



News Sheet – March 2012

Dates for April 2012

- 2nd Surestart Speech and Language Session in Nursery
- 3rd Dogs Trust Visit – Years 2 and 5
- 4th Last day of term – no uniform, no dinners
School finishes at 12 noon
- 18th Term 3 begins – **Nursery only**
Year 1 Admissions Acceptance Letters posted
- 23rd Term 3 begins – Years 1 – 7 and LSC
School Nurse Reviews
- 24th School Nurse Reviews
- 25th Pupil Council Meeting
- 26th Year 7 Cycling Proficiency Scheme begins
- 27th School Nurse Reviews
Brownlow College Soccer Festival
Swimming begins – Years 6 and 7
- 30th School closed – Staff Training

Easter Holidays

School finishes at 12 noon for all pupils on Wednesday 4th April 2012. There will be no dinners in school and pupils do not need to wear uniform on this day.

School re-opens for the Summer Term for **Nursery pupils only** on Wednesday 18th April 2012.

A reminder that three extra Exceptional Closures have been added on to the Easter holidays for pupils in Years 1 – 7 and the LSC. This is to facilitate the reorganisation and relocation of classes after the refurbishment. The Summer Term will begin for pupils in Years 1 – 7 and the LSC on **Monday 23rd April 2012**.

School Closure

A reminder that school will be closed for all pupils on Monday 30th April 2012. This is a School Development Day when staff will be involved in training.

Summer Uniform

Parents will be aware that girls may wear a blue checked dress with white socks and boys may wear grey shorts during the summer term. Given the warm spell of weather we have been enjoying this week, pupils may wear the summer uniform for the remainder of this term.

Entrance Tests

Year 7 pupils are now well into the Entrance Test season with pupils already having sat Tests for Brownlow College and Lismore Comprehensive.

Parent/Teacher Meeting Thanks

A big thank you to all those parents who attended our recent Parent/Teacher Meetings. These are a vital part of our partnership with parents. The uptake for meetings was a very pleasing 84.5% of parents.

World Book Day

On World Book Day the pupils from Ballyoran Primary School looked fantastic dressed as an array of book characters. Each class spent the day on activities which highlighted the joys of reading and how magical books can be. The Armagh Rhymers entertained the children with a wonderful blend of story telling, drama and music through the story of The Enormous Turnip. Thank you to all the parents for supporting World Book Day and helping the children to dress up. Your support is very much appreciated.

Special Lent Assembly

On Friday 2nd March 2012, Gemma McCourt, a past pupil now working for Trocaire, gave a very informative talk on the work being done by the organisation which tries to bring about positive and lasting change in some of the world's poorest places. She showed slides of a community in Uganda and talked to the children about how they might offer help and support.

Confirmation

On Sunday 4th March 2012, Year 7 children from Ballyoran Primary School joined with St John's and Presentation Primary Schools to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. Cardinal Sean Brady officiated at the ceremony. Ballyoran School Choir and Music Ensemble, under the direction of Mrs McCreesh-West, led the music.

Year 4 Prepare for First Holy Communion

Year 4 pupils took part in the Saturday evening Vigil Mass on Saturday 10th March 2012 in St John's Church. The Penance theme of the Year 4 Mass was preparation for their First Penance. Pupils read the Penitential Rite, Prayers of the Faithful and participated in the Offertory Procession.

Year 4 pupils made their First Confession on Wednesday evening 31st March 2012 in St John's Church.

Years 6 and 7 Cross Community Project

Years 6 and 7 have taken part in the Community Relations Equality and Diversity Programme with our partner school, Bocombra Primary, during the month of March. They enjoyed the opportunity to improve on their football skills, leading to a 5-a-Side football tournament where mixed teams from both schools, completed a 'round-robin' tournament. On both days they enjoyed a healthy break. The children thoroughly enjoyed their activities, making new friends and seeing old friends from last year.

Our programme of events has come to an end for this school year but we look forward to meeting up with our friends in Bocombra Primary School next year.

Jo Jingles Visit Nursery and LSC

Jo Jingles have made their second visit of the year to the school with Nursery and LSC pupils enjoying the creative music and dance activities.

Year 6 Take Up Young Enterprise Challenge

On Tuesday 20th March, 16 Year 6 pupils went to the Seagoe Hotel to participate in workshop activities organised by Young Enterprise and sponsored by Moy Park. The

children participated in various activities which included making a character from junk materials, which portrayed a healthy lifestyle. They also had to invent a new chicken product, devise a business plan for it and market and advertise it. The workshops emphasised the importance of a healthy lifestyle, encouraged teamwork and gave the children a basic understanding of how a business operates. The workshops concluded with photographs and lunch.

Year 6 Attend 'Bee Safe' Event

Year 6 attended the annual 'Bee Safe' event in Lurgan on Wednesday 21st March 2012. The event, organised by the PSNI, is always very much enjoyed. Various organisations talked to pupils about safety. Pupils particularly enjoyed the Fire and Rescue Service's demonstration of how to deal with a chip pan fire and the Ulsterbus Demonstration Bus which highlighted safety on buses.

Portadown Dancing Festival

On Tuesday 27th March 2012, a group from Years 5, 6 and 7 took part in the 74th Folk Dance Festival of Portadown Association. The competition was held in Craigavon Civic Centre to accommodate the large entries. The Adjudicator, Mrs Shauna Meek, praised all the dancers for their behaviour and performances. Ballyoran dancers succeeded in gaining four *recalls* in the solo classes and a *Highly Commended* in the Team Dance Class which meant all dancers returned home with a medal. Solo prize winners were; Niamh Garland and Ellie Murphy (Year 6) and Brooke McCann (Year 7). A big well done to all the team, especially those who were on stage for the first time!

Pupils take part in 'We've Got Talent' at Drumcree College

Madison Hall (Year 3) and Helena Santos (Year 5) have represented Ballyoran Primary School at the Annual 'We've got Talent' at Drumcree College. This took place in the College on Thursday 29th March 2012. The following day there was a special show for the Primary Schools which Year 4 and 5 attended.

Year 3 Gaelic Tournament

We were delighted to host a Gaelic Tournament today for Year 3 pupils. As well as our own school, there were pupils from Presentation, Portadown Integrated and St John the Baptist Primary Schools. We are extremely grateful to Paul Carvill and the Tir na nOg Club for their help in setting up this Tournament.

Year 6 Enjoy Young Enterprise Workshop

Year 6 pupils completed a Young Enterprise workshop entitled 'Our Nation' on Friday 30th March 2012. Pupils were guided in an understanding of how our nation works. They examined the roles of business, government and individuals and the different responsibilities of each in helping our nation to thrive. The activities included: exploring 'Our Nation', 'Andy's Apples and the Apple Juice Story', the Supply Chain and the skill set games: Business and Customers, Where do we shop? and Business Communication - Getting the Message Across. The workshop was delivered by Raymond McCrory, a business volunteer from Moy Park, Craigavon.

Competition Success for Hollie

Well done to Hollie O'Neill (Year 6) who won third place in the recent High Street Mall Mothers' Day Art competition. Hollie won a framed copy of her art work and £10 while the school received £50.

Extended Schools' Cluster Drama

Six pupils from Ballyoran Primary School will take part in a performance of 'High School Musical' at Drumcree College at a later date. Our pupils have been practising for this for many months along with pupils from other local schools. This project was part of our Extended Schools Cluster. Well done to the following pupils who were involved:

- Keelin Brennan (Yr 5)
- Helena Santos (Yr 5)
- Zuzanna Osinska (Yr 6)
- Naomh Mulholland (Yr 6)
- Aimee McGuckin (Yr 7)
- Filipa Santos (Yr 7)

PTA Easter Draw

A big thank you to everyone who supported the PTA Easter Draw. The draw was held in Assembly this morning, with the winner from each class receiving an Easter Egg. A full list of winners will be published in next month's New Sheet. The amount raised for PTA Fund was £186.50

New House System Launched

Ballyoran Primary School has recently launched a new House System. The Pupil Council were given the task of coming up with the House names and decided on Bann, Lagan and Foyle.

Pupils decided that river names were very appropriate given Portadown's situation on the River Bann.

A House Competition is now running and pupils are given points for their houses by staff for various reasons e.g. good behaviour or manners, a particularly good piece of work or representing the school on a team.

Points are displayed on a House Board in the Assembly Hall and each month a House Cup will be presented to the House with the most points. This cup was kindly donated to the school by Nigel O'Hara, Jewellers.

House Captains and Vice Captains were elected by senior pupils:

HOUSE	CAPTAIN	VICE CAPTAIN
Bann	Brooke McCann	Cloda Girvan
Lagan	Zuzanna Baran	Marina Duraes
Foyle	Joe Mackle	Niamh Garland

Voucher Collection

The school is currently collecting Sainsbury Active Kids Vouchers and Tesco for Schools and Clubs Vouchers. We would be delighted if you would support this by sending them in with your child/children. Collection boxes are at Reception.

Drumcree Parish Romanian Project

The school continues to support the building of a house in Romania for orphans. We have been asked to help raise funds through a recycling project. Please support this by sending in your old pens, highlighters, markers and tippex. A collection box is situated in the foyer.

Backpack Appeal for Africa

As you have already been informed, the school is supporting the Backpack Appeal. Each class is aiming to fill one backpack. Thank you to those parents/pupils who have supported this.

Drumcree College – Business as Usual

After a meeting with CCMS on Monday 12th March 2012, Drumcree College will be open in September for the continued education of pupils attending the school and those who are enrolling in the new academic year.

The Governors and Staff are looking forward to another successful year and thank everyone in the local community for their continued and valuable support.

Refurbishment

The school refurbishment is due for completion at the end of March. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire school community for your co-operation and patience over these past six months. There has been quite a bit of disruption to daily school life and your support has been much appreciated. I have no doubt whatsoever that when you see our newly refurbished school, you will appreciate that the disruption was worth it.

Please note the following changes that will come into effect after Easter:

- Years 1 and 2 classrooms will move to the Refurbished Foundation Stage Block
- Access to Nursery through new Nursery Entrance (beside Office)
- Break time will revert to 10.30 – 10.45am for all pupils
- Packed Lunches will move from the Assembly Hall to the Literacy Room
- The Literacy Room will move to the old Breakfast Club Room
- The Breakfast Club will remain in the Dinner Hall permanently
- The Homework Club will move to the Literacy Room
- Kids' Club will move to one of the new Foundation Stage Classrooms

Also Note:

- Access for Yrs 1 – 7 and LSC pupils will remain as coming through the main Entrance Door
- There will be no change to the Afternoon Arrangements

Policy on Lost Books

It is school policy that all school text books or reading books lost by pupils must be replaced by parents. Parents have a choice of two ways to do this:

1. Send in the money for a replacement book to school
2. Purchase the book themselves and send it into school

Diabetes

The Public Health Agency has recently produced materials to raise awareness of the symptoms of Type 1 diabetes to reduce incidences of Diabetic Ketoacidosis (DKA) in children aged 0 – 18 years at the time of diagnosis. The print materials (poster and postcard) highlight the symptoms of Type 1 diabetes and direct parents/carers to their GP immediately, if child experiences these symptoms, to check for diabetes.

We have been asked to display the poster and distribute the postcard which is enclosed with this News Sheet.

Wishing the entire school community a happy and relaxing Easter Break.

R Woolsey
Principal

Menu for April

	02.04.12	09.04.12	16.04.12	23.04.12	30.04.12
Mon	Sausages, Gravy, Carrots and Parsnips, Mashed Potatoes or Sweet and Sour Chicken with Boiled Rice and Crusty Bread Rice and Fruit	School Closed – Easter Holidays	School Closed – Easter Holidays	Homemade Cheese and Tomato Pizza or Lasagne, Peas or Salad and Coleslaw, Chips or Baked Potatoes Swiss Roll and Custard	Homemade Pepperoni and Cheese Pizza or Tuna Wraps, Garden Peas or Sweetcorn or Salad or Coleslaw, Chips or Baked Potatoes Rice Pudding and Peaches
Tues	Homemade Ham and Cheese Pizza or Tuna Wraps, Peas and Sweetcorn or Salad, Chips or Baked Potatoes Jelly and Fresh Fruit Salad	School Closed – Easter Holidays	School Closed – Easter Holidays	Oven Baked Steak Burger, Gravy, Cabbage or Turnip, Mashed Potatoes or Tuna Wraps, Salad and Baked Potato Rice Pudding and Two Fruits	Oven Baked Fish Fingers or Bacon and Cheese Taglitelle with Crusty Bread, Baked Beans or Salad, Mashed Potatoes Wholemeal Apple Crumble and Custard
Wed	No Dinners – School finishes at 12 noon	School Closed – Easter Holidays	Nursery Classes only at School Fish Fingers, Chips, Beans Biscuit and Fruit	Irish Stew with Carrots, Onions and Broccoli or Sweet and Sour chicken with Boiled Rice and Crusty Bread Pineapple Sponge and Custard	Savoury Mince or Sweet and Sour Pork with Boiled Rice, Peas or Broccoli, Mashed Potatoes Strawberry Jelly and Cornflour Sauce
Thurs	School Closed – Easter Holidays	School Closed – Easter Holidays	Nursery Classes only at School Shepherd's Pie, Mixed Vegetable, Creamed Potato, Gravy Jam and Coconut Sponge and Custard	Chicken Pie with Crumble Top, Gravy, Carrots and Parsnips or Broccoli, Mashed Potatoes Jelly and Fresh Fruit Salad	Baked Gammon with Pineapple and Gravy, Cabbage or Baton Carrots, Mashed Potatoes Vanilla Ice Cream and Chocolate Sauce
Fri	School Closed – Easter Holidays	School Closed – Easter Holidays	Nursery Classes only at School Irish Stew with Crusty Bread Ice Cream, Fruit and Wafer	Fresh Fish in Breadcrumbs or Chicken Pasta Bake, Baked Beans or Beetroot, Coleslaw and Salad, Mashed Potatoes Wholemeal Apple Crumble and custard	Homemade Vegetable or Cream of Chicken Soup Hot dog with Sauce or Filled Chicken or Salad or Cheese and Tomato Rolls Wholemeal Biscuit and Fresh Fruit or Fruit Jelly

Milk, Water, Bread, Fruit and Yogurt available daily

Menu subject to deliveries