



**March 2026**



**Our very talented School Choir will travel to the SSE Arena in Belfast, this Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026 at 1pm for the PEACE PROMS 2026 CONCERT**





**Get ready for Big Walk and Wheel 2026!**

**Get ready for this year's challenge, running from Monday 16 March to Friday 27 March 2026.**

**Join schools from across the UK and sign up to be part of the action.**

**Big Walk and Wheel is in its 17th year, and 2026 marks the first time it's being delivered by the Walk Wheel Cycle Trust, formerly Sustrans. It's a new name, but the same great challenge, inspiring thousands of pupils across the UK to walk, wheel, scoot or cycle to school. The headline sponsor is Schwalbe.**

**Who can take part?**

**All schools in the UK, including SEN/ALN/ASN schools, can take part in Big Walk and Wheel. It's free to register and easy to join.**

**Once registered, you'll have access to a school login, where you can log daily journeys, track your school's progress and earn virtual badges.**

**Compete with neighbouring schools and make every journey count.**

**Visit the [Big Walk and Wheel website](#) and follow the instructions.**

**Why take part?**

**Active, sustainable travel has never been more important. It helps pupils arrive alert and ready to learn, while creating a safer and more pleasant environment around school.**

**We've designed our interactive school resources to be fun, flexible and informative, showing how small changes can make a big difference.**

**Free resources include:**

- Curriculum-linked lesson plans
- Top tips

# Important Reminders

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As directed by the Department of Education, our school has been allocated 2 additional staff development days, one to be taken this term with an additional one to be taken in the final term of the 2025-26 academic year.

The agenda for these days are to include any aspect of the **TransformED programme**, including:

- Curriculum including literacy and numeracy
- Qualifications
- Assessment
- School improvement
- Teacher professional learning
- Tackling educational disadvantage

Our school have allocated the following days which your children will not attend school:

- **Wednesday 18th March 2026**
- **Wednesday 27th May 2026**

**School will be closed for all pupils on these dates.**

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in relation to these two additional school closures so late in the academic year- this direction has come from the Department of Education.

**TransformED NI**  
TRANSFORMING TEACHING AND LEARNING





# **P6 SEAG / Post Primary Transfer Information Session**

**Monday 2nd March 2026**

**3:00pm**

**ICT Suite**



**Chapel Road Primary  
School**

JOIN US FOR A  
**MOTHER'S DAY  
BREAKFAST**



*“A mother’s love is the heart of a family.”*

**FRIDAY, 13TH MARCH 2026**

**8:15–9:00AM**

**IN THE SCHOOL CANTEEN**



# Dinner Menu

Dinner Menu can be accessed here:

[https://storage.googleapis.com/siteassetsswd/247/docletter/20260216030333\\_33\\_PS\\_Spring\\_Summer\\_2026\\_2\\_Choices.pdf](https://storage.googleapis.com/siteassetsswd/247/docletter/20260216030333_33_PS_Spring_Summer_2026_2_Choices.pdf)




WEEK BEGINNING	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
16th February 16th March 13th April 11th May 8th June	Baked Fish Goujons with Lemon Mayo - Or - Classic Margherita Pizza  Steamed Broccoli & Baked Beans Chipped Potatoes & Baked Potato  Selection of Fruit Yoghurt Pots	Homemade Beef Bolognese - Or - Penne Pasta and Tomato Bake with Herb Crust  Baton Carrots & Green Beans Fusilli Pasta & Fresh Seasonal Salad  Mandarin Orange Sponge with Custard	Lunch Bunch Chicken Curry & Mini Naan Bread - Or - Cheese & Tomato Panini Melt with Coleslaw  Garden Peas & Fresh Seasonal Salad Steamed Rice & Oven Roast Wedges  Peach & Raspberry Traybake Trifle	Roast Pork with Stuffing and Rich Gravy - Or - Creamy Pepper Chicken  Steamed Broccoli & Cauliflower Mashed Potatoes & Oven Roast Potatoes  Chocolate and Pear Sponge Cake	Hot Dog with Tomato Ketchup - Or - Baked Potato with Butter Beans in Tomato Sauce & Cheese Melt  Garden Peas & Mini Corn on the Cob Chipped Potatoes & Baked Potato  Vanilla Ice Cream with Sliced Pears
23rd February 23rd March 20th April 18th May 15th June	Golden Baked Cod Bites - Or - Sweet Potato and Chicken Bake  Steamed Broccoli & Baked Beans Chipped Potatoes & Baked Potato  Frozen Strawberry Yoghurt and Fruit Tub	Mild Beef Chili - Or - Classic Margherita Pizza  Sweetcorn, Fresh Seasonal Salad & Coleslaw Steamed Rice & Oven Roast Wedges  Homemade Apple Sponge with Custard	Lunch Bunch Chicken Curry & Mini Naan Bread - Or - Oven Roasted Vegetable Sausages with Tomato & Bean Stew  Garden Peas & Diced Carrots Steamed Rice & Mashed Potatoes  Fresh Fruit Salad with Strawberry Yoghurt	Roast Turkey with Stuffing and Rich Gravy - Or - Roast Quorn Fillet with Rich Gravy  Roast Carrots & Spring Cabbage Mashed Potatoes & Oven Roast Potatoes  Fruit Muffin and Milkshake	Cheeseburger with Tomato Ketchup - Or - Chicken Caesar Wrap  Mini Corn on the Cob & Crunchy Veggie Sticks Chipped Potatoes & Baby Potatoes  Oatmeal Biscuit with Orange Wedges
2nd March 30th March 27th April 25th May 22nd June	Golden Crumbed Fish Fingers - Or - Mighty Mac 'n' Cheese  Garden Peas & Spaghetti Hoops Chipped Potatoes & Mashed Potatoes  Banana-flavoured Mousse	Homemade Beef Bolognese - Or - Spring Frittata with Coleslaw  Steamed Broccoli & Fresh Seasonal Salad Fusilli Pasta & Herbed Baby Potatoes Summer Fruit Sponge Finger	Lunch Bunch Chicken Curry & Mini Naan Bread - Or - Chilli and Garlic Quorn Bites  Green Beans & Baton Carrots Steamed Rice & Oven Roast Wedges  Blueberry and Lemon Sponge with Custard	Roast Gammon with Stuffing and Rich Gravy - Or - Savoury Mince  Cauliflower & Roast Butternut Squash Mashed Potatoes & Oven Roast Potatoes  Jelly Whip with Mandarin Oranges	Baked Pork Sausages - Or - Cheese and Tomato Deli Roll with Fresh Seasonal Salad  Sweetcorn & Baked Beans Chipped Potatoes & Mashed Potatoes  Frozen Vanilla Yoghurt with Melon Wedge
9th March 6th April 4th May 1st June 29th June	Homemade Beef Bolognese - Or - Chicken Stroganoff  Baton Carrots & Steamed Broccoli Fusilli Pasta & Oven Roast Wedges  Melon, Mandarin and Pineapple Pot	Ham and Cheese Pizza - Or - Mediterranean Roasted Vegetable Quesadilla with Hummus  Sweetcorn & Coleslaw Chipped Potatoes & Baby Potatoes  Raspberry Jelly with Two Fruits	Lunch Bunch Chicken Curry & Mini Naan Bread - Or - Tex-Mex Beef and Veg Tortilla Boat Garden Peas & Roast Butternut Squash Steamed Rice & Potato Salad  Pineapple Upside Down Cake with Custard	Roast Beef with Yorkshire Pudding, Stuffing and Rich Gravy - Or - Baked Salmon and Tomato Pasta Roast Carrot & Cauliflower Mashed Potatoes & Oven Roast Potatoes  Chocolate-flavoured Mousse with Chopped Fruit	Oven Baked Chicken Goujons - Or - Tuna and Pasta Salad  Garden Peas & Baked Beans Chipped Potatoes, Baked Potato & Fresh Seasonal Salad  Homemade Flakemeal Biscuit with Melon Wedge

# Holiday List

Holiday list can be accessed

here: [https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/embed.aspx?src=https://storage.googleapis.com/siteassetsswd/247/docletter/20250429015510\\_23\\_Holiday\\_Calendar\\_for\\_Parents\\_2025-26.docx](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/embed.aspx?src=https://storage.googleapis.com/siteassetsswd/247/docletter/20250429015510_23_Holiday_Calendar_for_Parents_2025-26.docx)

## **Holiday list for Academic Year 2026-27**

The school holiday list for 2026-27 will be released shortly following further guidance from the Department of Education

### **Swimming for Primary 5 and 6**

The Foyle Arena have been in contact to make changes to the dates of Primary 5 and 6 swimming lessons.

Swimming lessons will now start on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026** and will run for 10 weeks until the **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

The cost will be £15.00 for 10 weeks and must be paid before the lessons start.

The children will be walking to and from so will require a sensible coat with a hood and comfortable shoes.



# School Attendance



## EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS –

Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning.

Attendance percentages can be misleading.

100% Attendance	0 Days Missed	Excellent
95% Attendance	9 Days of Absence 1 Week and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Satisfactory
90% Attendance	19 Days of Absence 3 Weeks and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Poor
85% Attendance	28 Days of Absence 5 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	Very Poor
80% Attendance	38 Days of Absence 7 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	Unacceptable
75% Attendance	46 Days of Absence 9 Weeks and 1 Day of Learning Missed	Unacceptable

For some parents, 90% may seem like an acceptable level of attendance, but the reality is that 90% attendance means that your child will miss half a school day each week or 19 days of school during the school year – that's nearly 4 school weeks.



Give your child the best start in life – every school day counts.



## HOW PARENTS CAN HELP –

- ☑ Establish a good routine in the mornings and evenings so your child is prepared for the school day ahead.
- ☑ Make sure your child goes to school regularly and follows the school rules.
- ☑ Ensure your child arrives at school on time – not late.
- ☑ Arrange dental and medical appointments outside school hours when possible.
- ☑ Always inform the school if your child is absent due to illness – this should be followed up with a written note when your child returns to school.
- ☑ Take truancy seriously – if your child is not attending school as you expect they may be putting themselves at risk – Who are they with? What are they doing?
- ☑ Take family holidays outside term time.
- ☑ Talk to your child about school and take an interest in their school work (including homeworks).
- ☑ Attend parent evenings and school events.
- ☑ Praise and reward your child's achievements at school.
- ☑ Always support school staff in their efforts to control difficult or challenging behaviour.
- ☑ Discuss any problems or difficulties with the school – staff are there to help and will be supportive.

**Key  
Point**

Do not be afraid to ask for help if a problem arises.

# Reporting Attendance

Parents can now report absence via the school website



Click on the Report Pupil Absence Button

Complete the form below and click submit. This will be emailed to the [info@chapelroadps.derry.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@chapelroadps.derry.ni.sch.uk) account. Mrs Hall will then forward the email to the child's teacher.

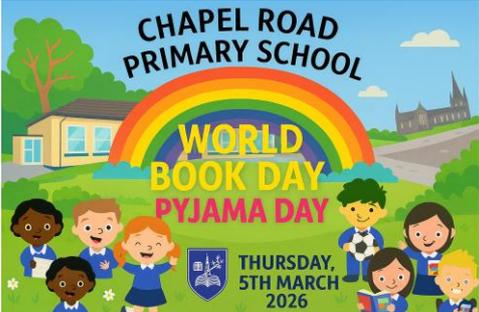
The image shows the 'Report Pupil Absence' form on the school website. The form is titled 'Report Pupil Absence' and has a blue header. Below the header is a small note: 'If a child is absent for any reason, parents/guardians should notify the school, reporting their absence by using the "Report Pupil Absence" button on our school website.' The form contains five input fields: 'Your Name \*', 'Name of Pupil \*', 'Class \*', 'Date(s) of Absence \*', and 'Reason \*'. Each field is a white box with a light blue border. At the bottom of the form is a blue 'Submit' button.

## Clubs

<b>Day</b>	<b>Club</b>	<b>Year Group&amp;Time</b>	<b>Book/Pay</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Multi-sports</b>	P1&2 2-3pm  P5&6 3-4pm	Restarts on <b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b>  <b>05-01-26 until 02-02- 26</b> <b>£10 for 5-week block</b> <b>No Multi-sports during Mid-term break</b> <b>16-02-26 until 30-03-26</b> <b>£10 for 5-week block</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Athletics</b>	Primary 6&7  3-4pm	<b>Couch to 5k</b> 6-week block: <b>Tuesday 27th Jan</b> <b>Tuesday 3rd Feb</b> <b>Mid Term</b> <b>Tuesday 17th Feb</b> <b>Tuesday 24th Feb</b> <b>Tuesday 3rd Mar</b> <b>Tuesday 10th Mar</b>  <b>Free</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>RugbyTots</b>	Primary 1 2-2.30pm	Restarts on <b>Thursday 22nd January 2026</b>

		Primary 2 2.30-3pm  Primary 3/4 3-4pm	<b>Primary 3</b> have two weeks left: Thursday 22nd January 2026&Thursday 29th January 2026 <b>Booking will open then for our Primary 4 classes.</b>  <b>Free</b>
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# Important Dates for March 2026

<p><b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026</b></p>	<p><b>Peace Proms 2026</b></p>  <p>School Choir will travel to the SSE Arena in Belfast to perform in the Peace Proms 2026 Concert</p>
<p><b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026</b></p>	<p><b>SEAG Information Meeting at 3pm in ICT Suite for P6 parents</b> Mr McLaughlin and Mrs O'Hagan will be on hand to answer any queries</p> 
<p><b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b></p>	<p><b>Children of Fatima Prayer Group in from 1-3pm for classes P4-7</b></p> 
<p><b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b></p>	<p><b>World Book Day 2026</b> Children can wear their pyjamas to school</p> 

<p><b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b></p>	<p><b>9.30-11.30 Basketball for Primary 6 and 7 in the Assembly Hall</b></p> 
<p><b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b></p>	<p><b>Our wonderful Primary 4 children will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation in St. Columb's Church at 1.30pm</b></p> 
<p><b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b></p>	<p><b>Our P4 and P7 will be taking part in CCEA End of Key Stage Assessments: Numeracy in the morning</b></p> <p><b>To ensure the smooth administration of these assessments please ensure that your child is well rested and arrives to school on time.</b></p> 
<p><b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b></p>	<p><b>School Nurse will be in school to complete P1 Screening Programme</b></p>
<p><b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b></p>	<p><b>P6 PAWSb Mindfulness Programme (6-week programme)</b></p> <p><b>9.30-10.30am</b></p> <p><b>Last session</b></p> 
	<p><b>Our P4 and P7 will be taking part in CCEA End of Key Stage Assessments: Literacy in the morning</b></p>

	<p>To ensure the smooth administration of these assessments please ensure that your child is well rested and arrive to school on time.</p> 
<p><b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2025</b></p>	<p><b>Mother's Day Breakfast</b>  <b>8.15-9am School Canteen</b></p> 
	<p><b>Irish Dancing Ceile</b>  <b>9.30-10.00am Playgroup, P1+2</b>  <b>10.30-11am P3+4</b>  <b>11-11.30pm P5-7</b>  <b>Parents welcome to attend</b></p>  <p><b>****SCHOOL CLOSING AT 12NOON****</b></p>
<p><b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b></p>	<p><b>School Closed for St. Patrick's Day</b></p>
<p><b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b></p>	<p><b>School Closed for St. Patrick's Day</b></p>
<p><b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b></p>	<p><b>School Closed for St. Patrick's Day</b>  <b>Staff Development Day</b></p>

<p><b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b></p>	
<p><b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b></p>	<p><b>School Nurse will be in school to complete P1 Screening Programme</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>9.30-11.30 Basketball for Primary 6 and 7 in the Assembly Hall</b></p> 
<p><b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026</b></p>	<p><b>School Council trip to visit Guildhall to meet the Mayor and visit the Mayor's Parlour</b></p> <p><b>9.30am - lunch</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>School Nurse will be in school to complete P1 Screening Programme</b></p>

# A Mother's Day Wish

Today

I celebrate how lucky I feel  
to be a Mum



I am grateful beyond words  
to my own Mum



I send hope to anyone wanting  
and waiting to be a Mum



I send love to anyone who is  
missing a Mum



I think of all the Mums who hold  
their children in their hearts and  
not their arms



I wish for better for all the  
mums in difficult circumstances



Murphys  
Sketches

# PHA information quick reference guide

## Do I need to keep my child off school?



<b>Chicken Pox</b> Until all spots have crusted over	<b>Conjunctivitis</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Diarrhoea &amp; Vomiting</b> 48 hours from last episode	<b>Glandular Fever</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Hand, foot &amp; mouth</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Impetigo</b> Until lesions are crusted & healed or 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
<b>Measles or German Measles</b> 4 days from onset of rash	<b>Mumps</b> 5 days from onset of swelling	<b>Scabies</b> Until after first treatment	<b>Scarlet Fever</b> 24 hours after commencing antibiotics	<b>Slapped Cheek</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Whooping Cough</b> 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
<b>Flu</b> Until recovered	<b>Head Lice</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Threadworms</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Tonsillitis</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed		

**This document is available from:**

**[Do I need to keep my child off school?  
\(English and translations\) | HSC Public Health Agency](#)**

**It is also available in a variety of different languages, such as Arabic, see below:**

## القوباء

إلى أن تتكون قشرة على الآفات وتشفى أو 48 ساعة بعد بدء المضادات الحيوية

## اليدين والقدم والفم

ليست هناك حاجة للبقاء في المنزل ولكن ينبغي إخطار المدرسة أو المستوصف

## الحمى الغدية

ليست هناك حاجة للبقاء في المنزل ولكن ينبغي إخطار المدرسة أو المستوصف

## الإسهال و القيء

48 ساعة من آخر نوبة

## التهاب الملتحمة

ليست هناك حاجة للبقاء في المنزل ولكن ينبغي إخطار المدرسة أو المستوصف

## الجديري

إلى أن تتكون قشرة على جميع البقع

## السعال الديكي

48 ساعة بعد بدء المضادات الحيوية

## الداء الخامس (الحمى المعدي)

ليست هناك حاجة للبقاء في المنزل ولكن ينبغي إخطار المدرسة أو المستوصف

## الحمى القرمزية

24 ساعة بعد بدء المضادات الحيوية

## الجرب

إلى ما بعد أول علاج

## التكاف

5 أيام من بداية التورم

## الحصبة أو الحصبة الألمانية

4 أيام من بداية الطغح الجلدي

## التهاب اللوزتين

ليست هناك حاجة للبقاء في المنزل ولكن ينبغي إخطار المدرسة أو المستوصف

## الدودة الشريطية

ليست هناك حاجة للبقاء في المنزل ولكن ينبغي إخطار المدرسة أو المستوصف

## قمل الرأس

ليست هناك حاجة للبقاء في المنزل ولكن ينبغي إخطار المدرسة أو المستوصف

## البرد

حتى يتم الشفاء



Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

caring supporting improving together



**When your child's unwell it can be unsettling.**

The Children's Symptom Checker can help.



Before attending an Emergency Department visit the Children's Symptom Checker for advice from healthcare professionals.

[belfasttrust.hscni.net/childrens-symptom-checker](http://belfasttrust.hscni.net/childrens-symptom-checker)

@belfasttrust     



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@belfasttrust     



# Safeguarding

## Meet the Safeguarding Team

Copies of all our policies can be obtained from our School Website; they are password protected but the password can be obtained from the School Office.

[www.chapelroadps.co.uk](http://www.chapelroadps.co.uk)



## Our Safeguarding Team



Mrs A McCallion  
Designated Teacher



Mrs M. McCann  
Deputy Designated  
Teacher



Mr M. McLaughlin  
Chair of the Board of  
Governors



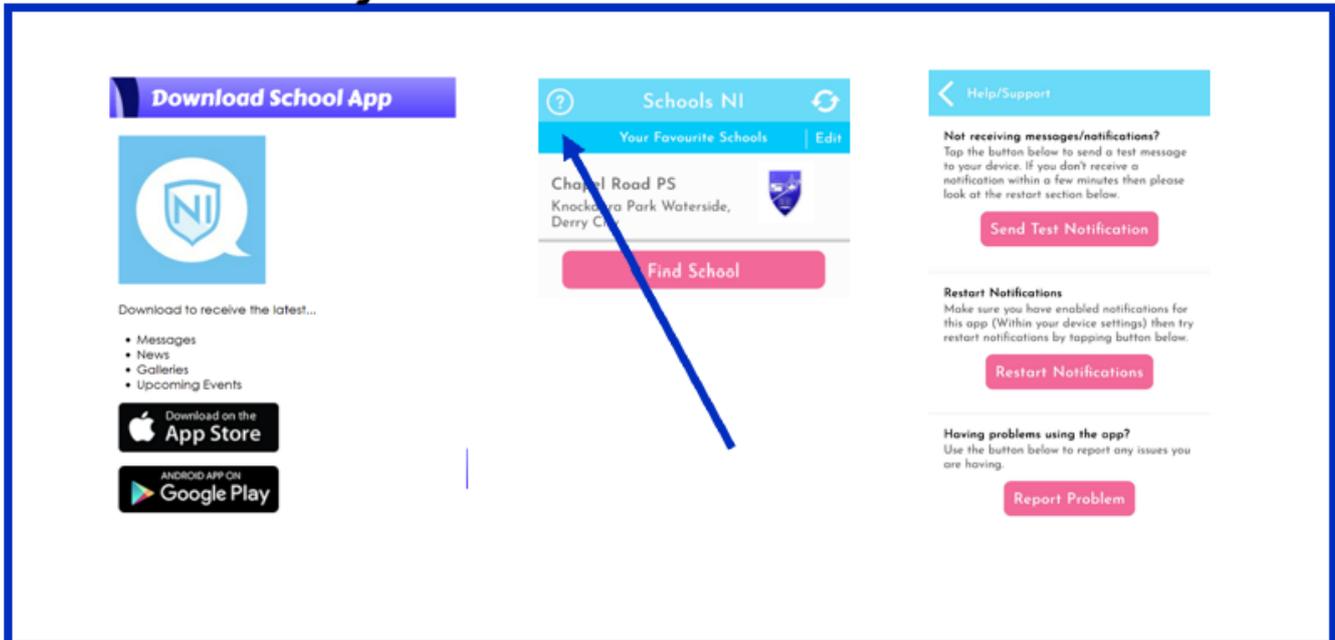
Mrs R. McLaughlin  
Designated BOG  
member in charge of  
Safeguarding



Mrs C. Barrett  
Principal

# Keep in touch

Please ensure that you download the Schools NI App which is linked to our website. Click on the ? at the top left-hand corner to ensure that notifications are turned on. (See arrow)



**“Educating For Generations,  
Building Brighter Futures”**

Chapel Road Primary School, Knockdara Park Waterside, Derry City BT47 2BD  
Telephone: 028 7134 1419 | [info@chapelroadps.derry.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@chapelroadps.derry.ni.sch.uk)