



STRABANE CONTROLLED PRIMARY SCHOOL

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2nd March 2026

Principal Mrs. C Thompson

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is lovely to welcome the longer, brighter and hopefully drier days as we begin the month of March. We have a very busy few weeks ahead as we move towards Easter, and I am pleased to share several important updates and events taking place across our school community.

We extend our warmest congratulations to Mr and Mrs Martin on the joyous arrival of their baby daughter.

Paired Reading – Launching Today

Our Paired Reading programme begins today for all Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 pupils. A short information session for parents and pupils will take place today, **Monday 2nd March at 3pm** in the school assembly hall. We hope many of you will join us.

World Book Day – Thursday 5th March

We are excited to celebrate **World Book Day** this Thursday. Children are encouraged to come to school dressed as a favourite character from a book. Our aim is to foster a love of reading and enjoyment of stories across the school.

SEAG Information Meeting – Tuesday 10th March

Parents of Year 6 pupils are invited to an information meeting about the SEAG assessment on **Tuesday 10th March at 3.15pm** in Mr Martin's room.

Coding Week 2026 – Launching Monday 9th March

We are delighted to be hosting our second annual **Coding Week**, running from **Monday 9th – Friday 13th March**.

Throughout the week, pupils will take part in a wide range of fun, creative and challenging coding activities designed to strengthen problem solving, digital literacy and computational thinking. This is always a highlight of our school year.

Principal's Study Visit to China

As previously shared, I will be participating in an educational study visit to China as part of the **CSSC Building Capacity leadership programme**.

Dates of Visit:

Monday 9th March – Wednesday 18th March 2027

During this period, **Mr Martin will act as Vice Principal** and support the leadership of the school. I will not have access to emails while away, so any queries should be directed to the school office.

Purpose of the Visit

Education Authority Western Region

This study programme brings together school leaders from across Northern Ireland to explore one of the world's highest-performing education systems. The visit will include:

- Observing teaching and leadership in Beijing schools
- Visiting primary, vocational and specialist settings
- Meeting educational leaders and experts
- Attending keynote sessions at the China–UK/Northern Ireland Basic Education Cooperation Forum
- Exploring approaches to teacher development, curriculum, inclusion and evidence-informed practice

Why This Matters

The insights gained will support:

- Leadership development across our school
- Improved teaching and learning
- Strengthened approaches to inclusion and pupil support
- New ideas to benefit staff and pupils
- International links and ongoing professional collaboration

Updates may be shared through CSSC channels using **#TransformED**, and I will prepare a report for pupils, staff and governors on my return.

Thank you for your support with this exciting opportunity.

Mother's Day Breakfast – Friday 13th March

We warmly invite all families to our **Mother's Day Breakfast** on **Friday 13th March from 8:15–9:30am**. (As per the flyer previously shared)

World Maths Day – Tuesday 25th March

To celebrate **World Maths Day**, children will take part in a variety of maths challenges, games and practical activities that promote fun, problem-solving and everyday numeracy.

Whole School Photograph – Friday 27th March

A whole school photograph will be taken on **Friday 27th March at 9:00am**.

This is a special event, usually taken only once during a child's time at primary school. Please ensure pupils arrive promptly.

School Car Park – Important Safety Reminder

Due to limited space and increased staffing, the school car park is for **staff use only**.

To keep our pupils safe, we ask families **not to use the car park for drop-off or collection**.

Thank you to those already supporting our **park and stride** approach.

Allergy Awareness

We have a number of children and adults in school with **egg, nut and kiwi allergies**.

For everyone's safety, **please ensure no food items containing egg, nuts or kiwi are sent to school** for break or lunch.

Upcoming Dates

- **Monday 2nd March** – Launch of Paired Reading (Years 4, 5 & 6)
- **Thursday 5th March** – World Book Day
- **Monday 9th – Friday 13th March** – Coding Week
- **Tuesday 10th March at 3.15pm** – SEAG Parent Meeting
- **Friday 13th March at 8:15am** – Mother's Day Breakfast
- **Monday 16th March** – School closed to pupils (School Development Day)



Education Authority Western Region

- **Tuesday 17th March** – School closed (St Patrick’s Day)
- **Wednesday 25th March** - Year 5,6 & 7 Spring fest at the Millenium forum
- **Tuesday 31st March** – Cross country competition for pupils entering from years 4 - 7

Last day of the Term

Please note that the last day of Term 2, Wednesday 2nd April, will be a half day, with school finishing at 11:30am.

On this day, **there will be no buses operating** and **no canteen services**, including **no Breakfast Club** and **no school dinners**.

Children are welcome to bring a **snack** and a **drink** to school. Please ensure all snacks follow our **Healthy Breaks Policy**.

Easter

School will close for the Easter break on Friday 3rd April.

Term 3 will commence on Monday 13th April.

Thank you for your continued support of our school community.

Yours faithfully,
Mrs C. Thompson

Principal

