



News Sheet – January 2013

Happy New Year

A very happy New Year to the entire school community. I trust that you all enjoyed a peaceful and relaxing Christmas. On behalf of all the school staff, I would like to thank pupils and parents for their Christmas Cards and very generous Christmas gifts. These were much appreciated.

Diary Dates for February 2013

1 st	Credit Union Quiz
2 nd	Common Entrance Assessment Results out
5 th	Internet Safety Day Yr 7 Video Conference with author Marita Conlon-McKenna Yr 6 Alcohol and Drugs Workshop – Session 4
6 th	Yr 2 Young Enterprise Workshop
7 th	Diocesan RE Visit – Yrs 4 and 7 Yr 7 Alcohol and Drugs Workshop – Session 4 Yr 2 CRED
8 th	Yrs 6 and 7 Swimming ends for Term 2
9 th	Yr 7 Mass – St John's Church at 7.00pm
12 th	Yr 4 CRED Yr 6 Alcohol and Drugs Workshop – Session 5 Yr 7 Ceremony of Light – St John's Church at 7.00pm
13 th	Yr 1 CRED PSNI Internet Safety Talk: Yrs 5 – 7
14 th	Yr 7 Alcohol and Drugs Workshop – Session 5
18 th – 20 th	School Closed – Half Term
21 st	Yr 7 Confirmation Practice in St John's Church
22 nd	Jo Jingles in Nursery Yr 4 and 5 Swimming begins for Term 2
26 th	Yr 7 Confirmation Practice – St John's Church
27 th	Pupil Council Meeting
28 th	Healthy Living Day – No uniform Yr 7 Confirmation Practice – St John's Church

Congratulations

Congratulations to Mrs McGuire (formerly Miss Daly) who was married during the Christmas holidays.

Half Term Holiday

School will be closed for pupils for the Half Term Holiday on Monday 18th, Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th February 2013. Wednesday 20th February 2013 will be a Staff Training Day.

Confirmation

A reminder that Confirmation takes place on Saturday 2nd March 2013 at 3.00pm in St John's Church.

Parent/Teacher Meetings – Advance Notice

These will take place on the week beginning Monday 4th March 2013. School will close each day from Tuesday to Friday at 1.00pm to facilitate these. More information in due course.

Transfer to Post Primary School

January is a very important month for our Yr 7 pupils as they decide which school they will transfer to in September. As usual, many of the Post Primary Schools have visited us to give presentations to our Yr 7 pupils. Our Yr 7 pupils have also been busy attending Open Days/Nights. We wish our Yr7 pupils well with this very important decision.

Coats

Well done to both pupils and parents for ensuring that all our pupils have a coat with them every day in school. I would ask that this continues until the end of the Winter.

PTA News

Winter Draw

Thank you to all who supported this event by selling/buying tickets. Please ensure all ticket money and any unsold tickets are returned to school as soon as possible.

Easter Squares

As last year, the PTA will run its Easter Squares Draw in early March. Pupils will be asked to buy a square at 50p each. These will then be cut up and drawn out of a hat for each class. The winner in each class will receive an Easter Egg.

Movie Night

The PTA will run another Movie Night on Tuesday 26th March 2013 in the Assembly Hall. The event will start at 6.45pm and will cost £1.00. This is open to Primary pupils only. Pupils in Years 1 and 2 must be accompanied by an adult. Pupils may bring other primary age pupils with them who do not attend Ballyoran Primary School. There will also be a Tuck Shop on the night.

Eco Club

The Eco Club have now completed their first project this year. The first chosen topic was 'Energy' and the school worked very hard to reduce the amount of energy we use each day. We are now a lot more aware of the importance of saving energy in our school and at home.

Our new topic is 'Healthy Living'. As a school we aim to become healthier by thinking about what we eat and how much physical activity we do each day. We are going to hold a 'Healthy Living Day' on 28th February 2013 to promote this as a school.

Year 4 Gaelic Tournament

Over one hundred Year 4 pupils from Ballyoran, St. John's, Portadown Integrated and Presentation Primary Schools participated in a Gaelic Tournament at St. John's Primary School on Friday 11th January 2013. Pupils competed against each other in what was a truly fun-filled experience.

Four of our Year 4 pupils were judged worthy of obtaining medals for effort and endeavour. They were Katie Hatton, Natasha Berry, Vitor Guerra and Shane Caulfield.

We would like to thank Paul Carvill for organising the event and for training our Year 4 pupils.

Yrs 6 and 7 Alcohol and Drugs Workshops

Years 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.

Year 1 Trip to Asda

Year 1 had turned their role play area into 'Asda' and as a result were recently invited to go down to Asda. The classes were given a tour of the store and talked to staff members from the Butchers, Bakery and Fish Mongers. The children enjoyed watching pancakes being made and then sampling them back at school! All the children had the opportunity to operate the checkout, which was a big highlight.

Year 2 Young Enterprise

Year 2 have been taking part in a Young Enterprise Programme. Each week they have been learning about different jobs in the community and how different people help us. They have really enjoyed the programme so far.

Five-A Side Soccer Tournament

On Friday 25th January 2013 the 5-a-Side Soccer Team took part in a Tournament at the Football Warehouse in Portadown. The team competed to the best of their ability and their behaviour was excellent. Team Captain was Cain Hendron and Player of the Tournament for Ballyoran was Peter Brown-Lavery.

Horticultural Course in Community Room

A free Level 2 Horticulture Training Course commenced in the Community Room at Ballyoran Primary School on Tuesday 22nd January 2013. It will run for 15 weeks from 9.00am to 2.00pm and those attending will get expert advice on their garden or allotment. To take part in this Course applicants must have a postcode that is within the Craigavon Neighbourhood Renewal Areas and be in receipt of benefits/or if working have household income less than £21,600. If you require further information, please contact Orla Corrigan the Course Tutor on 0792 161 7263.

Home Safety Puppet Show

Years 1 and 2 enjoyed the Alex and Connie Home Safety Puppet Show which was performed by the Beam Creative Network Theatre Group. The Puppets were used to convey important messages on home safety to young children in an entertaining and memorable way.

Breakfast Club

The Breakfast Club is now open to all pupils from Nursery to Year 7 every morning in the Dinner Hall from 8.15am. The cost has been reduced to 50p and new pupils are always welcome.

Punctuality

Thank you to the vast majority of parents who get their pupils into school everyday on time. There are, however, a significant number of pupils who are late on a regular basis. When pupils are late this disrupts the education of the whole class. A reminder that the first bell rings at 8.55am and pupils should be in school for this.

Menu for February 2013

(See back page)

