"Great Oaks from Little Acorns Grow."

Derryhale Primary School
116 Derryhale Road,
Portadown,
Co. Armagh
BT62 3SR

Telephone: (028) 38 871 123
E-mail: aglenny759@c2kni.net
Website: www.derryhaleps.co.uk

Principal: Mr. A. T. J. Glenny BEd. (Hons), MEd.

Derryhale P.S.

November 2026 Newsletter

November's "Value of the Month": Be responsible

Our Safeguarding Team
Designated Teacher: Mrs M. McCallen
Deputy Designated Teacher & Principal: Mr A. Glenny
Designated Governor for Child Protection: Rev C. Baxter
Children are made aware that there is always an adult in the school who will listen to any worries they may have. Please remind your child of this.

Tuesday 10th November 2026

Dear parent / carer,

After a welcome half-term break, we embark on Term 1B. This busy term leads us up to Christmas, with a number of special, seasonal events planned.

Open Evening

Our Open Evening for prospective pupils and parents will take place on Tuesday 24th November between 6:00 and 7:30pm. This evening is a wonderful opportunity to showcase our school and provides prospective parents and pupils a chance to meet school staff and see around Derryhale. We would encourage everyone to spread the word about our Open Evening. If people don't know about it, they won't know to come! Consent forms will be sent home for some children who are selected to represent the school and fulfil duties on Open Evening.

Christmas Concert

Tickets for our Christmas Concert will be available from Monday 16th November. A letter will be sent to parents and carers in due course. The concert will be held at St. Saviour's Church Hall, Dobbin on Wednesday 9th December at 10:00am. On the morning of the concert, children will be left at the Dobbin Church Hall between 8:30 and 8:45am. On Tuesday 8th December (the day before the concert), children will be left at the Dobbin Church Hall in the morning (between 8:30 and 8:45am) for a rehearsal. Children will be transported to school for school dinner as usual. After-school football will continue as usual on Tuesday 8th. (There will be no swimming on Tuesday 8th December.)

Wraparound Care and After-School Clubs



8 O'clock (Breakfast) Club continues daily from 8:00-8:30am at the cost of £1.50 per day. 2 O'clock Club continues daily at the cost of £2.50 per day (payable using the school app). High-5 Club runs from the end of the school day until 5:15pm on Monday to Thursday and 4:15pm on Friday. Please continue to ensure that children know if they are staying for clubs (especially 2 O'clock Club and High 5).



After-school football will continue every Tuesday. The last week of after-school football for Term 1 will be Tuesday 8th December.

Anti-Bullying Week 2026

Ant-Bullying Week 2026 is themed "Break the Silence". Pupils will engage in activities throughout the week. On Monday 16th November, Mrs McCallen's class, Mr Glenny and Mrs Wright's class and Mrs Emerson's class will wear odd socks to celebrate our differences and uniqueness.



School Photographs

QR codes for Lafayette school have been distributed today. These should be in children's schoolbags, so please check carefully. Ordering is no longer completed through the school office, but completed by scanning the QR code at home. The deadline for ordering school photographs to ensure free school delivery will be Monday 16th November.

Family and Friends of Derryhale Christmas Parties

On Monday 14th December, we will be holding our Christmas Parties for pupils. Parties will be held in school. The parties will run as follows:

P1-3 = 5:45 – 7:00pm

P4-7 = 7:15 – 8:45pm

We are looking forward to a night of festive fun, party games and Christmas food!

School Dinner Announcements

Our School Christmas Dinner will be held on Thursday 10th December. We encourage a good uptake of school dinners for this day as is tradition in Derryhale. This date will also be our Christmas Jumper Day where pupils are encouraged to bring a donation for Save the Children. Thursday 17th December will be our Christmas Party Lunch with chicken nuggets and chips. (An alternative will be provided for children who do not like chicken.)

As has been publicised in this morning's news, from January 2027, the cost of a primary school dinner is expected to rise by 30p per day to £3.40 (a weekly increase of £1.50). At Derryhale, we are extremely fortunate to benefit from delicious meals prepared each day on site by Mrs Leckey and Grace. Our canteen is a tremendous asset to our school and a good uptake of meals supports continued provision. Free School Meals entitlements are unaffected by any changes.

"Christmas Hope" Pencil Case Appeal

This year in the lead up to Christmas, we will be supporting a Pencil Case Appeal in conjunction with Serve Youth. This appeal will support young people in Kenya, The Philippines and Romania. A list of items to be included is shown on the poster attached at the back of this newsletter. Pencil cases have been delivered to school and will be provided to each family before the end of November. The final collection date for pencil cases will be Monday 7th December.

Cash for Cans and Bottles

We are continuing to collect recyclable drinking cans and bottles for our "Cash for Cans" scheme. Used cans and bottles can be deposited in the green recycling bins at the front of the school building. We continue to be awarded meals tokens which can be used for a special treat at the end of the school year!

Swimming Term 1

The last week of swimming in Term 1 will be Tuesday 1st December. There will be no swimming on Tuesday 8th and 15th December.

Diary Dates

- Wednesday 11th November – Flu Vaccine
- Monday 16th – 20th November – Anti-Bullying Week 2026 – "Break the Silence"
- Monday 16th November – Odd Sock Day
- Monday 16th November – P4/5 Trip to the Northern Ireland War Memorial Museum
- Tuesday 24th November – Open Evening
- Tuesday 8th December – Rehearsal for Christmas Concert (in Dobbin Church Hall)
- Wednesday 9th December – Christmas Concert – 10:00am (in Dobbin Church Hall)
- Thursday 10th December – Christmas Jumper Day (with donations for Save the Children)
- Thursday 10th December – School Christmas Dinner
- Monday 14th December – Family and Friends Christmas Parties
- Thursday 17th December – Christmas Party Lunch
- Friday 18th December – School Finishes at 12:00noon
- Monday 4th January – School reopens (Term 2A) for pupils.

Yours faithfully,

A.T.J. Glenny

Marlacoo Pipe Band

Learn to Pipe and Drum

LEARNERS CLASSES

PIPING

TENOR DRUMS

SIDE DRUMS

BASE DRUMS

Monday Nights
7:15 - 8:30

ALL tuition is free of charge

Contact: Waldon 07790042840

SERVE

Chrisimas Hope

This Christmas, we want to bring joy and hope to children and young people in Kenya, the Philippines and Romania.
We are asking you to help us fill a Blessing Bag with some useful and fun items. We will provide the bag – you just need to choose and collect the items to put inside. Everything needs to fit in the zipped bag.

What Should I Put In My Bag?

1 Hygiene Item

E.g. Bar of Soap, Facecloth, or Toothbrush & Mini Toothpaste

Something Fun

Such As a Small Toy or Game – Eg. Yo-yo, Dominoes, or Fidget Toy

Something Useful

Such as Pens, Colouring Pencils, Hair Bobbles, or a Comb

1 bag of sweets

No Chocolate or Sticky Sweets;
Best-Before Date Must be
October 2027 or Later

Please note:
- No liquids
- No toy guns
- No card games
- All items should be age appropriate

Please Choose Items Suitable for 1 of the Following Categories:
Junior Boy, Senior Boy
Junior Girl, Senior Girl

Together, we can help children around the world know that they are remembered, valued and loved by God.

Want to help even more? A £1 donation towards the cost of the blessing bags & transportation would be very welcome!

Final collection date: Friday 11th December

For further info contact us at
serveoutreachproject@gmail.com