



News Sheet – November 2011

Diary Dates for December 2011

- 1st NSPCC Presentation Assembly
Santa's Little Helpers Workshop – selected Nursery Pupils (Hart Memorial Nursery)
- 2nd 'The Bluebird' Show by West Midland Theatre, Yr 1 – Yr 7 - 9.30am
- 5th Yr 4 – Y7 Christmas Panto: 'Jack and the Beanstalk' – Market Place Theatre
PTA Meeting – 8.00pm
- 6th Santa Visit (High Street Mall)
- 7th Canteen Christmas Dinner
- 8th Last Night of Homework and last day of Homework Club – Term 1
Extended Schools Cluster Drama Practices begin at Drumcree College – 6.30pm (selected Yr 5 – Yr 7 pupils)
- 9th Christmas Treat – South Ulster Community Band – Yr 1 – Yr 7 pupils, 11.00am
- 13th 10.30am – Choir and Instrumental Ensemble to Lisnisky Care Home
1.00 – 2.15pm – Choir and Instrumental Ensemble to Bank of Ireland, High Street, Portadown
- 14th Yr 1 – Yr 3 Christmas Trip to Lisburn Linen Centre
1.15 – 2.15pm Choir and Instrumental Ensemble to Tesco, Craigavon
- 15th 1.15 – 2.15pm – Choir and Instrumental Ensemble to Tesco, The Meadows
- 16th Christmas Celebration – 10.00am – Assembly Hall. All pupils (Nursery to Yr 7) will take part. Followed by Shortbread and Mince Pies in the Canteen. All welcome.
Last day of school uniform – Term 1
- 19th PTA Christmas Parties
- 21st Last day of Term – no dinners, school finishes at midday

Christmas Holidays

School will close at midday on Wednesday 21st December 2011 for the Christmas Holidays. It will re-open on Monday 9th January 2012. Breakfast Club will re-open on this date.

Santa Wishes

The school took part in High Street Mall's Christmas 'Make a Wish'. All pupils were asked to write one of their Christmas Wishes on a piece of paper and Santa will collect these on Tuesday 6th December 2011. He will be making some of these wishes come true.

'The Bluebird' Show – 2nd December 2011

A reminder that we are asking for a small contribution of £1 to help cover the cost of this show. The School will pay the rest. Please ensure this money is paid to your child's teacher.

Canteen Christmas Dinner

This will take place on Wednesday 7th December 2011. All pupils are welcome to take it, even pupils who normally take Packed Lunch.

Busy Christmas for Choir and Instrumental Ensemble

As you will see from the Diary Dates, it is a very busy Christmas for our musicians with four engagements outside school on top of our own Christmas Celebration. Parents, relatives and friends are encouraged to support them at Bank of Ireland, Tesco Craigavon and Tesco Meadows.

Christmas Post

This begins on Monday 5th December 2011. Pupils are encouraged to post Christmas Cards to their classmates in the red post box in the foyer. They are reminded to put the following information on the envelope:

Christian Name and Surname
Class, e.g. Yr 1
Teacher

Christmas Card Competition

Mrs Hilary Lynas (former teacher) once again judged our Annual Christmas Card Competition. Well done to everyone who entered and congratulations to the following winners and runners up:

	Winner	Runner Up
Yr 1	Alisha McConville	Sean Reynolds
Yr 2	Olivia Dunbar	Aodhan O'Connor
Yr 3	Grace O'Connor	Abhiram Reji
Yr 4	Reghan McKinstry	David Tennyson
Yr 5	Eddie Smitas	Mia McKee
Yr 6	Weronika Czerniak	Jakub Bozek
Yr 7	Zuzanna Baran	Zoe McGurgan
Nursery 1	Stanistaw Czerniak	Ellie Girvan
Nursery 2	Oliwia Rybak	Emilia Baran
LSC	Annie Hyde	Micheal Reynolds
Overall Winner	Weronika Czerniak	Zuzanna Baran

SELB Christmas Card Competition

Congratulations to Weronika Czerniak (Yr 6) who not only won our own School Christmas Card Competition but also won the SELB Christmas Card Competition. This is a major achievement for Weronika as entries came in from all the Primary Schools in the SELB area. She will attend a special presentation at SELB HQ in Armagh on Wednesday 14th December 2011.

Special Welcome to Christmas Celebration

Our Annual Christmas Celebration will take place in the Assembly Hall at 10.00am on Friday 16th December 2011. All pupils from Nursery to Year 7 will take part. The Celebration will be followed by Shortbread and Mince Pies. All parents, relatives and friends are welcome.

Eco-Committee

In October 2011, 16 children from Year 3 – 7 were voted onto an Eco Committee.

Year 3	Emma-Rose White-Trainor	Shay Kelly	Aidan Kelly
Year 4	Oliwia Osinska	Calum Caulfield	
Year 5	Catherine Hyde	Catherine Hendron	Emma Larkin
Year 6	Hollie O'Neill	Niamh Garland	Zuzanna Osinska
Year 7	Lauren White-Trainor	Joe Mackle	Maria Prentice
LSC	Annie Hyde	Micheal Reynolds	

The Eco-Committee meets every Thursday to discuss environmental issues for the school and the best way in which to take action. The Eco-Committee has been very fortunate to have received funding of £250 from Ulster Bank. Haldane Fisher has also offered to provide some materials to help the committee.

So far the Eco-Committee has planted some window boxes and has decided to give each class their own Bird Box and Feeder to look after. They are planning to create a Mini-Beast Hotel and a Wormery Café before Christmas, to enhance learning in the Curriculum. They also plan to create raised vegetable beds to grow vegetables that can be used in the School Canteen. The Eco-Committee hopes to have achieved the Bronze Award in Eco-Schools by the end of January 2012.

Poetry Competition Winners 2011 – Budding Poets

Two of our pupils have excelled in a Poetry competition and were rewarded at a Prize Giving evening on Wednesday 23rd November 2011 in Navan Fort Centre alongside family members and Miss Daly.

Wiktorja Kania from Year 6 was selected as the Overall Key Stage 2 winner out of all the participating schools in the competition. Her poem entitled 'Imaginary Play' won the hearts of the judging panel for its creativity and carefully chosen language.

Adam Millar from Year 5 was chosen as our School Winner. His poem 'Family Games' highlights the joys and memories of playing board games at home with siblings.

Maura Johnston, a professional poet on the judging panel commended the pupils from Ballyoran Primary School for their high standard of entries to this Poetry Competition. Well done to all Year 5 and Year 6 pupils.

Charity Thank You

A big thank you to everyone who supported our NSPCC Sponsored Workout. A grand total of **£1,000** was raised for this very worthwhile charity. Thank you to all our pupils who worked very hard on 15th November 2011.

Homework Club

Our Homework Club started on Monday 7th November 2011 and is open to all Yr 5 – Yr 7 pupils. There are still some places available and Consent Forms need to be completed in advance. Homework Club finishes on Thursday 8th December 2011 and restarts on Monday 9th January 2012.

Art Workshops

Portadown Millennium Court Arts Centre Artists provided an exciting craft afternoon for the LSC Class and Years 4, 6 and 7. The pupils made paper lanterns and decorated them so that they could be used in the procession for the turning on of the Christmas lights. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the creative session and have been able to take their lanterns home to use as Christmas decorations.

Anti-Bullying Week

Anti Bullying Week took place in school from 14th – 18th November 2011. There were special Assemblies on this topic and pupils did work related to this in class. A reminder that the Anti Bullying Policy can be accessed on the school website.

Fire Service Visit – Year 5

Year 5 enjoyed a visit from the Fire and Rescue Service where they learned about some of the fire hazards in our homes and the measures that we can take to prevent them.

Year 2 – Transport Topic

This term Year 2 have been learning about Transport. In November the PSNI brought their police car to school for the children to see and learn about the work of a police car. The class also had the opportunity to meet a local rally driver, sit inside the rally car, interview him about rallying and also talk to him about his job as a mechanic. The children thoroughly enjoyed both visits.

GAA Coaching

This term we have been receiving coaching in Gaelic Games from several different sources.

Kathy Crangle from the Ulster Council is currently working with Year 1 pupils and will be moving on to Year 2 after Christmas.

Paul Carville from Tir na nOg is working in 6-week blocks with different year groups. So far he has helped Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 and will continue throughout the year on a rolling basis.

Liam McCorry from the County Board is currently working with Yr 7 pupils.

Stephen McCann from Tir na nOg helps Mr Hendron with after school Gaelic practice. This takes place every Wednesday for boys and girls.

Young Enterprise – Year 2

Year 2 have been taking part in a Young Enterprise Programme. The programme takes place once a week and is led by Paula Devlin from the Bank of Ireland. In each session the children learn about the importance of working together, saving, earning and making personal choices. They have really enjoyed the programme so far and look forward to learning something new each week.

Alcohol and Drugs Workshops for Yr 6 and Yr 7

Year 6 and 7 are enjoying participating in a 5-week Personal Development and Mutual Understanding course run by Jeanie Graham from The Temperance Society. The course covers topical issues such as alcohol, smoking and drugs. It encourages the children to think about the issues, consider the facts before being faced with them in difficult situations and encourages them to value themselves.

Bible Art Competition

Congratulations to Aodhan O'Connor, Yr 2, whose entry into a recent Bible Art competition was *Highly Commended*. He attended a prize giving ceremony recently in St Mark's Church.

Year 7 Commitment Ceremony

As part of their Preparation for Confirmation, Year 7 children participated in a Commitment Ceremony in St John the Baptist Church on Sunday 20th November 2011. Children were presented with their Commitment Certificates.

Nursery Christmas Panto

Nursery children visited Lurgan Town Hall On Thursday 24th November 2011 and saw the pantomime '*Santa's Sooty Christmas*'.

First Soccer Match of the Season

Ballyoran had their first game of the season in a League match at home against Hart Memorial on Thursday 24th November 2011. This was a very young team featuring four of our Yr 5 pupils in the starting line-up. Playing against a very stiff breeze in the first half, we were very unlucky not to reach half-time level, conceding two late goals. As the four younger players tired in the second half, Hart Memorial won but Mr Hendron and Robert from '*Ambassadors in Sport*' were very proud of the team. Ballyoran's Man of the Match was the captain, Tiernan Byrne.

Mackey Opticians Visit Nursery

On Monday 27th November 2011 Michelle and Caroline from Mackey's Eye Care visited the Nursery. They encourage eye tests for all children of Nursery age.

Special Educational Needs Advice Information Service

The Special Educational Needs Advice and Information Service telephone service has been relocated and has a new telephone number 028 37415355. The aim of this service is to ensure that parents of pupils with special educational needs can access information and support to enable them to make informed decisions for their children. Most of the Advice and Information is available on a Regional website www.education-support.org.uk with local links to www.selb.org/specialeducation

New House System

Ballyoran Primary School has a new '*House System*'. The House Names, which were chosen by the Pupil Council, are:

- Bann
- Lagan
- Foyle

The Pupil Council decided that rivers were very appropriate as Portadown is on the River Bann. Every pupil in the school will be placed in a House and a Captain and Vice Captain will be elected. A House Competition will then run and points will be given out weekly, with a House Trophy given out every month in Assembly.

Gaelic After School Club

A reminder that this Club runs every week on Thursdays for both girls and boys.

Nut Free Reminder

A reminder that Ballyoran Primary School is now *Nut Free* as a number of our pupils suffer from severe nut allergies. We would ask all parents/pupils to respect this.

Board of Governors Report 2010/2011

This is now available to download on our website or a copy can be obtained by returning the reply slip which was distributed earlier this week.

Traffic Situation

Thank you to the majority of parents who respect our new yellow hazard lines. A small minority of parents are, however, still parking on these and we would appeal to you to refrain from this as it causes difficulty for other motorists.

Collection of Yr 1 – 3 Pupils

Thank you to the vast majority of parents who are co-operating with us in our new morning drop off and afternoon collection arrangements which have been necessitated due to the Refurbishment works. A small minority of parents are, however, calling the pupils they are collecting out before they have been released by the Teacher. We ask that parents do not do this as it is necessary for Child Protection reasons that the Teacher ensures that everyone of their pupils has left the school safely with the right person.

Refurbishment

Work is progressing very well both in the new Nursery and Foundation Stage Block and the Key Stage 2 toilets. It is likely that there will be further disruption to daily routines before Christmas but I will keep you informed of this as the information becomes available. You can keep up to date with progress on our website.

Community Learning Centre

Ballyoran Primary School has been successful in a Grant Application to the Department of Social Development for Funding for a new Community Learning Centre. This will be located in our current Nursery when it has been vacated and will comprise of a new state-of-the-art ICT Suite and Library. Work will be completed alongside the current refurbishment works and is due for completion at the end of March 2012.

Homework Policy

The school's Homework Policy has recently been reviewed and can be found on the school website in *About Us – Key Documents*.

Applications for September 2012 (see back page)

Nursery

Nursery Application Forms for September 2012 will be available from the Office from **Monday 5th December 2011**.

The closing date for return of applications is **Wednesday 11th January 2012** but we encourage you to return these before the school closes for Christmas. A Birth Certificate must accompany the application form. A reminder that those in receipt of Income Support and Jobseekers Allowance must have their form stamped and signed by the Jobs and Benefits Office.

Year 1

Information on Year 1 Applications will follow when the forms become available. The closing date for return of them to school is **Wednesday 18th January 2012**.

Menu for December

	05/12/11	12/12/11	19/12/11
Mon	Shepherds Pie and Gravy, Carrots or Sweetcorn, Mashed Potatoes or Chicken and Broccoli Bake with Salad and Crusty Bread Rice Pudding and Peaches	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 Pepperoni and Cheese Pizza or Salmon Fillet, Mixed Vegetables or Peas, Chips or Boiled Potatoes Strawberry Jelly and Ice Cream	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 Tagliatelle with Crusty Bread, Baked Beans or Salad, Mashed Potatoes Wholemeal Apple Crumble and Custard
Wed	Christmas Dinner – Roast Turkey and Stuffing, Chipolata Sausages, Roast and Mashed Potato, Baton Carrots, Brussel Sprouts, Garden Peas, Gravy Choc Ice or Fresh Fruit Salad	Irish Stew with Carrots, Onions and Broccoli or Sweet and Sour Chicken with Boiled Rice and Crusty Bread Pineapple Sponge and Custard	School closes at midday – No dinners
Thur	Oven Baked Fish Fingers or Lasagne, Baked Beans or Salad, Beetroot and Coleslaw or Baked Beans, Mashed Potatoes Ice Cream and Chocolate Sauce	Chicken Pie with Crumble top, Gravy, Carrots and Parsnips or Broccoli, Mashed Potatoes Jelly and Fresh Fruit Salad	
Fri	Homemade Vegetable or Cream or Chicken Soup Hot dog with Sauce or Filled Chicken or Salad Rolls or Tuna Wraps Biscuit and Fresh Fruit or Fruit Jelly	Fresh Fish in Breadcrumbs or Chicken Pasta Bake, Baked Beans or Beetroot, Coleslaw and Salad, Mashed Potatoes Wholemeal Apple Crumble and Custard	

Milk, Water, Bread, Fruit and Yogurt available daily

Menu subject to deliveries