at The Quirky Bird for the fantastic food and looking after us until late. Thanks so much as well to our caller Donagh McKeown for keeping us in check! All in all a fantastic evening's entertainment



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Bingo Night Fun for Rowandale Parents



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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





PARENT/BABY BONDING WORKSHOPS

A series of two informal 30 minute sessions.

Parents/caregivers and their babies are supported by performing artists to slow down and transform their busy day into moments of connection.

FOR AGES 0 - 12 MONTHS

CALMING

GROUP 1 - WED 19TH & WED 26TH MARCH

GROUP 2 - FRI 21ST & FRI 28TH MARCH

10.30AM & 11.30AM

MOIRA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REDUCES
STRESS

For more information or to book your free place:

catbarter@hotmail.com



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, Dana, Deborah, Emma, Jodie, Julia, Kseniia, Laura C, Laura D, Laura G, Laura K, Lesley Anne, Lorna, Maria, Michaela, Nicky, 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

Key Dates

March 17th: St Patrick's Day

Easter Holidays: April 14th - 25th inc

Bank Holiday: 5th May

Bank Holiday: 26th May

School closes 30th June

Contact Information

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Parents Council Email: rowandalepc@gmail.com

