

To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow

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GORRAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Issue No. 19  
6<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025  
Next week  
Dinner Menu - Wk 4

**What's on next week.**

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February**

Piano  
Ulster Hockey Blitz (Girls)  
Ulster Scots Club – P4-7  
Kids Club 2-5pm

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February**

Swimming P6/7  
Ulster Hockey Blitz (Boys)  
Piano  
Festival Practice P4-7  
Kids Club 2-5pm

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February**

Piano  
Kids Club – 2-5pm

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February**

Flute  
Gymnastics Club with Chris  
Kids Club 2-5pm  
**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**  
Gorran PTA Tractor Run

**Stars of the Week**

**P1/2- Cliona** for great ideas for our winter poem.  
**Emma** for fantastic effort in reading.

**P3/4- Lucy** for brilliant sentences using pronouns. **Henry** for great progress with reading.

**P5/6- Lucas & James R** for a fantastic PowerPoint presentation.

**P7- Anna-Mae, Jessie & Emma** for great reading this term.



**Gorran Values**

Thank you for the great response to our 'Values' survey. Pupils and staff have also voted and we have two clear frontrunners – Honesty and Kindness. Two hugely important values for our children and school community! After a quick recount we will confirm the final three that will form our school values.

**Shared Education**

We are excited to announce that Shared Education with St Columba's is going to start this term. Our first outing is a 'get to know you day' for P5-7 at the Jet Centre, Coleraine on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February.



**Is it the end of Winter?**

It has been a busy half term at Gorran PS. Classrooms have been buzzing with new learning. Hopefully when we return, we will see some signs of spring in the air. There's plenty to look forward to - new clubs, shared education, class trips and plenty of sport including the Ulster Hockey Qualifiers and football finals. We look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February. Remember that P3 will have a later finish.

**Safer Internet Day – 11<sup>th</sup> Feb**

Safer internet day is when most NI schools are on their half term break. We will be exploring how to stay safe in school on the week of the 17<sup>th</sup> of Feb. The National College have some great information and guidance for parents and educators.

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**  
"Fake news" refers to fabricated or misleading material presented as a legitimate account of events. It's often used by malicious actors online to push an agenda, or even by criminals as a way of making scams more persuasive. Scammers can trick us into handing over personal information, security details and even our hard-earned cash.

**"CLICKBAIT" PHISHING SCAMS**  
A message arrives saying "Have you seen this video of yourself?" or "You might be seen on attention-grabbing headline about a celebrity that's been named on social media." The video "look" is produced by scammers to drive us to click on an unsafe link, where malware could be downloaded to our devices. These scams rely on our curiosity and our "need-to-know" instinct.

**SALES, DEALS & DISCOUNTS**  
Some scammers appear as adverts, offering a chance to buy something – such as designer products, expensive gadgets or tickets to a popular show – at a reduced price. Such offers often include a time limit or countdown, urging us to hurry so we don't miss out on the deal. This pressure encourages us to input personal details or payment information before pausing to check if it's legitimate.

**YOU'RE A WINNER!**  
This kind of scam involves fake giveaways, opportunities or freebies. It could be a message saying we've won a prize draw or competition. Or it could be a gift, free trial, bonus credit, and so on. It might claim that a package or refund is waiting. All these techniques are used to prompt us to share our personal information, thinking that there's something to be gained by doing so.

**FALSE FRIENDSHIPS**  
Scammers often pretend to be someone they're not to gain their victims' trust. They might attempt to convince any children they could be a friend or they may be a close of older age with shared interests. Warning signs include a high volume of messages (often with an incorrect name), secrecy, inappropriate levels of intimacy, guilt tripping, emotional manipulation, threats or blackmail.

**PANIC MODE**  
To trigger a sense of panic, scammers may claim that a child's account has been hacked, or a virus has been installed on their device, or any number of other scary scenarios. They may claim to be able to fix the problem or offer a solution if the child hands over control of the device or sensitive information. Similar scams involve impersonating a friend or relative, claiming that they're in trouble and need help.

**FAKE CELEBRITY ENDORSEMENTS**  
Impersonating influential people online is a common tactic for scammers, who can use technology to create fake photos, audio and even videos that look authentic. These can be used to convince us, for example, to buy products, sign up for services or invest in opportunities. Many scammers also involve the impersonation of popular companies' social media accounts, as well as those of individuals.

**Advice for Parents & Educators**

- STAY INFORMED**  
Stay up to date with the latest information and best practice on cyber security. See what scam stories are reported in the news and make note of what tactics were used. Keep up with young people's digital lives: talk about what they're doing online and use properly endorsed resources to learn what risks certain sites and apps pose to their younger users.
- TALK TOGETHER**  
Chat often and openly with young people about fake news, the scams and how they both work for a problem to arise before you discuss the risk of scams. Late information and false news. Highlight what to look out for and clearly communicate under what circumstances the child ought to speak to an adult. Finally, ensure that adults are scammed just as often, if not more.
- ENCOURAGE HEALTHY SCEPTICISM**  
Most scams rely on emotional or psychological manipulation, tapping into our human instincts – whether that's taking a message from a friend, finding a new friend, making friends, avoiding losing out or to secure something we really want. Encourage children to recognise that online and use properly endorsed resources to learn what risks certain sites and apps pose to their younger users – especially if it's an offer sounds too good to be true.
- BE PROACTIVE**  
Children increasingly use digital devices for education, socialising, shopping and play. Don't wait for a problem to arise before you discuss the risk of scams. Late information and false news. Highlight what to look out for and clearly communicate under what circumstances the child ought to speak to an adult. Finally, ensure that adults are scammed just as often, if not more.

**Meet Our Expert**  
Dr Holly Powell-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading expert in digital safety, media law and young people. Her PhD investigates children's understanding of risk online. She works with schools, businesses, and universities to provide award-winning education on the criminal, legal and ethical considerations for the digital age. Visit [OnlineMediaLaw.co.uk](http://OnlineMediaLaw.co.uk) for more.

**#WakeUpWednesday**  
The National College