



News Sheet – February 2012

Dates for March 2012

1 st	World Book Day (Pupils to come to school dressed as a book character) Confirmation practice – Yr 7 and Choir
4 th	Confirmation at 3.00pm in St John's Church
5 th – 8 th	Parent/Teacher Meetings (School finishes at 1.00pm each day for everyone)
10 th	Yr 4 Mass – 7.00pm – St John's Church
12 th	Yr 7 Brownlow Entrance Tests – 9.30am
16 th – 19 th	School Closed – St Patrick's Day Holiday
21 st	Yr 4 First Confession – 6.15pm – St John's Church
22 nd	Yr 7 Lismore Entrance Tests – 9.15am Yr 6 Cross Community Project with Bocombra Primary School
23 rd	Yr 6 Cross Community with Bocombra Primary School
w/b 26 th	Yr 4 and Yr 7 Assessment Unit Week
27 th	Yr 7 Cross Community Project with Bocombra Primary School
28 th	Yr 7 Cross Community Project with Bocombra Primary School Pupil Council Meeting
30 th	Nursery Acceptance Letters posted – Target Age Pupils Last day of Swimming for Yr 4 and Yr 5 Non-Uniform Day for Charity Extended Schools Cluster Drama Final Performance

World Book Day with the Armagh Rhymers

Now in its 15th year, World Book Day aims to encourage children to explore the pleasure of books and reading. We are all aware that good reading starts early and children who share books with others are more likely to develop language skills and advanced reading levels. At Ballyoran Primary School we take the opportunity to celebrate World Book Day by encouraging all children to dress up as their favourite book character. On the day there will be lots of activities in each class to highlight the joys of reading and how magical books can be. The Armagh Rhymers will entertain the children with their unique blend of music, drama, song and dance.

Confirmation

Our Yr 7 pupils will make their Confirmation in St John's Church at 3pm on Sunday 4th March 2012. We wish them every blessing for this major step in their lives. The entire school community are given a warm welcome to this special service.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

As you have already been notified, these will take place from Monday 5th to Thursday 8th March 2012. A reminder that school closes at 1pm each day for all pupils to facilitate these. There will be no After School Activities this week.

St Patrick's Day Holiday

A reminder that school will be closed on Friday 16th and Monday 19th March 2012.

Nursery Acceptance Letters

Letters will be sent out on 30th March 2012 to all the target age pupils who have received a place in the Nursery next year. Under age pupils will not receive letters until 1st June 2012.

Non Uniform Day

We have been asked to have a Non-Uniform Day on Friday 30th March 2012 in aid of the Neo-Natal Unit at Craigavon Area Hospital. We would ask each pupil to bring in £1 on the day for this very worthwhile cause.

Advance Notice – Exceptional Closures

Please note that the school will be closed for 3 extra days at the end of the Easter Holidays for Yrs 1 – 7 and LSC pupils only. Wednesday 18th, Thursday 19th and Friday 20th April will be Exceptional Closures to facilitate the relocation of classes as a result of the refurbishment. I apologise for the inconvenience that this may cause and ask for your continued co-operation. This will be the last Exceptional Closures necessitated by the refurbishment. School will reopen for Yr 1 – Yr 7 and LSC pupils on Monday 23rd April 2012. Please note that the Nursery will not be affected by this and will reopen on Wednesday 18th April 2012 after the Easter Break as planned.

Titanic Thinkers

Eighteen pupils from Year 5 have demonstrated their creative abilities by constructing model boats of the Titanic as part of their World Around Us topic. The model ships have been created using a range of material including household items, modroc, wood and metal. Precision was the key in many of the models as the children used what they learned in class to guide their architectural design, for example only three funnels were operational. Mrs Walker, World Around Us co-ordinator commended the hard work and determination of all Year 5 pupils who demonstrated passion and creativity throughout this task. The finished models now take pride of place in the foyer proudly showing off the artistic abilities of this class.

Intensive Support

We welcome Mrs Barkley back after her Maternity Leave. She will work on Tuesdays and Thursdays with Intensive Support Groups.

Yrs 3 and 4 Cross Community Project

Years 3 and 4 have taken part in the Community Relations, Equality and Diversity Programme with our partner school Bocombra Primary, during the month of February. Pupils from both schools enjoyed a fantastic puppet show of 'The Elves and the Shoemaker'.

Year 3 children took part in circle activities and made face masks using a range of various materials.

Year 4 children participated in circle activities and a workshop which involved the children creating character masks with a range of materials.

All the children thoroughly enjoyed the programme, making new friends and seeing old friends from last year.

Recent Sporting Fixtures

Soccer Match v King's Park – 2nd February 2012

We travelled to Lurgan to play King's Park in the Mullen Cup. Although we finished on the losing side, the team played with great spirit and determination.

Yrs 5 and 6 Gaelic – 3rd February 2012

Pupils took part in a Gaelic Tournament organised by Paul Carville from Tir na nOg. All pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

5-A-Side Tournament – 9th February 2012

Seven pupils were chosen to take part in the Jones' Shield 5-A-Side Tournament in Craigavon Senior High School. Although we did not qualify for the later stages, the team performed very well in all the matches and secured a draw against a very strong Millington team.

Soccer Match v Millington – 22nd February 2012

The League Game against Millington also resulted in defeat although there was a much improved performance from the whole team. The game featured a tremendous individual goal from our captain, Tiernan Byrne and a very strong debut match from Brian Duffy (Yr 5).

Credit Union Quiz

This took place in the Drumcree Pastoral Centre on Monday 6th February 2012. Well done to the following Yr 6 pupils who participated:

Niamh Garland

Wiktoria Kania

Zuzanna Osinska

Hollie O'Neill

Yr 7 Victorian Workshop

On Wednesday 8th February 2012, Yr 7 went to the Palace Stables in Armagh, for a Victorian Workshop entitled 'Boxes in the Attic'. They learned about life in the Victorian Age and even got to experience a real Victorian classroom, strict teacher included! A visit to the servants' tunnel was another highlight. All the pupils agreed that learning out of school is fun.

Yr 3 Young Enterprise

Yr 3 pupils have been taking part in the Young Enterprise Programme on the topic of 'Families'. At the end of the programme, the children will understand how individuals, families, communities and nations make decisions that affect their daily lives. This knowledge, together with the activities and experiences shared, should give pupils an informed view of the attitude and skills that are necessary to succeed in the world beyond the classroom.

Yr 6 Rugby Coaching

Pupils have recently begun a 5-week session of Tag Rugby with the help of Darren Pepper from Portadown Rugby Club. The pupils have enjoyed their first experience of Rugby and are looking forward to the rest of the programme.

Diocesan Visit – Sister Elizabeth

Sister Elizabeth, the Diocesan Advisor for Religious Education, visited Yr 4 and Y7 classes on Friday 24th February 2012. She spoke to the children about the importance of their Sacramental Preparation for First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Netball Match v St John's

On Friday 24th February the school Netball Team went to St John's Primary School to play friendly Netball matches. The girls really enjoyed the experience of playing against another team. They all got to take part in different matches and all played very well. We hope to be able to play with St. John's Netball Team again soon.

Ceremony of Light

As part of their preparation for Confirmation, Yr 7 pupils attended a Ceremony of Light in St John the Baptist Church on Sunday 26th February 2012. Children were given the opportunity to take their Confirmation Pledge.

Eco Committee Visit Dobbies

Dobbies Garden World, Lisburn kindly donated various gardening materials to our school Eco-Club. On Monday 27th February 2012, six members of the Eco-Club travelled to Dobbies to collect a range of gardening equipment and seeds. We were very grateful for this donation as it will help us improve our school's Eco Garden. As recipient of the 'Bronze' Eco-School's Award, the materials will help us with our projects to achieve the Silver Award.

PTA

The PTA have organised an Easter Draw. Each class has been given a 100 Square and we are asking pupils to bring in 50p to put their name on a square. Pupils may have as many goes as they wish. At the end of March there will be a draw and the winning number in each year group will receive an Easter Egg.

Refurbishment

The Nursery re-opened in its new accommodation on Thursday 23rd February 2012. Work is virtually complete in the Senior Block. The Foundation Stage Block will be completed and open after the Easter Holidays. Work has begun on the new Community Learning Centre. Keep up to date with our Refurbishment diary on our Website:

www.ballyoranps.com

Office Hours

A reminder that the Office will be closed daily from 1.00 – 1.30pm. this means that the telephone will not be answered and there will be no reception facilities during this time. If a pupil is to be removed during this time, it must be arranged in advance by writing a note to the teacher.

Punctuality

Thank you to the majority of parents who ensure their children are in school on time everyday. Unfortunately there has been a significant rise in the number of pupils arriving late in school over recent months. Not only does this have a negative impact on the education of the pupils who are late, it affects the other pupils in the class also by disrupting lessons. Please ensure that all pupils are in school when the first bell rings at 8.55am each morning.

First Aid Policy

The school has recently reviewed its First Aid Policy and it is important that you are aware of this. If your child is seen by a First Aider in school for any reason, you will receive written notification of this. You will only be contacted if the Designated First Aider is concerned about your child. A copy of this Policy is available on the school website.

Survey Results

Thank you to all the parents who responded to our recent survey on what Courses they would like to see in our new Community Learning Centre. The following is a list of your responses:

How to open own business	Understand children's behaviour	Learn English
Computer Course (All levels ECDL (European Computer Driving Licence)	Study class for all school subjects (Children, Teenagers, Parents	Healthy Eating/Cookery Class
Foreign Language Courses	Music Tuition	Book Club
Morning/Afternoon classes for young children/teenagers to socialise	Speech/Drama	Science Club
Quiz Games	Model Building Workshop	Arts and Crafts
Interview Techniques – how to apply for Jobs, write CV, fill in Application Forms, etc	Irish Class	Chess
Exercise/Gym Programmes (Keep Fit)	NVQ Courses	Photography
Childminding	Food Decorating	Sage Accounting
Mathematics	English	

If anyone has any other suggestions, please let us know.

New Governor

Mrs Jacqueline McKeown has been appointed as an SELB Representative on the Board of Governors.

Scarlet Fever

I have been informed that two pupils in the school currently have Scarlet Fever. I would ask parents to be vigilant for this. The advice from School Health is that children infected with this should remain off school for five days following the commencement of antibiotics.

Scarlet Fever is a bacterial illness that causes a distinctive pink-red rash. It is rare in the UK nowadays and is usually mild. The characteristic symptom of scarlet fever is a widespread, fine pink-red rash that feels like sandpaper to touch. It may start in one area but soon spreads to many parts of the body, such as the ears, neck and chest. The rash may be itchy.

Someone with Scarlet Fever will develop a flushed, red face – hence the name Scarlet Fever – although the skin around the mouth stays white. The tongue may look a bit like a strawberry. Other symptoms include swollen neck glands, especially if you generally feel unwell. Symptoms usually develop one to four days after a person is infected. Scarlet Fever is very contagious. It can be caught by breathing in bacteria in airborne droplets from an infected person's coughs and sneezes.

Sainsburys Active Kids Vouchers

We are again collecting these Vouchers. A collection box is in the school reception area.

Term Dates & School Holidays 2012/2013 Year

All dates are inclusive

Term 1

Term Dates

Monday 3rd September – Friday 21st December 2012

Holidays

- School Development Day (Staff Training): Friday 21st September 2012
- Half Term: Wednesday 31st October – Friday 2nd November 2012
- Christmas Holiday: Monday 24th December 2012 – Friday 4th January 2013

Term 2

Term Dates

Monday 7th January – Wednesday 27th March 2013

Holidays

- Half Term: Monday 18th – Tuesday 19th February 2013
- St. Patrick's Day Holiday: Monday 18th March 2013
- Easter Holiday: Thursday 28th March – Friday 5th April 2013

Term 3

Term Dates

Monday 8th April – Friday 28th June 2013

Holidays

- May Bank Holidays: Monday 6th and Monday 27th May 2013

School will finish at midday on the last day of each term.

Please note a further 4 School Development Days for Staff training have yet to be confirmed.

Note: Removing pupils during term time is not recommended; please try not to book holidays or other trips during the school term. Staff cannot prepare work in advance for children who are on holidays and very often these children miss vital work during their absence. The school is also required to inform the SELB when a child is removed from school for a holiday. This information is recorded and may be used by the SELB in appropriate situations, i.e. Special Educational Needs Assessments or Child Protection issues.

We hope this information is of use to you as you attempt to plan family holidays for the year ahead.

Menu for March 2012

	05.03.12	12.03.12	19.03.12	26.03.12
Mon	Homemade Pepperoni and Cheese Pizza or Tuna Wraps, Garden Peas or Sweetcorn or Salad or Coleslaw, Chips or Baked Potatoes Rice Pudding and Peaches	Oven Baked Sausages or Vegetable Pasta Bake, Gravy, Peas or Broccoli, Mashed Potatoes or Salad and Crusty Bread Wholemeal Biscuit, Fruit and Custard	St Patrick's Day Holiday – School Closed	Homemade Pepperoni and Cheese Pizza or Tuna Wraps, Peas and Sweetcorn or Salad and Coleslaw, Chips or Baked Potatoes Rice Pudding and Oranges
Tues	Oven Baked Fish Fingers or Bacon and Cheese Tagliatelle with Crusty Bread, Baked Beans or Salad, Mashed Potatoes Wholemeal Apple Crumble and Custard	Stuffed Bacon Rolls, Gravy, Mixed Vegetables, Mashed Potatoes or Spaghetti Bolognese, Salad and Crusty Bread Lemon Sponge and Custard	Oven Baked Fish Fingers or Lasagne, Baked Beans or Peas or Salad, Coleslaw and Beetroot, Chips Rice Pudding and Two Fruits	Oven Baked Steak Burger, Gravy, Cabbage or Turnip, Mashed Potatoes or Spaghetti Bolognese, Salad and Crusty Bread Strawberry Jelly and Cornflour Sauce
Wed	Savoury Mince or Sweet and Sour Pork with Boiled rice, Peas or Broccoli, Mashed Potatoes Strawberry Jelly and Cornflour Sauce	Fresh Fish in Breadcrumbs, Baked Beans and Mashed Potatoes or Chicken Wrap, Salad, Coleslaw and Baked Potato Ice Cream and Chocolate Sauce	Irish Stew with Carrots and Onions and Crusty Bread or Salmon Fillet, Garden Peas, Boiled Potatoes or Rice Orange Sponge and Custard	Pork Casserole with Carrots and Onions, Broccoli and Mashed Potatoes or Beef Curry and Rice with Crusty Bread Chocolate Cake and Pink Sauce
Thur	Baked Gammon with Pineapple and Gravy, Cabbage or Baton Carrots, Mashed Potatoes Vanilla Ice Cream and Chocolate Sauce	Roast Turkey, Stuffing and Gravy, Carrots and Parsnips or Sweetcorn, Mashed Potatoes Wholemeal Apple Crumble and Custard	Roast Pork with Apple Sauce and Gravy, Turnip or Peas, Mashed Potatoes Shortbread Biscuit, Fruit and Custard	Chicken Pie with Crumble Top, Gravy, Carrots and Parsnips or Cauliflower, Mashed Potatoes Wholemeal Apple Crumble and Custard
Fri	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	St Patrick's Day Holiday – School Closed	Homemade Vegetable or Cream of Chicken Soup Hot Dog with Sauce or Chicken or Salad or Cheese and Tomato Filled Rolls Strawberry Jelly and Fruit or Fresh Fruit	Fresh Fish in Breadcrumbs or Cheese, Ham and Tomato Omelette, Baked Beans or Beetroot, Coleslaw and Salad, Mashed Potatoes Ice Cream Wafer and Two Fruits

Milk, Water, Bread, Fruit and Yogurt available daily

Menu subject to deliveries