

Rowandale Integrated Primary School



Rowandale
Integrated Primary School

Newsletter October 2025



The entrance to the school is looking very smart with the beautiful Acer trees now planted. Work on the new car park continues at a great pace and we look forward to having all of the works complete in the coming months.

We would like to express our gratitude to Padraig McKenna and Clarke Facades for our beautiful corten planters which enhance the front of the new building, giving it a rich and earthy look.

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Rowandale

Integrated Primary School

Enrolment for Nursery and Primary School September



2026/2027

Rowandale

Integrated Nursery

Community Playgroup

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

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You are warmly invited to our Open Morning

Join us to experience our vibrant learning environment, meet our dedicated team, and visit our outstanding facilities first hand.

Date: Saturday 6th December 2025

Time: 10:30am - 12:30pm

Location: Rowandale Integrated Primary School, Moira



This event is a wonderful opportunity to:

Hear from our school Principal about our vision and commitment to academic excellence

Experience the school facilities

Speak with staff and current pupils about the life of the school



Rowandale
Integrated Primary School



Rowandale
Integrated Nursery



Rowandale
Community Playgroup

Register your interest in attending our Open Morning by emailing amorrow193@c2kni.net.

This will help us with planning to ensure you have the best possible experience when visiting our school.

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Rowandale Community Playgroup

The Playgroup children have had a busy and creative October.

They have had fun playing in the autumn tuff tray, feeling the different textures of autumn leaves and pine cones as well as exploring the gorgeous seasonal colours.

They also enjoyed a Hallowe'en Party, making firework pictures using dark paper and chalks, making Chocolate Apples (yum!) and creating pumpkins using paper plates.



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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



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Rowandale Integrated Nursery

Autumn Adventures in Nursery!

Nursery has been fully embracing the autumn season with lots of fun and hands-on experiences. From painting leaves with rich autumnal colours to stamping apples, hammering golf tees into pumpkins, and even scooping out pumpkin 'guts', each activity has supported the development of:

Fine motor skills

Creativity & imagination

Early problem solving & sensory exploration

The pumpkin 'guts' became everything from spooky potions to tasty cakes - sparking storytelling and imaginative thinking .

We love messy, meaningful, and magical learning here in Nursery!



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Rowandale Integrated Nursery



Rowandale
Integrated Nursery



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Thinking Matters



The staff had a great session with Lorna Gardiner - Thinking Matters. Lorna is guiding the school through our journey of learning linked to the WSDP. The school is developing metacognition, self-regulation, critical thinking, oracy, and resilience in learners.

The Thinking Team met with Lorna to plan the areas of development for the year ahead. As a school we strive to ensure the highest standard of education is achieved by all learners. The school believes in the high ceiling theory in education which evokes feelings of freedom and openness, fostering abstract thinking, creativity, and holistic problem-solving in all learning opportunities.



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Year 1 Art



The children thoroughly enjoyed their recent art lessons, where they focused on developing key artistic skills! They had a great time exploring the techniques of pencil shading to create depth and texture, discovering how to make objects look three-dimensional. The young artists also experimented with colour mixing, specifically using white and blue .

This exercise allowed them to see how adding white can lighten and soften the blue, creating various beautiful tints, from sky blue to icy pastels. The kids' enthusiasm and the beautiful results of their shading and mixing work made for a truly engaging and creative session.



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The Autumn Fairy's Wonderful Workshop in Yr 2!

Year 2 were invited to step into a magical autumn realm for a special session with the Autumn Fairy! We celebrated the beauty of the season through a gentle and inspiring workshop focused on nature and wellbeing. We joined in with calming songs, enjoyed an interactive story 'Home Sweet Home' by Samantha Porciello, and discovered simple wellbeing techniques to help us feel happy and settled.

Finally, we used beautiful natural objects to create art - making stunning forests that the wind and leaves can carry away! It was a truly enchanting experience which sparked creativity and calm among Year 2. A special thank you to Parents' Council who secured the funding for this year through the Rural Engagement Arts Programme supported by The Arts Council NI and The National Lottery.



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The Autumn Fairy's Wonderful Workshop in Yr 2!



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Year 3 trip to Tayto Castle

Year 3 had a brilliant day exploring Tayto Castle in Tandragee. We saw the huge potato store, tried unflavoured crisps and devoured a variety of Tayto snacks.



Year 3 Maths Fun

Our Year 3 students had a fantastic time during Numeracy Week this October! They immersed themselves in a variety of engaging and challenging activities designed to boost their Numeracy skills and make learning fun.

They explored all the different coloured patterns they could make using just four different coloured Unifix cubes. This task was all about logic and variations-a great logic challenge!

They also dived into Hallowe'en-themed addition, figuring out every way to make 'pumpkins' total 10 kg, including adding multiple numbers. Plus, they enjoyed a thrilling Place Value Challenge and other fun problem-solving games!



Year 4M Maths Week Activities

We have enjoyed practical measurement investigations with pumpkins this week. We sorted them by their attributes, estimated the length and circumference before finding the actual measurements. We weighed the pumpkins and counted the ribs. Today we estimated how many seeds the pumpkin had, then got our hands dirty counting how many seeds were in each pumpkin. We worked systematically, putting them in piles of 10, 20 or 50 before adding to find the total.



Year 4R Science

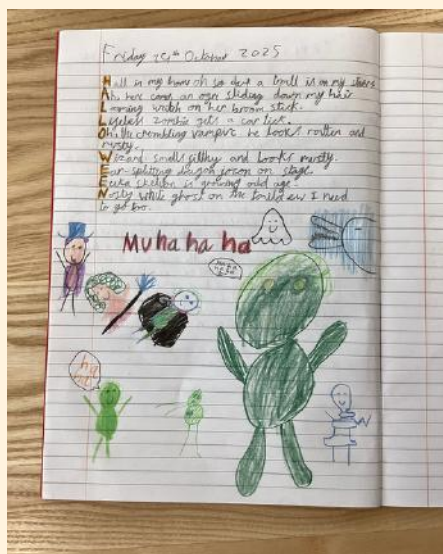
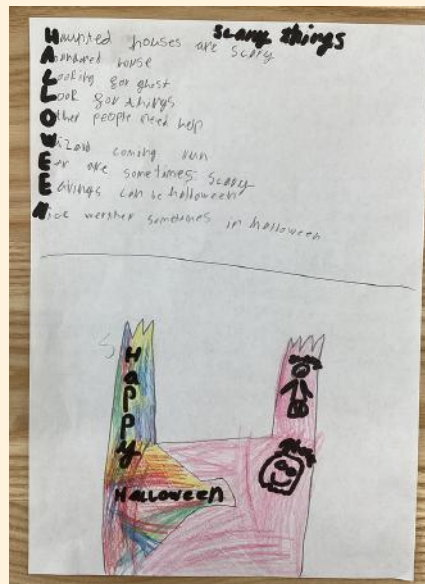
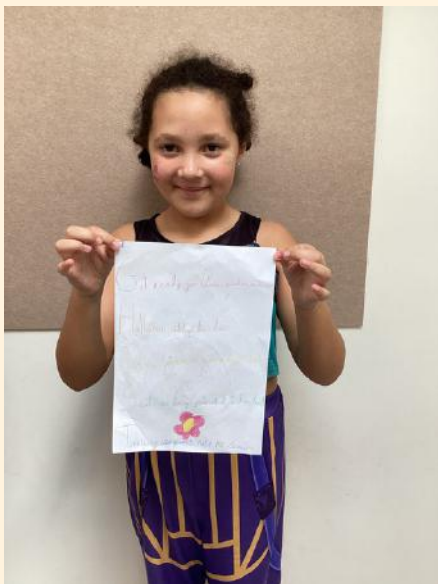
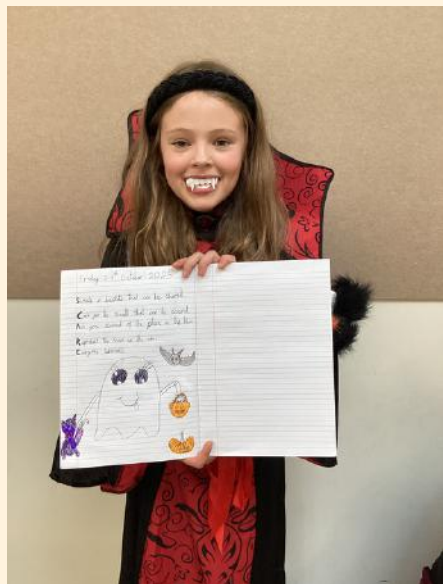
Rainstorm in a Jar – Year 4 Weather Explorers! This term, Year 4 enjoyed a hands-on science experiment to learn how rain forms. Using shaving foam as clouds and coloured water as rain, the children observed how the “cloud” filled up before the rain began to fall. The activity sparked lots of curiosity and great discussion, helping the children deepen their understanding of weather in a fun and memorable way!



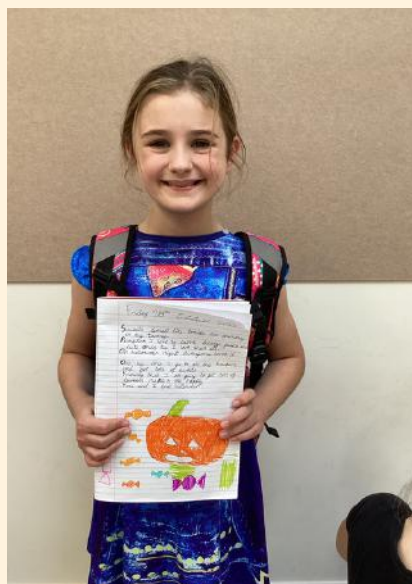
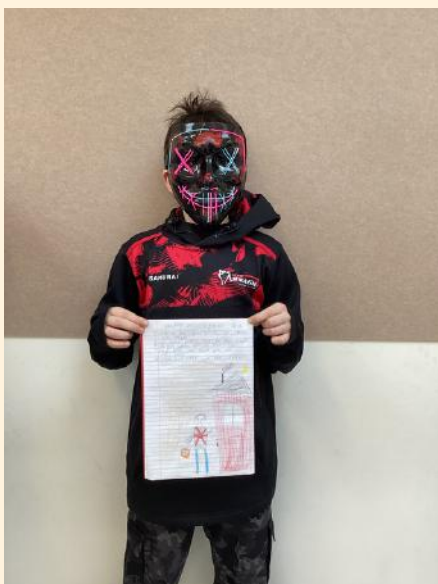
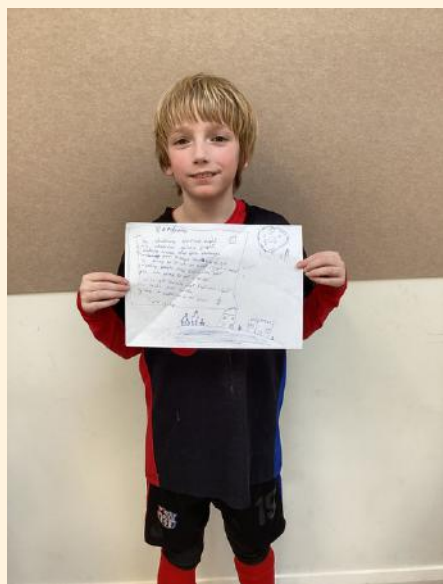
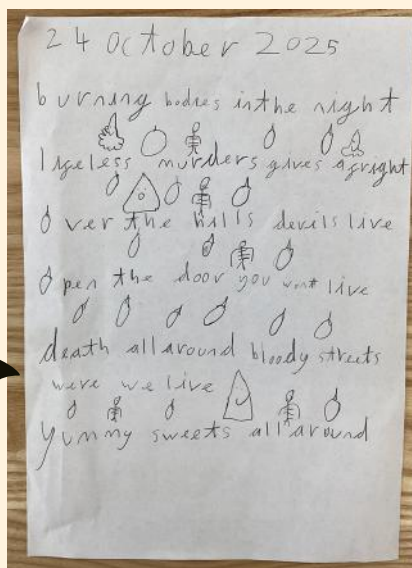
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Year 5M Acrostic Poems



Yr 5MW enjoyed writing Hallowe'en themed acrostic poems. They also dressed up for the occasion. .



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Year 5F Trip to Moira Library

Year 5 were delighted to visit Moira Library to celebrate Book Week!

We got to listen to and take part in a lovely story of how fire came to earth.

It is thought that this story has been told for hundreds of years!

We met lots of characters, like Wise Owl and Rainbow Crow .

Thank you to Gerard and Andy who gave up their Tuesday morning to walk up to the library with us.



Year 6W and the Human Body

The children in Year 6 enjoyed making a heart out of plasticine, including arteries and veins, while learning about the circulatory system. This hands-on activity helped them understand how blood flows through the body.



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Flahavans Cross Country Competition



Flahavans Cross Country - 1st race of the season.

Congratulations to Amy Mullan on completing her first ever cross country race.

A special mention for Isaac Haslem. Yr 5, it was his time running a race and he came in 4th place against predominately Yr 7s. Certainly one to watch!!

It was also lovely to see Jude Glendinning (past pupil) who came along to support his brother and his primary school!



Year 7 trip to Ulster Aviation Society

Year 7M had a wonderful trip the Ulster Aviation Society. This was a very insightful trip, which helped develop the children's understanding regarding the vital role Northern Ireland played in WW2.



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Year 7 trip to Ulster Aviation Society



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Stranmillis Students Visit

Rowandale hosted the annual visit from the first year students of Stranmillis to learn what makes an integrated school truly integrated. The students enjoyed meeting Mrs Hughes and chatting about the educational experience at an integrated school. The students were able to visit rooms to experience integration in action.

Mrs Hughes said 'It was a pleasure to meet the students as they embark on their training at Stranmillis. The students were eager and curious to learn how integrated schools actively promote a shared ethos of mutual respect, understanding, celebrating different cultural and religious identities, with peace and reconciliation embedded throughout every aspect of the school. We wish all the students every success with their studies'



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 **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!

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Climb for Carl



Over 100 people braved the elements (all the elements!) on October 26th to take part in [#ClimbForCarl](#).

To date, almost €20,000 has been raised to place and maintain a defibrillator on Mt Errigal, where Carl sadly died in April of this year.

It was wet, cold and windy but there were plenty people on hand to fill everyone up with warm drinks, sandwiches and treats afterwards.



Extra Curricular Activities & Achievements



Grace Scullion danced her heart out and brought home 1st place in her Lyrical solo at the Encore Festival of Dance N.I.!



Jaime and her sister Lauren at the Bobby Rea Cross Country 28th October 202



Ronan took part in the Flahavans Cross Country race at Banbridge Rugby Club. It was his first ever cross country race against a group of predominantly Year 7s! His Mum and Dad are so proud he put himself forward for such a challenge!

Extra Curricular Activities & Achievements



Well done to Nazar on his achievement in gymnastics. He enjoys gymnastics and swimming outside of school and is working hard to improve his skills in both.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Melanie (Miss Thompson) and Ollie who got engaged in October.



Congratulations to Julieanne (Mrs Gracey) and Gary who celebrated their silver wedding anniversary (25 years!) in October.

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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.**

Smartphones and our Children



Rowandale Integrated Primary School supports the Smartphone Free Childhood movement.

Moira and Magheralin Schools' Smartphone Survey

In early 2025, 449 parents across the 5 schools in the Moira and Magheralin area responded to a survey on smartphones.

- **9 in 10 parents** said they would delay the introduction of smartphones if other parents in the area were doing the same.
- Nearly **8 in 10 parents** said they felt pressured into giving their child a smartphone at a younger age than they were comfortable with.

For more information (or to sign the pact), please visit <https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/>

Currently ranked 6th out of 289 schools in NI for number of parent pacts signed.

School	Pacts
St Bride's Primary School ↗	128
Grange Park Primary School ↗	125
St Michael's Primary School ↗	93
St Ita's Primary School ↗	92
Forge Integrated Primary School ↗	83
Rowandale Integrated Primary School ↗	62
Academy Primary School ↗	61
Gilnahirk Primary School ↗	57
Glencraig Integrated Primary School ↗	57
Ballyholme Primary School ↗	57
Moira Primary School ↗	55

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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

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Kiss and Go - Meet the Team



Beverly



Sarah



Laura



Maria



Christine



Laura



Emma



Cassandra



Kseniia



Leanne



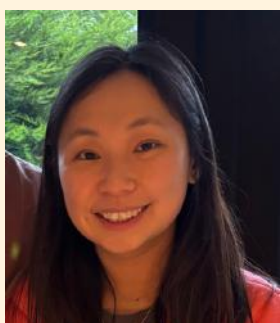
Akie



Catherine



Maria



Lai-Ping



Femi



Bronagh

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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

