



News Sheet – October 2011

Diary Dates for November 2011

31 st Oct	Half Term Holiday
1 st Nov	Half Term Holiday
4 th Nov	Yr 4 and Yr 5 Swimming begins
7 th Nov	Homework Club begins (Yr 5 – Yr 7)
14 th – 18 th Nov	Anti Bullying Week
14 th Nov	PTA Meeting – 7.30pm
18 th Nov	PTA Movie Night – 6.45pm
19 th	Yr 7 Commitment Ceremony – St John's Church at 7pm
30 th Nov	Pupil Council Meeting

Half Term Holiday

School will be closed on Monday 31st October and Tuesday 1st November 2011 for Half Term. School reopens on Wednesday 2nd November 2011.

Refurbishment

A big thank you to the entire school community for your patience and co-operation during recent weeks as we have prepared for work to start on our refurbishment. Staff worked very hard on 17th and 18th October 2011 to relocate Years 1 – 4 and the LSC. These pupils have now settled into their new classrooms. Thank you to parents for your patience and co-operation in relation to the changes in the morning drop off and afternoon pick up arrangements. You will be able to follow the progress of the refurbishment by clicking on 'Refurbishment' on the Home Page of our school website, www.ballyoranps.com. Plans will also shortly be displayed in school for everyone to see.

Minister's Visit – A Great Success

You will be aware that the Minister for Education, Mr John O'Dowd, MLA visited the school on Thursday 13th October 2011. This visit was a great success. The Minister was welcomed to the school by Brooke McCann, Chairperson of the Pupil Council. He then met Mr Woolsey, Miss Daly, Mr Murphy (SELB Chief Executive), Mr Fleming (Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors) and Father O'Dwyer. Mr O'Dowd then attended a special assembly where he was treated to music, including a harp and violin duet. He spoke to the pupils and was presented with a marble clock to mark his visit by Keelin Brennan and Brooke McCann. The Minister then had coffee with the staff, followed by a meeting with the Principal. He finished off his hour long visit by meeting pupils and staff in the Nursery. The Department of Education issued the following Press Release on the visit:

During his visit the Minister met with pupils, teachers, school staff, representatives from the Board of Governors and the school chaplain Fr Michael O'Dwyer. He had the opportunity to hear about the educational experience being provided as well as the range of clubs and extra-curricular activities run by the school to further support and develop the children.

He said: "It has been a pleasure to visit Ballyoran Primary School today. I was very impressed by the dedication of the staff and the enthusiasm of the children. In particular I was interested to hear about the school's Pupil Council which provides the children with a platform to put forward ideas and bring about positive changes in their school. Many good ideas have been brought forward and implemented such as more activities in the playground at lunchtime, more after schools clubs and a new school website.

"It says a lot about the management of the school that they are prepared to engage with their pupils and listen to their views. But more importantly, it speaks volumes about the children involved that they are keen to make a difference."

The Minister continued: "As well as learning through the core curriculum, the children and young people at the school are involved in a number of other activities. These include a range of services offered through the Extended Schools Programme which has been funded by my Department.

"These schemes include a breakfast club which has been put in place to help encourage healthy eating, a homework club aimed at improving numeracy and literacy by providing ICT facilities and a supportive environment in which pupils can complete their homework, and a reading partnership where classroom assistants work with pupils to improve their reading.

"Ballyoran Primary School also places emphasis on the important role of sport in a child's development. The school participates in the GAA strand of my Department's Primary Sports Programme. This is a great way of encouraging children to embrace physical exercise and I hope the pupils here are enjoying being part of this great programme."

In conclusion the Minister said: "I have enjoyed my visit to Ballyoran Primary School today and I thank everyone involved for their welcome. I would also like to commend the Board of Governors, Principal, teachers and all the staff for their continuing hard work."

Check out our website for photographs of the visit.

InCAS

Years 4 – 7 have now completed their InCAS Tests. Parents of pupils in these year groups were given results for the Reading and General Maths Tests at the Parent/Teacher Meetings this week.

Book Fair

Our Annual Book Fair took place from Monday 3rd to Friday 7th October 2011 and proved a huge hit with our pupils from Nursery to Year 7. Sales were excellent, reaching a total of £847.49. This will enable us to buy extra books for school. Year 7 and LSC pupils worked in the Book Fair and did a great job – well done to them! A big thank you to parents and pupils who supported us by coming to the Book Fair.

National Poetry Day

On Thursday 6th October, children from Years 5 and 6 attended a Poetry Workshop at the Navan Centre. The Workshop offered the children an opportunity to work with professional poet, Maura Johnston. Maura shared her knowledge, enthusiasm and expertise and helped the children to think and write poems like poets.

The theme of the day was "Games" which gave the children an opportunity to plan a poem from their own experience. Children also witnessed how games have changed throughout the ages and were introduced to a 'Victorian Traveller' and a 'Celtic Resident of Ireland'.

Year 7 Stormont Trip

Year 7 had a very enjoyable and educational visit to Stormont, home of the Northern Ireland Assembly, on 7th October 2011. We discovered what the Assembly does, who works there and how it affects us. We even got to sit in the Chambers that we often see on television.

We discovered that we can have our say by organising or signing petitions, joining Pressure Groups, contacting our MLA or writing to a newspaper. A Youth Committee is also to be formed in the near future and Brooke and Zuzanna were very interested in this.

We now know that we *can* get involved if we feel strongly about an issue and we're really looking forward to the new website – www.education.niassembly.gov.uk which is to go live on 25th October 2011.

Year 4 Enrolment Ceremony

Children from Year 4 participated in an Enrolment Ceremony on Sunday 9th October 2011 in St John the Baptist Church to mark the beginning of their Preparation for First Penance and First Holy Communion.

Year 1 and Year 2 Trip to Palace Stables

On Friday 21st October 2011, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils visited the Palace Stables in Armagh where they participated in a range of activities to celebrate 'National Apple Week'. A most enjoyable day was had by all.

Year 5 Road Safety Walk

Year 5 have been involved in the Child Pedestrian Safety Training Scheme which involved close co-operation between the DOE Road Safety Education Office in Armagh and Ballyoran Primary to combine a practical training element with classroom instruction. On Tuesday 25th October 2011, Year 5 pupils undertook a walk on roads in the general area of the school where the associated road safety problems were encountered, negotiated and discussed.

The walk encompassed such issues as the Green Cross Code and Traffic Calming measures. The pupils were accompanied by DOE Road Safety Education Officers and school staff who ensured the children's safety along the route.

This is the final year of this Programme and we are one of only fifteen schools in the SELB area selected to take part. Children have gained an increase in knowledge and skills concerning Road Safety through this Programme and any measure which has a chance of reducing child casualties on our road is surely to be commended.

Photographs

You received the proofs of the school photographs taken by Opus earlier this month. If you wish to purchase these, please ensure the plastic envelopes with Order Form and money are returned by **Friday 4th November 2011**.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

A big thank you to all our parents who took the time to attend the Parent/Teacher Meetings. 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 an appointment.

PTA Movie Night

As you have previously been informed, the PTA Movie Night was postponed as it clashed with the Craigavon Borough Council fireworks display on Thursday 27th October 2011.

This has now been rescheduled for Friday 18th November 2011 at 6.45pm in the Assembly Hall. Tickets are now available from the Office costing £1. If you previously bought a ticket for the original date, this will be valid for the new date. A reminder that it is for Ballyoran Primary School Year 1 to Year 7 pupils only and Year 1 – Year 3 pupils must be accompanied by an adult.

PTA Meetings

The PTA Meetings on 24th October and 8th November 2011 have been postponed. The next PTA Meeting will take place on Monday 14th November 2011 at 7.30pm in school.

Gaelic Blitz Postponed

The Gaelic Blitz planned for Thursday 20th October 2011 had to be cancelled due to a water-logged pitch. This will be rescheduled for later in the year.

Traffic Situation Outside School

Traffic continues to be a problem outside school, particularly in the mornings. Parents are asked to exercise caution when dropping off/picking up pupils to ensure the safety of our school community. We also ask parents to show respect for other road users. The Roads Service will shortly be painting hazard lines at the front of the school and we ask everyone to respect these.

Car Park Reminder

A reminder that parents are not permitted to enter the front car park to drop off or pick up pupils, either in a vehicle or on foot. This is for Health and Safety reasons. A big thank you to the vast majority of our school community who respect this.

Extra Curricular Activities

Our Programme of Extra Curricular Activities is well underway for Term 1. The following Clubs are on offer:

Club	Day	Class
Kids' Club	Tuesday	Yr 2
Choir	Tuesday	Yr 5 – Yr 7
Soccer	Wednesday	Yr 5 – Yr 7
French	Wednesday	Yr 4 – Yr 5
Irish Dancing	Wednesday	Yr 5 – Yr 7
Kids' Club	Thursday	Yr 3
Cookery	Thursday	Yr 4
Gaelic	Thursday	Yr 5 – Yr 7
Eco Club	Thursday	Yr 3 – Yr 7 Eco Committee
Netball	Friday	Yr 6 - Yr 7

A list of dates for each Club is available on the School Website by clicking on Clubs or on the Parents' Noticeboard in the foyer.

Please Note: From 1st November 2011 all pupils attending a Sporting Extra Curricular Activity must change into appropriate sporting gear to do this, e.g. a tracksuit. This decision has been taken for Health and Safety reasons and will be strictly enforced.

Charity

On Friday 28th October 2011, Mrs Joan Withers from the NSPCC will launch this term's Charity Fundraising Project. Every class will participate in a sponsored Hip-Hop and physical activities to raise money for the work of the NSPCC. Thank you in advance for supporting this charity.

A reminder that the school continues to participate in the St John's Parish Copper Appeal for Romanian orphans. Please continue to send in coppers for this.

Film Club

Millennium Court Arts Centre is running a Kids Film Club from October 2011 through until March 2012. This will be taking place every Saturday at 10.30am at the Arts Centre. A copy of the Film Programme for the upcoming months ahead is displayed on the Parents' Noticeboard in the foyer. If you have any queries regarding any of the events at the Arts Centre, please do not hesitate to get in touch with them.

Fireworks Safety Warning from PSNI

The PSNI were in school on Monday 10th October 2011 giving their annual talk to pupils on Firework Safety. They have asked us to distribute safety information which has been included with this News Sheet.

Menu for November

See back page

Menu for November 2011

	31.10.11	07.11.11	14.11.11	21.11.11	28.11.11
Mon	School Closed Half Term Holiday	Shepherds Pie or Chicken and Vegetable Pasta Bake, Gravy, Sweetcorn, Mashed Potatoes or Salad and Crusty Bread Swiss Roll and Custard	Homemade Pepperoni and Cheese Pizza or Tuna Wraps, Peas and Sweetcorn or Salad and Coleslaw, Chips or Baked Potatoes Rice Pudding and Oranges	Steak Pie with Potato Top, Gravy, Carrots and Parsnips, Mashed Potatoes or Sweet and Sour Chicken with Boiled rice and Crusty Bread Wholemeal Biscuit, Fruit and Custard	Stuffed Bacon Rolls, Gravy, turnip or Peas, Mashed Potatoes or Spaghetti Bolognese with Salad and Crusty Bread Ice Cream Wafer and Fruit
Tues	School Closed Half Term Holiday	Oven Baked Fish Fingers or Lasagne, Baked Beans or Peas or Salad, Coleslaw and Beetroot, Baked or Mashed Potatoes 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	Homemade Ham and Cheese Pizza or Tuna Wraps, Peas and Sweetcorn or Salad, Chips or Baked Potatoes Jelly and Fresh Fruit Salad	Oven Baked Sausages, Gravy, Carrots or Sweetcorn, Mashed Potatoes or Chicken Curry and Boiled rice with Crusty Bread Rice Pudding and Oranges
Wed	Sausages, Chips, Peas and Gravy or Vegetable Pasta Bake Rice Pudding and Fruit	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	Fresh Fish in Breadcrumbs or Bacon and Cheese Tagliatelle, Salad, Beetroot and Coleslaw or Baked Beans, Mashed Potatoes Ice Cream and Chocolate Sauce	Savoury Mince with Carrots and Onions, Broccoli, Mashed Potatoes or Ham and Cheese Omelette, Salad and Baked Potato Strawberry Cake and White Sauce
Thur	Roast Turkey, Stuffing and Gravy, Carrots and Parsnips or Sweetcorn, Mashed Potatoes Chocolate Cake and Pink Sauce	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	Baked Gammon with Pineapple and Parsley Sauce or Gravy, Cabbage or Turnip, Mashed Potatoes Rice Pudding and Peaches	Roast Turkey, Stuffing and Gravy, Carrots and Parsnips, Mashed Potatoes Wholemeal Apple Crumble and Custard
Fri	Chicken Curry and Boiled Rice with Crusty Bread or Fresh Fish in Breadcrumbs, Baked Beans or Beetroot, Salad and Coleslaw, Mashed Potatoes Strawberry Jelly and Fresh Fruit Salad	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	Homemade Vegetable or Cream of Chicken Soup Hot Dog with Sauce or Filled Chicken or Salad or Cheese and Tomato Rolls Homemade Biscuits and Fresh Fruit or Frozen Yogurt	Fresh Fish in Breadcrumbs or Lasagne, Baked Beans or Beetroot, Salad and Coleslaw, Mashed Potatoes Orange Jelly and Fresh Fruit Salad

Milk, Water, Bread, Fruit and Yogurt available daily

Menu subject to deliveries