

December 2025 & January 2026 Newsletter

As we enter the month of December we turn our attention towards thinking about one of the most important festivals in the Christian calendar – Christmas.

We are very proud to celebrate the **125th Anniversary** of the school this term. We have had a number of events celebrating this milestone including a community walk from the forest, special assemblies, going back in time at the Folk Park and issuing a special commemorative badge. **On Thursday 4th December at 11.30am we will be taking a special 125th Anniversary Whole School Photo. Please ensure your child comes to school on this day in full school uniform (No PE Kit) wearing black shoes/footwear.** We also have planned a drone recording over the school commemorating the 125 years of McClintock Primary School. Watch this space for more details.

This year the pupils and staff are preparing productions entitled P1/2 '**Prickly Hay**' and P3-7 '**Bethlehem Ballroom**'. This will be held in the Presbyterian Church Hall on **Wednesday 17th December**. A morning performance commencing at 10.00am and an afternoon performance commencing at 1.30pm. Children under twelve admitted free. Friends and family are very welcome to attend either of the performances. Tickets are £5 each and will be sent home with the pupils. Extra tickets can be purchased from the Secretary, Mrs Magee.



McClintock Tree at St. Mark's & Lislimnaghan CoI Tree festivals.



The school is looking festive thanks to Seskinore Rural Community Group.



Pupil decorations on the YFC Tree.

The **Parents Support Group** had a very successful **Craft Fayre** realised an amazing profit of **£2562.61**. A huge thanks to our parents, pupils and to our hard-working P.S.G. that ensured that the fayre were overwhelming successes! Proceeds from fundraising this year will be used to pay for Outdoor Play Resources.

The Mid-term Fancy Dress Party and Treat Break Day brought in **£174**. Thank you to the PSG who decorated the school and gave yummy treat bags for each pupil.

Any prospective new parents with children starting P1 in September 2026 may contact Mr Dennison by telephone at 028 8284 1613 or sdennison687@c2kni.net to discuss a **Guided Tour** of the school or to answer any queries. **Wednesday 10th December 11.30am and 2.30pm** are the only slots still available for prospective parents to walk round and see the school in action. If you have any siblings already at the school you do not have to do the tour.

Please note that the Children's Centre and P1 Applications for Pupil Admission in September 2026 opens on Wednesday 7th January at noon and closes on Wednesday 21st January at noon. Applications should be completed on-line at <https://connect.eani.org.uk/parent> The Education Authority have put up information on their website – <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions>. For your convenience a copy of McClintock's School Criteria is attached to the end of this newsletter. If you are unsure of the process concerning the admission application or important school criteria, please contact Mr Dennison or Mrs Moffitt early in the New Year. **Applicants must note in their applications where they meet the school's criteria, for example brother/sister, half-brother/half-sister, child of the family, currently attends/previously attended McClintock PS or child currently attends McClintock Children's Centre.**

The annual **Christmas Dinner** for pupils will take place on **Thursday 18th December**. This is also a Christmas Jumper & Non-Uniform Day. No money required. **The last day (Friday 19th December) is a treat break day with school closing at noon.**

With winter on our doorstep, we have taken practical steps to address the situation of having to close the school unexpectedly, eg electricity/heating failure, roads impassable due to heavy snowfall or other severe climatic conditions etc. In the unwanted eventuality of such a situation occurring I will be consulting with the Education Authority and the McClintock Board of Governors' Chairman to make an informed decision, based on health and safety guidance and recommendations. If the school has to be closed, we will contact parents via Google Classroom and leave a post on our school Facebook Page.

P1-7 pupils have been taught **Coding** in IT. This was successful through the Cluster Schools' funding application to AMMA.

The **British Legion's Poppy Appeal** in the school last month raised **£334.46** from the sale of poppies, thank you for raising this amazing amount!

We continue to post important information onto the '**Friends of McClintock Primary School**' Facebook page. Please encourage as many of our school community to 'like' this page to keep up to date.

The **Irish Football Association's Safe Food** six-week programme with P4-7 classes finishes on Tuesday 16th December. Pupils learned in this programme how important hydration and nutrition is for healthy bodies and minds.

In December our P4-7 Girls were entered into local **Hockey and Football Tournaments** at Fivemiletown College and Omagh Youth Sport. They ably represented the school and were excellent sporting ambassadors for McClintock PS!

To mark **Friendship Week** all of our pupils came to school wearing odd socks to represent the uniqueness of everyone.

Shared Education Partnership with Roscavey and St. Colmcille Primary Schools is going very well this term with each school hosting worthwhile get togethers in a range of areas including ICT, PE, Play and PDMU.

May we take this opportunity to remind parents what their children should bring to school –

- A healthy break such as fruit, crackers or breadsticks. Please refer to the guidance in the September newsletter.
- Please ensure that your child has enough writing pencils.
- For PE pupils may come into school wearing Navy coloured bottoms.
- Wear the school navy sweatshirt to school.
- Make sure your child has a coat to wear outside at break and lunchtime as the temperature has dropped. All pupil clothes should be clearly labelled with your child's name for ease of distinguishing.

With Christmas shopping now taking place an excellent way to raise funds for McClintock P.S. at no cost to you is through using our on-line shopping app. Uptake from parents so far has been quite slow but if you enrol each of our pupils will benefit. Please type in the link www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/mcclintockps to register and support our school. It is easy to use, with over 4000 retailers offering donations to the school, at absolutely no cost to you! **We have discovered that there is an Easy Fundraising App available on Android Google Play and Apple App Store that makes it very convenient for you to purchase when using mobile devices such as phones and tablets etc.** Retailers such as eBay, Amazon and all the major main street stores, including supermarket chains are in the scheme. **Please ask your family and friends to support us too!**

After school Guitar will resume **Wednesday 7th - Friday 9th January.**

Mrs Thompson is continuing the **Roots of Empathy** programme with P7 pupils which promotes sharing, inclusion, resilience, well-being and positive mental health. We are grateful to parent Mrs Rachel Crawford who brings in baby Harry for the enjoyable sessions.

P5-7 Brass Tuition will resume again after the Christmas holidays on **Friday 9th January.**

Mr Johnston's **After School Sports Clubs** will resume from **Monday 12th January.** A letter of expression of interest will be given out on the pupils' return in the New Year.

The **Pupils' Achievement Assembly** will take place on **Thursday 15th January** at 1.30pm. Like last term parents should contact their child's teacher by Google Classroom by Monday 12th January stating what achievement (in any area) that their child excelled in outside of school. Pupils can bring in their cups, certificates or any related costume/item to explain what they have achieved since October 2025. This has become a very popular event.

Ms Devlin is continuing in the New Year on Thursday 15th January with **Learning Support for P1-7 pupils.** The school is paying for this excellent and worthwhile additional provision.

P6 and P7 will begin **Swimming Tuition** in **January.** P7's will start on Wednesday 21st and P6's on Thursday 22nd.

Finally, please note that **Friday 19th December** is the last day of the Autumn Term and the school will close at noon. **Please be advised that there will be no school dinners and Education Authority buses will not be available to leave the children home at noon. This is a pupil treat break day.**

Uster-Scots Highland Dancing restarts on **Friday 9th January.**

Important P7 Dates - Admission Criteria for Post-Primary schools published on EA: 10th December 2025. Post-Primary Applications Open: 27th January 2026 and Deadline for Applications: 19th February 2026

McClintock Primary School will re-open for pupils on Tuesday 6th January 2026.

Dates for your diary

Mon 1st & 8th Dec	After School for pupils who have booked Multi-Sports P1-2 2.15-3.15pm, After School Football P3-5 3.15-4.15pm
Tues 2nd & 9th Dec	After School P6-7 Multi-Sports 3.15-4.15pm
Tuesday 2nd Dec	Mobile Library visit- <u>Rescheduled to 13th January</u> – pupils can bring in books beforehand if read Shirley Monteith Whole School Assembly 11.15am
Thursday 4th Dec	Whole School 125 th Photograph (Full school uniform) 11.30am
Friday 5th Dec	Girls Football Tournament at Youth Sport 10.00-2.00pm
Tuesday 9th Dec	Rev. Graham Hare Whole School Assembly 11.15am
Wednesday 10th Dec	New P1 Open Morning at McClintock PS P6-7 performing at Seskinore Mug and Bean Senior Citizens Lunch 1.45pm Last P4 Guitar session until 7 th January 2026 P7 Post Primary Admission Criteria for schools published
Thursday 11th Dec	CEF Whole School Assembly 11.15am Last P5 Guitar session until 8 th January 2026
Friday 12th Dec	Last P6-7 Guitar session until 9 th January 2026 Last Brass Tuition Day until 9 th January 2026 Last P4-7 AR Date
Monday 15th Dec	Christmas Production Full Dress Rehearsal
Tuesday 16th Dec	Rev. Bobby Orr Whole School Assembly 1.20pm
Wed 17th Dec	P1-2 Prickly Hay & P3-7 Bethlehem Ballroom Christmas Show 10am and 1.30pm in Seskinore Presbyterian Church Hall
Thursday 18th Dec	Christmas Dinner & Non-Uniform Christmas Jumper Day (No money required)
Friday 19th Dec	Last day of term, pupils collected at 12 noon. <u>No EA buses available or School Dinners/Lunches.</u> Treat Break for pupils P4-7 Accelerated Reading Deadline

2026

Monday 5th Jan	Staff Development Day – SCHOOL CLOSED
Tuesday 6th Jan	First day of the Spring Term
Wed, Thur & Fri 7-9th Jan	After School Guitar 3.15-4.15pm Resumes
Wednesday 7th Jan	Children's Centre and P1 Applications for Pupil Admission in September 2025 Opens Today <u>On-line</u> 10am (Closes Wednesday 21st January at noon) https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions
Thursday 8th Jan	CEF Whole School Assembly 11.15am
Friday 9th Jan	Highland Dancing Resumes 4.30-7.45pm
Mon 12th, 19th & 26th	After School for pupils who have booked Multi-Sports P1-2 2.15-3.15pm, After School Multi-Sports P3-5 for those that have booked 3.15-4.15pm
Monday 12th Jan	P7 Omagh High School Taster Day 10.40-12.25pm
Tues 13th, 20th & 27th	After School P6-7 Multi-Sports for those that have booked 3.15-4.15pm
Thursday 15th Jan	Pupil Achievement Assembly 1.30pm (Teachers to be contacted by GC by 12/1/26)
Friday 16th Jan	Mathletics Deadline Date
Monday 19th Jan	P5-7 Times Tables Rock Stars Battle (Mon 19 th -Fri 23 rd January)
Wednesday 21st Jan	Children's Centre and P1 Applications for Pupil Admission in September 2026 Closes Today <u>on-line</u> at Noon. https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions
Wed 21st Jan	P7 Swimming Lessons 2.00-2.30pm
Thursday 22nd Jan	P6 Swimming Lessons 10.45-11.15am
Saturday 24th Jan	P7 SEAG results published
Tuesday 27th Jan	Rev. Bobby Orr Whole School Assembly 11.15am <u>P7 Post Primary Applications Open (Close Thursday 19th February)</u>
Thursday 29th Jan	P7 Fivemiletown College Health & Well Being Day 10.30-1.30pm
Friday 30th January	Omagh Academy Open Night 6.30pm

In conclusion, on behalf of the staff in McClintock Primary School I would like to wish you and your families a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Admission Criteria for New P1 Intake for September 2026

McClintock Primary School
77 Letfern Road
Seskinore
Omagh
BT78 1UQ

Tel No: 028 8284 1613
Fax No: 028 8284 0597
Email: sdennison687@mcclintockps.omagh.ni.sch.uk

Controlled Primary School

Enrolment No: 105

Admission No: 15

PRINCIPAL: Mr S Dennison

BOARD OF GOVERNORS: Mr D Kyle-Ewing

RESPECTIVE FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND PRINCIPAL IN RELATION TO ADMISSIONS

The task of selecting pupils for admission will be undertaken by the Board of Governors subject to the directive of the Department of Education. It will not be delegated to an Admissions Sub-Committee.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

During the admissions procedure when applying the criteria punctual applications will be considered before late applications are considered. The application procedure opens on 7 January 2026 at 12noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 21 January 2026 at 12noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12noon (GMT) on 21 January 2026 and up to 4 pm on 26 January 2026 will be treated as a late application, this is also the last date and time for processing a change of preference in exceptional circumstances. After 4 pm on 26 January 2026 no applications will be processed until after the close of procedure on 23 March 2026.

COMPULSORY SCHOOL AGE

Any child who reaches their 4th Birthday on or before 1st July 2026 is of Compulsory School Age. Under the School Age (NI) Act which became law in Northern Ireland in April 2022, 'compulsory school age' also includes those children who deferred commencing Primary 1 in September 2025 as defined by the new School Age (NI) Act (both groups to be treated equally).

Parents/guardians considering sending their children to this school are invited to make a prior visit, to see the school in action and to talk to the Principal and teachers.

If the school's admission numbers has not been reached the school will enroll all the pupils whose parents/guardians wish them to attend. In any year when these numbers are exceeded the Governors will select pupils by applying the following criteria in the order set down.

Priority will be given to children resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission to the those who are not so resident.

When considering which children should be selected for admission, the Board of Governors will only take into account information which is detailed on or attached to the application form. Parents/guardians should therefore ensure that all information pertaining to their child and relevant to the school's admissions criteria is stated on the application for

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA - YEAR 1

- 1 Children of compulsory school age who have or have had a brother/sister, half-brother/half-sister, child of the family, enrolled at the school.
- 2 Children who attend McClintock Children's Centre or have unsuccessfully applied for admission to the Children's Centre.
- 3 Children whose father/mother/guardian is a past pupil of the school.

- 4 Children of compulsory school age whose father/mother/guardian is an employee (or about to join the school staff) or governor at the school.
- 5 Other children of compulsory school age wishing to attend McClintock PS, with priority given to those living closest to the school using Google Maps.

In the event of over-subscription in the last criterion which can be applied then selection for all places in this category will be on the basis of the initial letter of the surname as per the birth certificate, in the revised order set out below:-

K L U R Z Mc M V I N X A O Y C D H T G F S Q B E P J W Mac
 (The order was determined by a randomised selection of letters of the alphabet)

In the event of surnames beginning with the same letter the subsequent letters of the surnames will be used in alphabetical order. In the event of two identical surnames the alphabetical order of the initials of the forenames as per the birth certificate will be used.

YEAR 1 ADMISSIONS - AFTER THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

Children who apply to enter school during the academic year will be considered using the same criteria as for Year 1 provided that the school does not exceed its enrolment number.

DUTY TO VERIFY

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any applicant's Application.

If the requested evidence is not provided to the Board of Governors by the deadline given, this will result in the withdrawal of an offer of a place. Similarly, if information is supplied which appears to be false or misleading in any material way, the offer of a place will be withdrawn.

YEAR 1 WAITING LIST POLICY

Should a vacancy arise after placement letters have been issued, all applications for admission to Year 1 that were initially refused, new applications, late applications and applications where new information has been provided will be treated equally and the published criteria applied. This waiting list will be in place until the end of the academic year. The school will contact parents in writing if a child gains a place in the school by this method. A child's name will be automatically added to the list. Parents should contact the school if they wish for their child to be removed from the list.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA - YEARS 2-7

Pupils will be considered for enrolment in Years 2-7 provided that:

- (i) The school does not exceed its enrolment number.

If at the time of the consideration of the applications there are more eligible applicants than places then the Admissions Criteria for Year 1 pupils will be applied.

APPLICATIONS & ADMISSIONS TO PRIMARY 1

Year	Total Applications	Total Admissions
2023/2024	18	15
2024/2025	21	20

**The Total Admissions for year 2025/2026 includes all P1 children admitted to the school including those who have a statement of special educational needs and/or may be attending SPiMS.
 (SPiMS = Specialist Provision in Mainstream School).*