



# ROWANDALE INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL



## Rowandale leading the way in ICT



**Mrs Hughes and Mrs McCarragher attended the ICT Excellence Award ceremony in The Merchant Hotel in Belfast and were absolutely thrilled to have achieved ICT Excellence Award Winner 2024 in the Leadership of Teacher Professional Learning category.**

## WE ARE WINNERS!

Not only are we the **ONLY** Google Reference Primary School in Northern Ireland, we are now winners of the ICT Excellence Award 2024. It is amazing to have our success recognised and to hear such positive praise for our digital transformation journey from the judges.

**There's no stopping us now!**



**Thank you to Capita, the Education Authority and C2K for such a fabulous evening.**



# SWEEPING THE BOARD AT LISBURN SCHOOLS ARTS COMPETITION



## Four Overall Schools Awards in Poetry, Short Story, Drama & Musical Performance.

It was a great day for the poets, story writers and musical performers at the recent Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Schools' Arts Competition, with no fewer than FIVE First Prizes, SIX Second Prizes and TWO Thirds.



# WE ARE WINNERS!



**WE ARE WINNERS!**

## Roll of Honour

Jacob 1st Prize Poetry  
Willow 1st Prize Short Story  
Domhnall 2nd Prize Musical  
Performance  
Alex 2nd Prize Musical  
Performance  
Aibhlinn 2nd Prize Poetry  
Elijah 2nd Prize Poetry  
Ronan 1st Prize Short Story  
Lena 1st Prize Poetry  
Sarah 2nd Prize Visual Arts  
and 3rd Prize Poetry  
Evie 2nd Prize Short Story  
Jamie 3rd Prize Short Story  
Joshua 1st Prize Visual Arts  
Pete 1st Prize Short Story  
Ellen Overall Schools Award  
Darcy 2nd Prize Short Story

## ROWANDALE: THE BIG BUILD



**As work continues on the new school building, the excitement grows and we are all looking forward to moving in to the brand new, state of the art facility.**



## NEW GAELIC KIT



**A huge thank you to Daily Fresh and St. Michaels GAC Magheralin for their sponsorship of the new Rowandale Gaelic kit. Mark, Conor and Triona have been an integral part of the development of Gaelic football in our school in the last year. The children were delighted to try the kit on for the first time yesterday and wore it for the inaugural Rowandale Integrated Gaelic Cup.**



# INAUGURAL ROWANDALE GAEIC TOURNAMENT





## INAUGURAL ROWANDALE GAELIC TOURNAMENT

Another successful day of sport for Rowandale as we held the inaugural Rowandale Integrated Primary School Gaelic Tournament. Organised by Mr Evans and hosted by St Michael's GAC, Magheralin, the day kicked off with a visit by Junior Minister Aisling Reilly MLA who spent time chatting with the players and staff.

Despite the early deluge, the matches got underway and there was great excitement on the pitches. David Honeyford MLA called on his way to Stormont to show his support and we are grateful for all the interest shown in this all-inclusive event.

We would like to extend a big thank you to Mr Evans for all his hard work, to Mr McHenry and Mrs Hughes for the support, to St. Michaels GAC Magheralin for allowing us to use their amazing facilities, to Laura (Chair Parents Council), Ursula (Vice-Chair), Triona and Judy for coming along today to help out with practicalities, tuck shop, teas and coffees, to the team at Healthy Kidz for always being supportive of our sporting events, to Edel Foy (Community Champion) at Tesco for the fresh fruit and to o'Neills Sportswear for the voucher prizes. The biggest thanks must go to the children who came along to have fun and play some football - you are all a credit to your schools and you displayed great sportsmanship.

The thrilling final between Rowandale and Lurgan Model Integrated PS, in harsh weather conditions, was a great watch and Lurgan Model were the worthy winners of the Rowandale Integrated Gaelic Cup.

We are looking forward to next years event and we hope it will be even bigger!!

We are grateful to the children and staff of St Colman's PS, Dromore; St Patrick's, Magheralin; Bridge Integrated PS, St Aloysius and Lurgan Model Integrated Primary School for making the event such a success. Thank you all.

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## PLAYGROUP GRADUATION



The youngest members of the Rowandale Community celebrated their graduation from Rowandale Integrated Community Playgroup in June. What a lovely morning we had, planned so meticulously by Emma, Jayne and Caoimhe. The children have all done so well this year and are looking forward to starting 'big school' in September. Thank you to Emma, Jayne and Caoimhe for all your hard work and to Moira Presbyterian Church for the use of the hall for this special event.



# PLAYGROUP GRADUATION



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**IRISH CULTURE WITH JUDY**

**Year 7 were delighted to welcome Judy Makem to begin a series of lessons on Irish Culture as part of World Around Us. Our first session was all about native hedgerows, trees and flowers. We explored the gorgeous flora which decorates our countryside and, indeed, wasteland.**

**We were looking particularly at the trees and flowers native to us and any folklore and myths associated with them.**

**The Hawthorn, Ash, Beech, Rowan, Willow, Broom, Vetch, Cow Parsley, Buttercup, Hawksbeard and Herb Robert.**

**The children were encouraged to pause, take a breath and look around them, listen to the bird song and be curious about their surroundings. The children used the flowers and branches to make wreaths.**

**Apps which were recommended as useful were:**

**Birdup; Plantnet; Teanglann.**

**Thank you, Judy for sharing your time and expertise.**



# IRISH CULTURE WITH JUDY



# IRISH CULTURE WITH JUDY



BirdUp  
Automatic  
Birdsong  
Recognition



PLANTNET

**PARENT TALENT**

**It's not just the children of Rowandale who are talented! One of our parents, Cat Barter, played not one, but TWELVE, parts in the Green Room production of Pirate Queen in Millisle recently. Using all sides of the boat and moving the audience around with them, the cast sang in English and Gaelic and accompanied themselves on live instruments. The cast all played multiple characters. The production was full of historical facts delivered in both playful and sincere ways. Congratulations, Cat.**



## PARENTS COUNCIL AGM



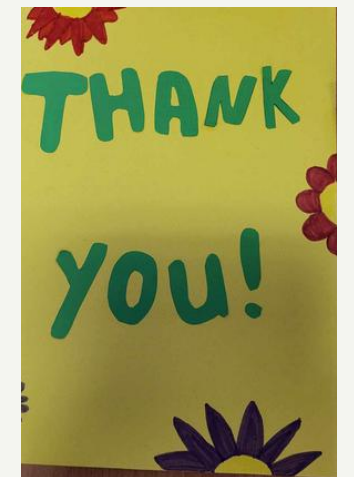
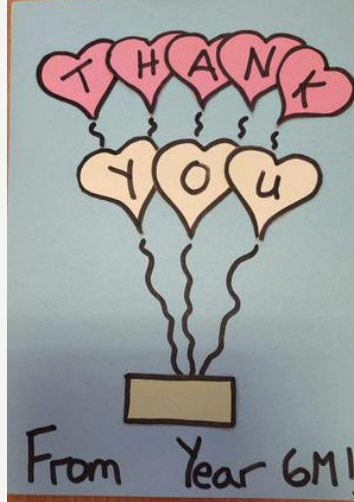
L-R Eoin O'Brien, Elaine Graham, Laura Gordon, Ursula McTaggart, Michaela Johnston, Aidan Malone, Mrs Hughes. Missing from picture: Charlene Turkington and Bronagh Kelly

**Our Parents Council held their Annual General Meeting last week with some parents attending in person and others joining online. The reports were read out and adopted. The outgoing committee stepped down officially and the new committee was elected. Thank you cards that the children had made were presented to the outgoing committee as a token of appreciation for all their hard work.**

**We would like to take this opportunity to thank Laura, Ursula, Elaine, Eoin, Aidan, Michael, Charlene and Bronagh for working so tirelessly over the past year. The committee has overseen some amazing events such as the Christmas Raffle, Stars In Their Eyes, end of term discos, Bingo Night, Tissues and Tears, as well as funding Sports Day medals and Leavers Hoodies. The money raised at fundraising events will be used for play equipment for the new school. The Committee work extremely hard but they couldn't do it without the help of an army of volunteers who help out at fundraising events and occasions.**

**The newly elected Parents Council Committee is made up of Elaine Graham (Chair), Aidan Malone (Vice Chair), Tracey Price (Secretary), Eoin O'Brien (Treasurer), Michaela Johnston (Volunteer Support Lead) and Cat Barter (PR Lead) - we are looking forward to working with you over the coming year.**

# PARENTS COUNCIL AGM



L-R Tracey Price, Eoin O'Brien, Elaine Graham, Michaela Johnston, Aidan Malone, Mrs Hughes. Missing from picture: Cat Barter

## SCHOOL'S OUT FOR SUMMER PARADE



**Moira was ablaze with colour as we took part in the now annual School's Out Parade with our friends from Moira Primary School. Parents, Grandparents and many more came to watch the children as they processed through Moira towards the Demesne for lots of fun activities and a picnic.**

**A big thank you to Mrs Hughes (Rowandale) and Mr Ford (Moira Primary) for putting this even together. Thank you to the teachers and support staff from both schools for your hard work in keeping everybody safe and accounted for, to Eventsec, Police Service of Northern Ireland, all who helped with the organisation of the event, Healthy Kidz for providing the activities for the children, all who came along to support and to the children who made the event so much fun!**



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## YEAR 7 HOODIES



**It's safe to say that our Year 7s love their Leavers Hoodies. Thank you Parents Council.**



LAUNCHING  
SOON

MOIRA FC IS GETTING  
BIGGER – YET SMALLER  
AT THE SAME TIME

GROUPS FOR CHILDREN  
BORN IN 2017 AND 2018  
ARE ABOUT TO BEGIN

To register your interest email  
[moirafc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:moirafc@hotmail.co.uk)



MOIRA  
FC

## RUGBY AT BANBRIDGE ACADEMY



**The Rowandale rugby team headed to Banbridge Academy to take part in the 'Best' Rugby Tournament. They had an enjoyable afternoon in what were their first matches together. Thank you to Poyntzpass PS for organising the event.**



# RUGBY AT BANBRIDGE ACADEMY



## YRS 5 & 6 AT WARINGSTOWN CRICKET CLUB



**8 children from Y5 and 6 went over to Waringstown Cricket Club for their first ever cricket festival. This was the first time Rowandale has ever fielded a cricket team! In their first games together, they made it all the way to the semi-finals! Thank you to Mrs Hanna for taking on the role of cricket coach and thank you to Emma from Waringstown CC for organising a fantastic tournament!**



# YRS 5 & 6 AT WARINGSTOWN CRICKET CLUB



# GAELIC TASTER DAY FOR YR 5





EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS



**Congratulations to Charlotte, who recently won 2nd prize in the Lurgan Show.**

**The category was “Floral display in a Child’s shoe”. We think your creation is amazing, Charlotte. Well done, from all of us.**



**Congratulations also to Beau, who got a first for her miniature garden and a second for her decorated tin can at the Lurgan Show recently. Well done, Beau.**

## EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS



**Scarlett undertook her Grade 1 Rockschool Drum last month and was chuffed to pass with Distinction. Here she is warming up before the exam!**



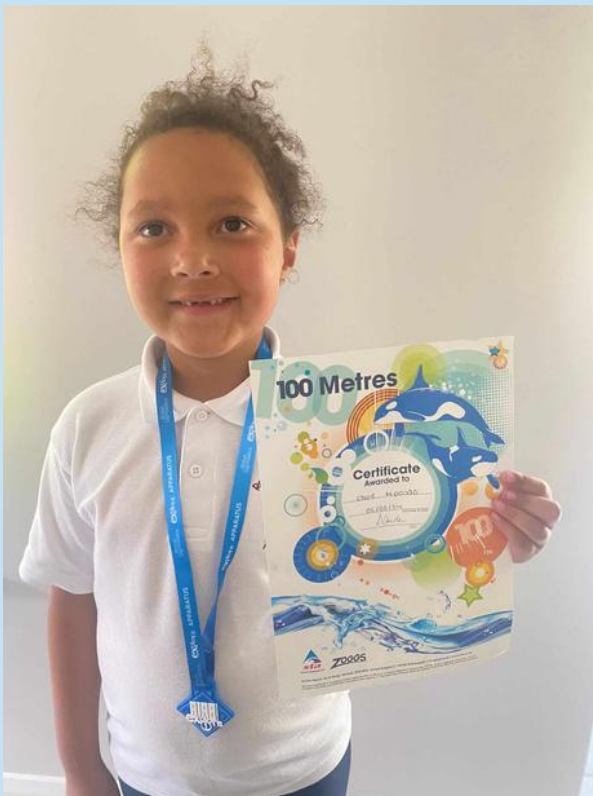
**Freddie swam 1200m, which is 48 laps, at Lisburn swimathon for charity. What a superstar!**



## EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Ronan came second place in the Lurgan Show miniature garden competition, passed his violin exam with merit and came 1st in the Schools Art Competition for his short story, all in the same week!!

Wow Ronan, what a star!



Chloe has achieved her 100m swimming and her first level in Rise gymnastics. Well done, Chloe!



Sophie Mckee in year 3E just passed her level 2 in swimming. Amazing, Sophie!

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS



A big well done to Bobby McMullan and Hillsborough Boys Jets 2014.. They only went & won the Antrim Rovers tournament - Bobby was Captain & proudly lifted the trophy for the team.. #gojets



## EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS



Seth Bennett played the Irish Junior Open Schools Cup at Greystones Golf Club. He thoroughly enjoyed the experience, played really well and is looking forward to hopefully returning next year. Congratulations, Seth - we look forward to seeing your golfing career blossom

Elijah Bennett recently played the role of 'Kurt' in the 'Sound of Music' with Building Bridges Community Arts Theatre. He really enjoyed the experience, it was an excellent performance and a fantastic show. Broadway beckons, Elijah!



Thank you everyone for sending in your pictures of your childrens' achievements. Any pictures you'd like included in the newsletter can be sent to rowandalesocialmedia@gmail.com. Thank you.

# SUMMER CAMP



#timetocode



# SCHOOL OF PROGRAMMING

## SUMMER CODE CAMPS HOSTED AT QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST BOOK NOW

### JULY & AUGUST 2024

- LEARN TO CODE USING THE LATEST PROGRAMMABLE TECHNOLOGIES.
- ALL WORKSHOPS DELIVERED BY QUALIFIED AND EXPERIENCED TEACHERS.



**JUNIOR**  
[AGE: 8-11]

**SENIOR**  
[AGE: 11-18]



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## TEACHER IN FOCUS - MISS KILLEN



### How long have you taught in Rowandale?

I have been teaching at Rowandale for four years now. I started teaching Year 4 in September 2020 in a 50/50 job share role with Mrs Auten. Since September 2021, I have been in a full-time role teaching Year 4.

### What is your favourite memory of Year 4?

There are so many it would be unfair to pick just one! I have so many great memories from all the classes I have taught. For me, I always look back fondly on the school trips with the children. The ones that spring to mind include going to the Titanic Museum, Belfast Zoo and helping out on the Residential trips in Kilbroney.

### What do you most enjoy about teaching Year 4?

I love teaching Year 4 because I find nurturing the children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning truly rewarding. It is amazing to witness how the children progress throughout the year, and I am always incredibly proud when they reach their potential.

### What do you enjoy doing outside of school?

Outside of school, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends. Most weekends usually consist of going for a coffee and a walk. I also like going to the gym and have recently started yoga and pilates. During the school holidays I try to travel as much as possible. This summer I am going on a road trip to hike around Switzerland and the Dolomites!

### What is your favourite food?

It's a tough choice! For me, it's hard to beat a steak sandwich with chunky chips and peppered sauce. However, I do enjoy Asian cuisine, especially bao buns and dumplings.

### If you could do anything, what would it be?

To see as much of the world as possible! I've been slowly making my way around the globe and in August I am taking a career break and moving to Dubai. I plan to use Dubai as a base to explore and visit more countries on my bucket list! I'm looking forward to living in another country and embracing a different culture.



**We're really going to miss you, Miss Killen. We can't wait to hear all about your adventures in Dubai!**

# YR 6 RESIDENTIAL TO KILBRONEY





## YR 6 RESIDENTIAL TO KILBRONEY

What an amazing time our Year 6 children had on their residential trip to Kilbroney. There was paddle-boarding, rock climbing, team building and so much more. Our thanks to the staff at Kilbroney for all your help and guidance. A big thank you to Mr Mackay, Miss Killen, Miss McGeown and Miss Whiteway for taking such great care of the children. And, finally, thank you to the Year 6 children for throwing yourselves so enthusiastically into all of the activities and for cementing your friendships and forming life-long bonds.



# YR 6 RESIDENTIAL TO KILBRONEY



## PARENT/CARER VOLUNTEERS

A big Thank You to all of our parent/carer volunteers who continue to give their free time to help out at Rowandale. To our Kiss & Go team who turn up in all weathers to help bring the children safely into school each morning, the Reading Partners who give their time to read one-to-one with children - you will never know the difference you are making, the Thursday Morning Club - thank you for giving your time to help label, sort and cover reading books for the children.

You are all awesome and we are very grateful for your support.

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

Have a very enjoyable summer break and we will see you all in August.



...and, just in case you think we'd forgotten, watch out in the next few days for our special edition newsletter celebrating our amazing Class of 2024 who left Rowandale last week and will be moving on to pastures new next term!

### CONTACT US

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Parents Council Email: [rowandalepc@gmail.com](mailto:rowandalepc@gmail.com)