



News Sheet – November 2009

1. Diary Dates – December 2009

2 nd December	Christmas Show for P1 – P7, 'Wizard William'
4 th December	Last Day of Swimming for Term 1 (P5 – P7)
7 th December	Christmas Post begins
7 th – 9 th December	Nursery 1 Parent/Teacher Meetings
8 th December	P7 'Victorian Christmas' at Armagh County Museum
10 th December	Christmas Dinner in Canteen
15 th December	Foundation/Key Stage 1 Christmas Panto 'Scrooge' at Market Place Theatre
	Choir and Recorder Group at Tesco, Portadown, 1.30 – 2.30pm
16 th December	Choir and Recorder Group visit Lisniskey Care Home at 10.30am and Rushmere Shopping Centre at 1.30 – 2.30pm
17 th December	Christmas Celebration in Assembly Hall at 10am - all pupils (Nursery to P7) taking part - followed by Refreshments (All parents/Friends welcome)
18 th December	Last Day of Term 1. School finishes at 12 noon. No uniform and no dinners.

2. Christmas Vacation

Ballyoran Primary School will close at midday on Friday 18th December 2009. The Spring Term begins on Wednesday 6th January 2010.

3. Parent/Teacher Meetings

A big thank you to all our parents who took the time to attend the Parent/Teacher Meeting at the end of October 2009. These are a vital part of our Partnership with parents. Remember, we have an '*Open Door Policy*' and you can speak to your child's teacher or the Principal at any time during the year. If you wish to do so this, please telephone or call at the Office to arrange a suitable time.

4. P6 European Food Day

Wednesday 26th October 2009 saw our Annual Primary 6 European Food Day in the Breakfast Club Room. This event was well attended by P6 parents who, along with the pupils, got to taste a variety of European foods. A great morning was had by all. Well done to all those involved.

5. In-Class PE Support

During the month of November we have been fortunate to have had Miss Emer McGrath, PE Advisor with the SELB, working with pupils and teachers during PE lessons on Wednesdays. This is part of our PE development in school and pupils and staff have found it very enjoyable and beneficial.

6. Ballyoran v Hart Memorial

The soccer team played Hart Memorial on Wednesday 4th November 2009 at Home in a League Match. The final score was 2 : 1 to Hart. Well done to our team who played so well.

7. P3 Road Safety Walk

Primary 3 pupils have been involved in a Road Safety Project over the past couple of months. The Project, organised by the DOE Road Safety Branch, culminated in a Road Safety Walk on Friday 6th November 2009 when pupils were taken out on a local walk by school staff, and Road Safety Officers, and taught how to cross the road safely.

8. P7 Maths Magic Roadshow

On Monday 9th November 2009, Primary 7 classes participated in an unforgettable learning experience as the pupils explored some fascinating mathematical puzzles through practical hands-on magic. The *mystery of magic* with the *magic of maths* had the pupils enthused, confused and mathematically challenged! This Workshop was sponsored by Northern Bank through Cahoots NI which is a professional children's Touring Theatre Company.

9. Prize Days at Secondary Schools

Mr Woolsey attended recent Prize Days at Drumcree College and Brown Integrated College and it has been great to see many former pupils of Ballyoran receiving Prizes and Awards at these events.

10. Diocesan Visit

Thursday 12th November 2009 saw the Annual Diocesan Visit. This year Sister Elizabeth visited the school, spending time with P4 and P7 pupils who are preparing for First Holy Communion and Confirmation. She was very impressed by what she saw and heard in the classes she visited.

11. Anti-Bullying Week

This Annual event took place from 16th – 20th November 2009. The theme was present in class activities, as well as Assemblies, during the week. Each pupil in P4 – P7 also signed an 'Anti-Bullying Pledge'.

12. Children in Need

A big thank you to all those who gave so generously towards our Non-Uniform Day for Children in Need on Friday 20th November 2009. The total amount raised was £395.40. If anyone has still money to send in for this, it is not too late. A special well done to the pupils who put so much effort into what they were wearing, particularly those who made outfits themselves.

13. P7 Commitment Ceremony

Sunday 22nd November 2009 saw the formal beginning of the P7 preparation for Confirmation. The Commitment Ceremony, held at 11.30am in St John's Church, was attended by P7 pupils who are making their Confirmation later next year. A reminder to all P7 parents that it is vital that pupils attend all the events in the lead up to Confirmation.

14. Road Safety Week

Monday 23rd – Friday 27th November 2009 was Road Safety Week. This was marked in school through class-based activities as part of PDMU. We encourage all our pupils to take care on the roads at all times, particularly during the darker evenings.

15. 'Scrooge'

Ten of our P5 pupils, along with Mrs Garvey, were fortunate to be picked to go on a free trip to the 'Scrooge' Christmas Panto in the Market Place Theatre in Armagh. This trip was part of our Extended Schools' Cluster and pupils were joined by children from Millington Primary School and St John's Primary School.

16. Nursery Christmas Outing to 'Old Mother Hubbard'

Pupils and staff from our Nursery went on a Christmas Outing on Friday 27th November 2009 to see 'Old Mother Hubbard'. This play, in Lurgan Town Hall, was greatly enjoyed by both children and staff.

17. Nutritional Awareness Course

Four of our Lunchtime Supervisory Assistants (Mrs Glavin, Mrs D Larkin, Mrs Cusack and Mrs L Larkin) recently completed Basic Nutritional Awareness Training at Drumcree College.

18. P7 Visit Stormont

On Friday 13th November 2009, Primary 7 thoroughly enjoyed visiting Parliament Buildings. The pupils learned about the history of Parliament Buildings and how history has helped shape the way in which Northern Ireland is now governed. The tour of the Great Hall, Senate, Assembly Chamber, the Office of the First Minister and the Office of the Deputy First Minister was fantastic.

19. School Uniform

Again a big thank you to parents and pupils for ensuring full school uniform is worn every day. There have been so many positive comments about our new uniform and how smart our pupils look. Please keep this up.

20. Ties

School Ties are available from the Office at a cost of £3. Please note no other uniform items are available in school.

21. Christmas Card Competition

Well done to everyone who entered this competition. This year's winners are as follows:-

CLASS	1 st Place	2 nd Place
LSC	Dylan Rodgers	Micheal McGrogan
P1 Mrs Mackle	Megan Stewart	Grace O'Connor
P2 Mrs Mulholland	David Tennyson	Calum Caulfield
P3 Mrs Brown/Miss Sweeney	Courtney Castles	Keelin Brennan
P3 Mrs O'Hanlon	Edvinas Smitas	Emma Larkin
P4 Mrs McGinnell	Cloda Girvan	Niamh Garland
P5 Mrs McCreesh-West	Zuzanna Baran	Joe Mackle
P6 Mrs Walker/Mrs Breen	Lara White	Jane Dunbar
P7 Mrs Heaney	Marcelo Rebelo	Chloe Henry
P7 Miss Daly	Patrycja Kasiak	Nikita McCann

Overall Winner for Ballyoran Primary School

Lara White, P6

Overall Winner for SELB

Zuzanna Baran, P5

22. Board of Governors' Parents' Representatives

The Parent Representative for the Board of Governors 2010 – 2014 are:
Mr K O'Connor and Mrs J Bak.

23. Board of Governors' Annual Report 2008/09

As you have already been informed, these are now available. If you require a copy, please return the reply slip.

24. Parents' Questionnaire

There have been many changes in school over this past year and as part of our Partnership with Parents, it is vital for us to get feedback from you on a regular basis. Please complete the Questionnaire which is being distributed and return it to school by **Friday 11th December 2009.**

25. Friday Assembly

Every Friday morning we have a Whole School Assembly. This Assembly is very much a celebration of pupils' achievements in school but also out of school. If your child has had a special achievement or done something special outside school, please encourage them to tell us about it in school. Many pupils have brought in Awards, Certificates, etc. to show in Assembly but we would like to see many more pupils doing this.

26. Class Contact

Mr Woolsey spends time in every class during the year as part of his Principal's Class contact. This gives him an opportunity to get to know pupils better and also to see the good work going on in classrooms. This term, to date, he has visited all classes from Nursery up to P7.

27. Coats

Now that the colder weather is upon us, all children should come to school with a warm coat. Children will be encouraged to wear their coats at break time and lunchtime. We would encourage parents to reinforce this message at home.

We would also ask parents to ensure that all coats are labelled with the child's name. Lost coats can be very difficult to identify without a label.

28. Reminder of Dates:

First Communion	Saturday 8 th May 2010
Confirmation	Saturday 29 th May 2010

29. Permission for Trips/Outings

It is essential that parental permission is received for all trips. Please return slips in good time as failure to do this may mean pupils are unable to go.

30. Breakfast Club

Please remember that Breakfast Club opens at 8.15am. Pupils should not be on school premises before this as there is no supervision.

31. Menu for December

Please see separate sheet

Menu for December

	30.11.09	07.12.09	14.12.09
Mon	Chicken Nuggets or Sweet and Sour Pork and Boiled Rice, Spaghetti, Sweetcorn, broccoli, Chips or Baked Potatoes Semolina and Fruit	Shepherd's Pie or Chicken and Broccoli Pasta Bake, Baton Carrots, Creamed Potato, Gravy Rice and Peaches	Steak Pie or Filled Wraps, Cabbage, Mixed Vegetables, Creamed Potato, Gravy Ice Cream Wafer
Tues	Spaghetti Bolognese and Crusty Bread or Stuffed Bacon Rolls, turnip, Peas, Creamed Potato, Gravy Rice and Fruit	Oven Baked Steak Burger or Cheese and Tomato Omelette, Carrots and Parsnips, Sweetcorn, Creamed Potato, Gravy Lemon Sponge and Custard	Homemade Tomato and Cheese Pizza or Cheese Omelette, Spaghetti, Green Beans, Cauliflower Cheese, Chips, Baked Potato, Tossed Salad Jelly and Fruit Salad
Wed	Savoury Mince, Broccoli, Mashed Potato, Crusty Bread or Ham and Cheese Omelette, Tossed Salad, Baked Potato Ice Cream Wafer	Homemade Vegetable Soup or Cream of Chicken Soup, Hot Dog, Sauce or Onions, Filled Rolls: Chicken, Tuna, Salad Frozen Yogurt or Fresh Fruit	Steak Burger, Peas, Carrots, Creamed Potato, Gravy, Sweet and Sour Pork and Boiled Rice, Crusty Bread Shortbread Biscuit and Fruit
Thur	Sausages, Carrots and Parsnips, Creamed Potato, Gravy Wholemeal Apple Crumble and Custard	Christmas Dinner: Roast Turkey and Stuffing, Chipolata Sausages, Roast and Mashed Potato, Baton Carrots, Brussel Sprouts, Garden Peas, Gravy Ice Cream Tub or Jelly	Cocktail Sausages, Beans, Chips Frozen Yogurt
Fri	Crumbed Fish or Lasagne, Beans, Tossed Salad, Beetroot, Coleslaw, Creamed Potato Jelly and Fruit Salad	Chicken Nuggets, Chips, Spaghetti Fruit Salad and Biscuit	No Dinners – School finishes at 12 noon

Milk, Fruit and Yogurt Available Daily

Menu Subject to Deliveries