

The Diamond Times

www.diamondps.co.uk



June 2015
Issue 66

WE DID IT!!!

CONTENTS

Page No.

Mrs Henry	1-2
New ipads	2
Mrs Dundee	3-4
Cambridge House Taster Day	4
Mrs Scott / Mrs Houston	5-6
Ballymena Academy Taster Day	6
P1-2 at Portglenone Forest	7
P5-6 at Woodhall	8
Class of 2015	9-16
P3-4 at The Zoo	17
Eco-Schools Green Flag	18-19
Greenhill YMCA	20-21
Mrs McKibbin / Mrs Stewart	22-23
Mrs Gillespie	24-25
Summer Concert	26

A note from Mr Beattie



It's the end of the School Year and we have so much to reflect on. This term has been so busy, culminating in our Summer Concert, Sports Day and Class Trips. You'll get an overview of term 3 in this edition of our magazine.

I want to say a big thank you to all the children at The Diamond, who have worked so hard this year and have achieved so much. A special word to our brilliant class of P7s; you've been a privilege to get to know and to work with. We wish you every success at your next school and in whatever you go on to achieve in the future.

Thank you, too, to all our Diamond families for your support throughout the year. Your commitment to the school and your interest in all that we organise is much appreciated by everyone here.

From September, I will be taking in the position of Principal at The Diamond. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to do this and am excited for the future of The Diamond.

M Beattie

Diary Dates

Thursday 27th August 2015
School Term commences

Take Note

P1 - P2 are off on a magic carpet ride!

by Mrs Henry



It's hard to believe that another school year is nearly over! We have had another busy and exciting term in the Primary 1 and 2 classroom.

We started off the term going 'Down the Town' and learning all about our local town of Ballymena. We looked at the different shops you would find in the town and even designed our own Diamond Towns. Jayne from Danske Bank came to talk to us about money and the importance of saving. She even brought her

friend Pondus the Penguin with her!

Our new topic is called 'Off we go' and we have already been to the moon and on a bear hunt. We have been learning all about journeys and have been thinking both of places we have been and places we would like to go to. We even imagined we had a magic carpet and had to tell everyone where we would go on it. A highlight of this term has been our trip to Portglenone Forest which we all thoroughly enjoyed.





In our Numeracy lessons Primary 1 have been revising their numbers to 10 and learning to add and write sums. Primary 2 have been revising their addition and subtraction facts. We are all really good at finding long things and short things and Primary 2 have been putting objects in order of length. We have recently started a new topic of weight and are having great fun investigating and sorting things into heavy and light.



During Literacy time Primary 1 have been developing their reading skills and are progressing well. They are working hard to put sounds together to read and make words. Primary 2 have been revising their double sounds and love to write lots of stories.



New ipads for every classroom!

We are delighted to have been able to purchase ipads for use in every classroom in school. This is an exciting development for staff and pupils alike as we will now have a wonderful resource for teaching across the curriculum.

At The Diamond the children are extremely confident in the area of ICT, creating documents, leaflets, powerpoint presentations, spreadsheets and editing videos related to class topics.



Over the past few years video conferencing and the school website have become important parts of school life.

So many of our children already know how to use tablet devices so we are eager to encourage them to further develop their numeracy and literacy skills with these ipads. The ipads are already compatible with some of our current initiatives - Accelerated Reader and standardised assessments to name but two so hopefully we can hit the ground running.



P2 - P3 are growing up just great!

by Mrs Dundee



This term has been all go in the P2 and P3 classroom. Numeracy lessons have been busy, with P3 learning about place value and P2 practising adding and taking away. In P2 we used crocodiles to make number sentences using 'greater than' and 'smaller than'. In P3 we used material to add tens and units. We are getting really good at doing sums neatly and without mistakes. Both classes have been learning all about length and how to compare items of differing lengths.



We also have been enjoying our theme 'Growing is great' where we have explored things that grow and how they grow. Every day we looked forward to checking the progress of the runner beans we had planted and seeing the roots develop under the soil. When the beans had grown a little we planted them out in the raised bed. We also planted sunflower seeds to take home and look after. We hope there is some sunshine this summer to make them grow really tall!





We also painted some beautiful sunflowers to put us in a summery mood. We enjoyed many stories about growing, with 'The Last Noo-Noo' being our favourite. Another story we enjoyed was 'The Enormous Turnip' and now we are having fun acting it out as we prepare for our Summer Concert.

It's hard to believe that we have nearly reached the end of the school year and we will soon be moving to our next classes - we are already looking forward to all the exciting things we will learn!

Cambridge House Taster Day for P6



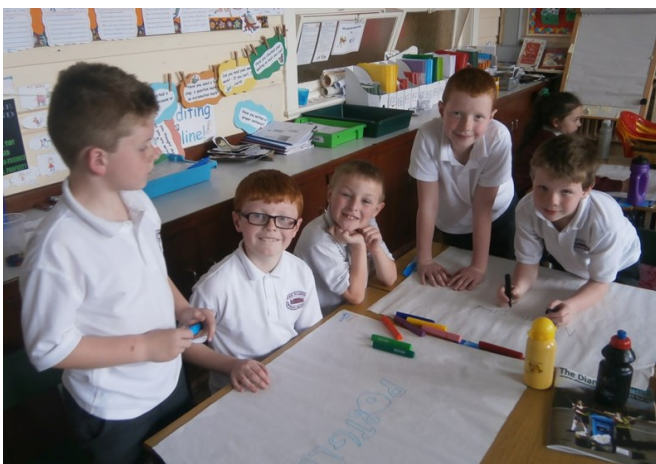
P4 - 5 take a giant leap 'on our doorstep'

by Mrs Scott and Mrs Houston



We have had a really busy start to the summer term. We are busy learning about Northern Ireland in our new theme 'On Our Doorstep.' We have worked in groups to find out more about Ballymena, Ahoghill, Cullybackey and Belfast and created posters. We got together in groups to find out as much information about these places as we could. We really enjoyed doing some map work on this topic and were

able to name and spot the six counties in Northern Ireland and Lough Neagh. We are also learning all about the legend of Finn McCool.





In Literacy we have been learning about persuasive writing and have been writing about our favourite places to visit in Northern Ireland and why everybody else should visit there. We have been learning how to summarise chapters and books. We read a story about a shark called Finn who visited the Giant's Causeway. We then had to summarise what we had read. We made tissue paper hexagons to represent the Causeway stones.



In Numeracy we are learning about measuring length, weight and volume of objects. We love playing fraction games on the Interactive Whiteboard. We tried to beat the teacher but she was too fast! We have a busy few months this term with the summer concert, swimming lessons, school trip to Belfast Zoo, singing and instrument lessons and Fun Day. We have also been planting our box in the playground full of wild flowers with people from B & Q.

Ballymena Academy P6 Taster Day





P1 & P2 trip to Portglenone Forest

Primaries 5 & 6 - School Trip - Woodhall, Kilrea



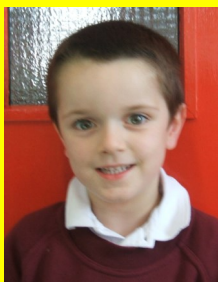
The Diamond Primary School



It's time to say 'Goodbye', our time has come to an end.
We've made some cherished memories with all our primary school friends.
We've watched each other learn and grow and change from day to day.
We hope that all the things we've done will help us on our way.
So it's with happy memories we all go out the door,
With great hope and expectations for what next year holds in store.



Samuel Aitcheson



I look back at my time here with mostly happy memories.

My earliest memory was my first speaking part in the P3 Christmas play where I was a star (an actual star in the sky not the main part—lol).

From P1-P4 my best friend was William. I was very sad when he left but I soon made more good friends.

During my time at the Diamond we had a few memorable events like the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the school's 75th anniversary and Mrs Duffin's retirement.

My best memory was when my name was first called out to be in the football team. My favourite experiences were school trips, especially Woodhall in P5, but the Greenhill trip was by far the best!

I didn't only learn educational things at The Diamond; I learned how to make friends and the importance of respect. Most importantly I learned how we should put God first no matter what we do.

Laura Backus



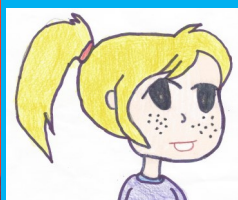
I loved all my years at The Diamond.
In P1 I enjoyed coming in and making new friends.

I also liked P5 because we studied the Egyptians.
We got to dress up as Egyptians and
Mrs Stewart made us a yummy cake.

P7 was also great because my teacher Mrs Gillespie
really helped me.

I have loved my time at
The Diamond Primary School and will miss it.

Rebecca Brownikerr



I have lots of memories of my time at
The Diamond but probably the
most memorable one is when
Mr Beattie got the pink the hair band
with pink pig tails on it in Edinburgh.

The most important experience for me
has been making so many wonderful friends
and getting to spend my time
surrounded by wonderful people.

Peter Cahoon



My earliest memory is when I was in P4, when
William told us he was going to England to live there.

My fondest memory is when I scored my first goal
for the football team in a match at
Fourtowns against Groggan Primary.

Some of my favourite experiences have been our
school trips to Edinburgh, Woodhall, Carrickfergus
and Greenhill. I have also loved being part of the
ECO committee and I enjoy accelerated reader.

The Diamond has made an impact on my life
by giving me great friends and teaching me
the skills I need for my next step in life.

Rebecca Finlay



My fondest memories at The Diamond are of Egyptian Day, Edinburgh, Victorian day, school plays, sports day and Newcastle. I also enjoyed going to the Christmas fairs with my friends.

The Diamond has made a massive impact on my life.

I will miss the school, the teachers, Mr Beattie and all of the friends I've made as well.

Lucy Gillespie



My favourite thing about The Diamond is that all of the teachers are lovely and very kind.

My funniest memory is when I was drinking my Sukie and Rebecca Brown-Kerr asked if it was finished.

When I said 'yes', she squeezed it and all of the juice came out over my uniform!

Lydia Glass



At The Diamond I enjoyed sports days because you never had to do much work. I also liked Viking Day in P5 and V.E day in P6 when we had to dress up.

The Christmas fairs were always fun and I have loved going to netball after school. My favourite thing was going to Greenhill in Newcastle. Class trips were always good fun too.

I have made some really good friends at The Diamond and have enjoyed all of our chats. The Diamond has made an impact on me because it has taught me how to be a good friend and always to do my best.

I will miss Mrs Gillespie and all my friends at The Diamond because most of them are going to different schools.

Emma Greer

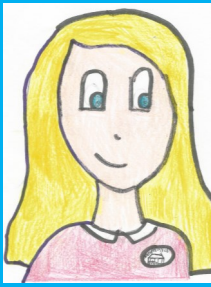


My earliest memory of school is from my very first day. I remember Mummy holding my hand at the gate until I spotted Laura with her Mummy. We ran to meet each other and walked in hand in hand, full of excitement and leaving our nervous parents behind!

I always look forward to our school trips at the end of the year. My favourite was our P7 trip to Newcastle where we tried loads of new activities and sampled Mr Beattie's BBQ talents (we all survived!)

I've made great friends at The Diamond and we've made great memories together.

Joanne Hanna



My experience at The Diamond has been enjoyable.

I have benefitted from getting to know my friends and my teachers well.

My favourite experience was being a librarian.

I have learned the importance of looking out for one another, to have manners and remember God in everything.

Taylor Hunter



One of my earliest memories was in P1 when I met all of my friends.

The thing I have enjoyed the most about The Diamond was going to Greenhill YMCA. I enjoyed it so much because we got to do lots of awesome activities and we ate lots of lovely food.

I really enjoyed the Edinburgh school trip too but Greenhill was the best.

I have learned so much from The Diamond and have gained a lot of confidence here.

Rebecca Kerr



My earliest memory was taking my brother's sandwich at lunchtime. He ate mine and was sick!

My fondest memory was going to Newcastle in P7. We had loads of fun! I have made lots of friends at school who are special in every way.

The Diamond has made an impact on my life through all of the lovely people I have met. They taught me to have confidence in myself. I am really going to miss The Diamond.

Charlie Knowles



I've had a great time at The Diamond. My earliest memory was back in P2 when Joshua and I were playing tag outside. I caught him and then he chased after me. As he reached to catch me, he tripped, grabbed my trousers and accidentally pulled them down.

The Diamond is a really good school and I will really miss it!

Aaron Linton



I loved my seven years at The Diamond Primary.
It has been a great experience and
I wish I could stay for longer!
My favourite memories are when Ross tried to
cut my hair in P1 and when I learned
to count to 100 in P2.

I really enjoyed The Diamond and will always miss it.
I hope Cullybackey College is just as good!

Chelsea Marrs



My time at The Diamond has been great and
I really don't want to leave!

My earliest memory would be when I left
my parents at the gate on my first day and ran on in.
I was so excited!

My fondest memory would be when Mrs Duffin
forgot to call out my birthday in assembly and I got
two stickers to make up for it.

I am really going to miss The Diamond and
everyone I have met along the way.

Jack McDonald



My earliest memory was going into school and
meeting my class for the first time.
I made lots of new friends.

My fondest memory is when Ross and I
tried to fix the step outside.

The Diamond has made an impact on me
by helping me to learn what life is really about.
I have learned how to take care of myself and
to be proud of who I am.

Callum McKibbin



My favourite memory of school was in P1 when
I walked in for the first time and saw all of
my friends from Happy Tots. My big cousin Thomas
Kerr was there too!

In P3 my class was split in half and I made a new friend
- Ross Montgomery. In P5/6 I had my Mum as
my teacher which was great. I enjoyed Egyptian Day,
Viking Day and the trips to Woodhall and Edinburgh
in this class. P7, although being hard work, has been
good fun too!

It is hard to believe that this is the end of my time here
though I feel ready to go to Ballymena Academy.
I will miss The Diamond but I guess
that's just part of moving on.

Ethan McLaughlin



One of my earliest memories was when I asked Charlie to open my Frube at break time. He put it on the ground and jumped on it!

My best experience was when our school football team beat Fourtowns 1:0 on their pitch. I didn't particularly enjoy revising for the transfer tests as it was very hard at times, but all the work has paid off.

I have made lots of friends at The Diamond and will remember the fun we had on school trips for a very long time. The Diamond has helped me to become a better person, to treat others with respect and I will always remember how great my time here has been.

ROSS MONTGOMERY

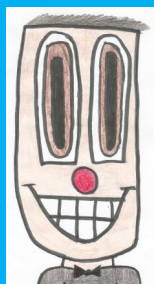


On my first day at school I didn't really know anyone except for Ethan and Charlie. As I got older I made some new friends too.

I have lots of brilliant memories from my time at the Diamond but my fondest was probably in P3 when Callum and I spent ages practising handstands on the grass. When I got into the P5/6 classroom we had Mrs McKibbin who I found out was Callum's mum and it was actually quite fun. Then it came to P7 and I had to study for the transfer test. I worked hard and did my best and got into the school I wanted to go to. Mrs Gillespie, my P7 teacher, helped me a lot during the transfer tests and I would like to thank her for that.

I will miss the Diamond Primary School.

JOSHUA STEWART



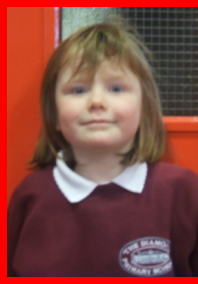
My earliest memory was standing in my Diamond Primary School uniform with my 'Cars' school bag and lunch bag while Daddy took a photo of me.

My fondest memory was of Carrickfergus Castle in P4. We got to stand on a glass platform covering a well that went down about 100 feet and was used in the middle ages.

I really, really enjoyed 'duvet day' in P7 when we had a pancake bar, Xbox and did arts and crafts with Mrs Gillespie.

At The Diamond, I have learned that you can do anything if you work hard enough!

BETHANY TURTLE



My fondest memories of The Diamond are of World Book Days, school plays, Egyptian day in P5 and VE day in P6.

I loved 'duvet day' in P7 because we got to do craft and play the X-Box and eat pancakes and chocolate! I really liked the school Christmas fairs and enjoyed walking around with my friends.

I am sad to be leaving The Diamond but I am glad that I got to meet all of my friends and my teachers. I will miss them a lot!

Class of 2015



Primaries 3 & 4 - School Trip - Belfast Zoo



The Eco-Schools Green Flag is ours !!!

Look at all the activities we have been involved in.

**Well
Done!**



Preparing healthy food



Foodbank donations



Planting a school garden



Feeding the birds



Providing nesting habitats



Eating healthy breaks



Education for a healthy mind



Exercise for a healthy body



Installation of a water butt



Cardboard recycling



We love reading your recycled books



Digging the pond for our garden



Recycled artwork to decorate outside



Building a bug hotel



Installing solar panels



Litter collection



Recycling our waste paper



New energy efficient equipment



Recycling our old clothes



Proper disposal of exhausted batteries



Collection of food waste in bio-bins



Making our own compost



Acknowledging eco-champs in school





P5-6 are all fired up!

by Mrs McKibbin and Mrs Stewart



We have had another busy but very exciting term in the P5/6 classroom. After the Easter holidays we began our new theme '**Botany and Bugs**'. We have really enjoyed finding out about animals which hibernate and also those who



migrate. We made our own minibeasts out of plasticine and had to guess what our friends had made. We have also learned about invertibrates and had to look for some examples in our gardens for homework - that was so much fun! Our theme linked very nicely into all the activities which have been happening with the Eco-work in our school where we planted



strawberries in our raised bed and helped the Eco-Committee in the many jobs which had to be done.





We had a visit from the Fire Brigade at the end of April. We had a very interesting fire safety talk and when we went outside were allowed to climb into the fire engine for a look around. Isaac even got to squirt the hose!



The highlight of this term for the P6 class was almost definitely our trip to Greenhill in May. We enjoyed orienteering, zip lining, laser tag, canoeing in Castlewella lake, archery and team activities on the low ropes course. We really enjoyed our BBQ on the last night and the singsong which was led by Mr Beattie on his guitar. We had busy fun-filled days, lots of football matches, late nights, good food and of course a cup of yummy hot chocolate to finish off each day! We even had dorm inspections and I'm not sure if any of us ever achieved Mr Beattie's high expectation... but we tried!!!



It's a matter of investigation for P6-7

by Mrs Gillespie



It's hard to believe that another school year is drawing to a close! Term 3 has been busy as usual but extremely enjoyable. There have been a number of highlights including our residential trip to Greenhill YMCA in Newcastle. We thoroughly enjoyed it and whole-heartedly threw ourselves into all of the activities on offer, including canoeing, laser tag, zip lining, the low ropes course, abseiling and the climbing wall. Our awesome adventure culminated in an epic BBQ on our final evening followed by a good old

sing song around the camp fire.

Our theme this term is 'Impact!' We have been learning all about our impact on the environment both locally and globally. Our ECO work in school has helped us to understand how we can make a positive contribution to the world around us. P6/7 have been working really hard to think of ways of increasing the biodiversity within our school grounds. On 18th May 2015, they launched our 'Polishing the Diamond'





project which facilitated the development of our conservation area. They worked hard to create a 5 star bug hotel and even dug their own pond.

This term we have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the work of the environmental artist Andy Goldsworthy, who collaborates with nature to build his creations. Inspired by his site-specific sculptures, we set about creating some of our own. Check out our transient art forms!

We will be very sorry to lose all of our P7 pupils at the end of June - what an amazing bunch of boys and girls! They have been very busy preparing their Records of Achievement and have been reflecting on their time at The Diamond. They have also enjoyed participating in the 'Love for Life' and 'It's your move' programmes, both of which are designed to help them prepare for transfer and the changes ahead. We wish them all the very best and hope that everyone settles well into their new schools in September.



SUMMER CONCERT

