



News Sheet – November 2012

Diary Dates for December

- 3rd Christmas Post begins
- 4th Yrs 4 – 7 Pantomime – Sleeping Beauty, Market Place Theatre
Ambulance Service visit Yr 2
- 5th Open Afternoon and Christmas Fair 1.00 – 4.00pm
- 6th Bryson House Energy Talk – Yrs 5 – 7
Santa's Little Helpers Workshop – Hart Memorial Nursery – selected
Nursery pupils
- 7th Yrs 1 – 3 Trip to Lisburn Linen Centre
- 10th Choir and Musical Ensemble to Lisnisky Care Home, 11.00am – 12
noon
- 12th Christmas Treat – South Ulster Community Band
Canteen Christmas Dinner
Choir and Musical Ensemble to Asda, 1.30 – 2.30pm
- 13th Choir and Musical Ensemble to Tesco, Meadows, 10.30 – 11.30am
Choir and Musical Ensemble to Tesco, Craigavon, 1.30 – 2.30pm
Term 1 Swimming finishes for Yrs 4 – 5
- 18th Christmas Celebration, 10.00am. All welcome
- 19th PTA Christmas Parties
- 20th Eco Committee 'Switch Off' Day
- 21st Last day of term: no uniform, no dinners. School finishes at 12 noon

Christmas Holidays

School will close at midday on Friday 21st December 2012 and re-open on Monday 7th January 2013.

Open Afternoon and PTA Christmas Fair

This will take place on Wednesday 5th December 2012 from 1.00 – 4.00pm. Everyone is welcome to come and see our newly refurbished school in action and view our new Community Learning Centre. The Nursery will close at **12 noon sharp** on this day to allow staff to prepare for the Open Afternoon.

As well as the Open Afternoon, the PTA are running a Christmas Fair in the Assembly Hall. This will include Craft Stalls, Face Painting, Nail Art, Balloon Modelling, Tuck Shop, Chocolate Fountain, Tombola, Guess the Name of the Doll, Tea/Coffee, Raffle and much more. Entrance is £1 for adults. Children are free.

If anyone is able to help out at this Christmas Fair, please contact the Office.

PTA Christmas Draw

Parents and pupils are asked to support this event, costing £1 per ticket. The winner will receive a 12 inch bicycle or a similar value of toys from Judges' shop. The draw will take place at the Christmas Fair on 5th December 2012.

Christmas Celebration

This is an annual event and will take place in the Assembly Hall on Tuesday 18th December 2012 at 10.00am. All pupils from Nursery to Year 7 will take part and it will be followed by refreshment in the Dinner Hall.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

Thank you to all the parents who attended the Parent/Teacher Meeting in October. The overall uptake was 88% which is very pleasing indeed. The following is a breakdown of attendance for each class.

Class	Attendance
N1	92%
N2	46%
Yr 1M	94%
Yr 1B	86%
Yr 2	89%
Yr 3	100%
Yr 4	95%
Yr 5	100%
Yr 6	90%
Yr 7	100%
LSC	83%

Discipline Policy Consultation

This Consultation has now closed and the revised Policy has been adopted by the Board of Governors. The Policy is available on the school website.

School Milk

Thank you to all the parents who responded to the Consultation on School Milk for Years 3 – 7. The response was very encouraging and, as a result of this, we will be trialling a new Milk Scheme beginning in January. A note will be sent out after Christmas.

Department of Education Advertising Campaign

You may have noticed posters around the school advertising the new Department of Education Campaign to *'encourage parents to take a more active role in their children's education'*. Parents can get more information on this by logging on to www.nidirect.gov.uk/education-works.

Advance Notice - Confirmation

Confirmation will take place on Saturday 2nd March 2013 at 3pm in St John's Church.

Admissions Paperwork

The Admissions paperwork for Nursery and Year 1 applications for September 2013 will shortly be released by the SELB. We will inform you when this happens.

Homework

Homework Club finishes for Term 1 on Thursday 29th November 2012. It will resume again after Christmas. Pupils will not receive homework after Thursday 6th December 2012.

After School Clubs

Please note that there will be no After School Clubs on the last week of this term, 17th – 21st December 2012.

Coats

As the weather has been turning colder in recent weeks, we have been advising pupils to bring a warm coat to school. From Monday 3rd December 2012, any pupils who do not bring a coat to school will have to remain inside at break and lunch time.

Year 2 Visit Fire Station

Year 2 are currently learning about the Emergency Services. On Tuesday 6th November 2012 they visited Portadown Fire Station. The children were able to learn about fire safety and the job of a Fire-Fighter. They also had great fun sitting in the fire engine and trying on different parts of the uniform. They really enjoyed their visit.

PSNI Visit to Year 2

Following on from our visit to the Fire Station we then had a visit from the PSNI. The Police Officers were able to tell the children about their important job and also teach them about Stranger Danger and Road Safety. The children also enjoyed looking at the Police car. They have been very enthusiastic about this topic and have decided they all want to be Firefighters, Police Officers or Paramedics so Portadown is in safe hands!

Year 3 Gaelic Tournament

On Friday 9th November 2012, pupils from Year 3 took part in a Gaelic Tournament, organised by Paul Carville from Tir na nOg, at St John the Baptist Primary School. They joined pupils from St John the Baptist, Portadown Integrated and Presentation Primary Schools. On arrival the pupils got into their teams. They played a number of matches. Refreshments were provided for the pupils. They thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience.

Anti-Bullying Week: 19th – 23rd November 2012

The theme for Anti Bullying Week this year was 'Everybody is Somebody'. All classes participated in activities aimed at supporting pupils to understand their role and responsibility in tackling bullying. The clear message was that we can all emphasise that such behaviour is unacceptable by challenging negative stereotypes and reinforcing anti-bullying messages.

Mackey Opticians Visit Nursery

On Wednesday 14th November 2012 Michelle and Caroline from Mackey's Eye Care visited the Nursery. They encourage Eye tests for all children of Nursery age.

Year 7 Mass

As part of their preparation for Confirmation, Year 7 pupils participated in a Commitment Ceremony on Sunday 25th November in St John the Baptist Church. The children were presented with Commitment Certificates.

Christmas Hampers

This year Ballyoran School would like to provide Food Hampers for some Senior Citizens who live alone within the School Community Area. We will be asking each child or family to provide at least one food item for the Food Hampers.

Car Parks

Over recent weeks we have been having difficulties with a small minority of parents using the school car parks as follows:

1. For drop off and collection of pupils
2. To enter and exit the school on foot

These parents are placing their own safety and the safety of their children at risk. I would remind you that school car parks are for the use of staff and visitors only. This decision has been taken on health and safety grounds.

The only point of entry and exit for parents and pupils to the school site is the pedestrian gate.

I continue to be very grateful to the vast majority of parents who respect our policy on the car parks and would ask the small minority of parents involved to respect this policy also.

Contingency Planning - Winter

As the winter is fast approaching, the school has been reviewing its contingency plans should the school need to close due to bad weather. Once again, we will be using our Text Alert system, the school website and local media to inform parents should a closure be necessary.

School Development Plan

This document is the school's 3-year strategic plan and is one of the most important documents in the school. It lays down the school's priorities over a 3-year period. An overview summary of our priorities for this academic year has been included with this News Sheet. If you have any comment to make on these priorities, please contact Mr Woolsey.

Eco Schools

The Eco Club have now chosen the topics which we will focus on this year in achieving our 'Green Flag.' They are Energy, Biodiversity and Healthy Living. Our first project is to reduce the amount of energy used in school. On Friday 16th November the Eco Club led a school assembly on how to reduce the amount of energy used in school. As a school, we are now making the effort to switch off lights, computers and interactive whiteboards when not in use. This will not only save money but more importantly help the environment and the Eco Club would encourage you to do this at home as well! As part of our projects the Eco Club held a competition for pupils in the school to write an 'Eco Code' incorporating our chosen topics. Year 4 were chosen as the winners and this is the code they produced which will be displayed around the school.

Let's Go Green Rap

Going green with the Eco Rap.
Off with the lights and the water taps.
Garbage, paper, plastic, tins
Reduce, recycle in special bins.
Eat good food to stay in shape.
Earth is ours to celebrate
Nature's dream is going green, going green, going green.

Busy Christmas for Choir and Musical Ensemble

As you will see from the Diary, it is going to be a very busy Christmas for our musicians this year with 5 engagements. We would encourage you to support our pupils at Asda and Tesco as well as our Christmas Celebration in school.

Ellie Delaney - Rainbow Day

Ellie Delaney who is a Year 4 pupil was crowned *Miss Charity Princess Face of Northern Ireland* in August, having raised £2,100 for the Rainbow Child Foundation and Headway charities.

On 30th October 2012 pupils came to school dressed in rainbow colours and brought £2 for the Rainbow Child Foundation which helps underprivileged children around the world. We were delighted to forward a cheque for £327.30 to the Rainbow Foundation and thank all who contributed.

Last week Ellie travelled to Disneyland Paris for the finals of the Junior Face of Europe Award, competing against 84 girls from over 20 different countries. We were delighted to hear that Ellie was extremely successful; winning 3 of the 5 titles including the overall title – Junior Face of Europe. The other 2 titles being Miss Charity and Miss Publicity.

This is a great honour for Ellie and we congratulate her on this magnificent achievement.

Flu Advice for Parents/Guardians/Carers with Children at school

What is flu?

Flu is a respiratory illness caused by several strains of Influenza virus. These strains include strains of flu A – e.g. H3N2 and H1N1 2009 (swine) flu and strains of flu B.

Flu Vaccination:

This year's seasonal flu vaccination is effective against three strains of flu – H3N2 and H1N1 (swine) flu and a Flu B strain. This year most children in at risk groups, aged 2 to 17 inclusive, will be offered a vaccine that is given as a spray into the nose instead of an injection.

Seasonal flu vaccination is advised for all adults and children over 6 months with the following conditions:

- a chronic chest condition such as asthma;
- a chronic heart condition;
- chronic liver disease;
- chronic kidney disease;
- diabetes;
- lowered immunity due to disease or treatment such as steroids or cancer therapy
(people living in the same house as someone with lowered immunity may also need to be vaccinated);
- a chronic neurological condition such as stroke, multiple sclerosis or a condition that affects your nervous system, such as cerebral palsy.

Pregnant women regardless of their stage of pregnancy, anyone aged 65 or over, anyone living in a residential or nursing home and main carers for an elderly or disabled person should also be vaccinated.

What are the symptoms of flu?

The symptoms of flu often start suddenly and include:

- fever
- fatigue
- pains in the limbs or the joints
- coughing
- sore throat
- headache
- runny nose
- some people also have vomiting and diarrhoea.

How is Flu treated?

Most people, including children, will recover within a few days. Resting and taking over the counter preparations such as paracetamol will help. Anyone

with flu-like symptoms should stay at home, so as not to infect others, until feeling better.

Those with underlying conditions, or if feeling short of breath or very unwell should telephone their GP or GP out of hours service for advice. For these people, antiviral medication may be advised.

The Public Health Agency (PHA) advises it is important that patients do not go to an accident and emergency department unless absolutely necessary and urgent.

Schools have been advised by the PHA, that should a child develop flu-like symptoms at school, arrangements should be made for them to be taken home as soon as possible.

While waiting, they should be placed in a suitable area, such as a medical room or a small office (in order to reduce the chance of spreading infection to other children), but where they can be kept under observation.

Parents should take their child straight home and if necessary telephone their GP or GP out-of-hours service.

If a child develops flu-like symptoms at home, they should be kept away from school until they recover and parents should, if necessary, seek medical advice.

Good Hygiene Advice

Parents and schools can help reduce the spread of all viruses by encouraging children to practise good personal hygiene by:

- Washing their hands frequently with soap and water to reduce the spread of virus from their hands to their face or to others;
- Covering their nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing and to use a tissue when possible;
- Disposing of used tissues quickly and carefully.

Schools have been advised by the ELBs and CCMS to ensure that adequate supplies of liquid soap, hot and cold water and paper towels or hot air dryers are available for pupils and staff. It is not necessary for schools to provide hand sanitisers; however, should they wish to do so, it is important to note that they are not a substitute for good hand washing facilities. Hard surfaces (e.g. door handles) should be frequently cleaned using a normal cleaning product.

School Development Plan Priorities for 2012/2013

Child Centred Provision

Climate of the School	Pastoral Care	Special Educational Needs, Inclusion & Diversity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw up a set of shared School Values • Improve attendance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Discipline Policy • Review Drug Awareness Policy • Review Child Protection Policy • Review Health & Safety Policy • Review First Aid Policy • Review Pastoral Care Policy • Draft Educational Visits Policy • Staff Handbook • Health and Safety training for all staff • Fire Safety Training for all staff • Audit of current Food Policy in relation to Food In Schools Policy, ref Obesity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Educational Needs Literacy Project • Review Special Educational Needs Policy • Draw up Inclusion & Diversity Policy • Newcomer Lending Library • Begin Primary Modern Languages • Translation of material for Newcomer parents

High Quality Teaching and Learning

Curriculum, Teaching & Learning	Assessment, Record Keeping & Reporting	Nursery
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Problem Solving in Numeracy • Special Educational Needs Literacy Project • Put ICT Planners in place to allow skills to be taught • Literacy & Numeracy Policy Review • Develop Outdoor Play in Foundation Stage • Review Curriculum Planning – World Around Us, Personal Development Mutual Understanding, PE & The Arts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Assessment Policy • Set up Termly Internal Standardisation • Staff Training in New Levels of attainment for Using ICT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Short Term Planning • Develop Observations • Continue to further integrate Nursery with Primary School • Review Nursery Policies

Effective Leadership

Environment (Accommodation & Grounds)	Enrolment/Finance
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop new Library area• 'Eco School' Flag Award• Minor Works – Staff & LSC Toilets and Key Stage 2 Link Corridor• Investigate grants for Nursery Outdoor Play Area• Investigate development of all weather pitch	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase Enrolment through a new PR Strategy and Marketing Plan

A School Connected to Its Community

Parents & Community Links
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop use of Community Learning Centre• Develop new PR Strategy and Marketing Plan• Hold Open Day• Develop PTA – PTA Fair• Develop School Website• New Irish Dancing Festival/Concert• Investigate development of All Weather Pitch• Residential Trip to UK

Menu for December

	Week commencing: 3.12.12	Week commencing: 10.12.12	Week commencing: 17.12.12	Week commencing: 24.12.12
Monday	Shepherds Pie or Chicken Pasta Bake, Peas, Broccoli, Mashed Potato, Gravy Rice Pudding & Mandarin Oranges	Bacon & Stuffing or Lasagne, Cabbage, Broccoli, Mashed Potato, Gravy Rice Krispie Square & Custard	Fish Fingers or Spaghetti Bolognese, Peas, Corn, Mashed Potato, Chips Or Mashed Potato Ice Cream, Peaches & Chocolate Sauce	School Closed – Christmas Holidays
Tuesday	Fish Fingers Or Bacon, Beans, Peas, Mashed Potato Jelly & Ice Cream	Savoury Mince or Chicken Curry & Rice, Naan Bread, Turnip, Peas, Mashed Potato, Gravy Pineapple Sponge & Custard	Chicken & Ham Crumble Or Pasta Bake, Carrots, Broccoli, Mashed Potato, Gravy Chocolate Cake & Chocolate Sauce	School Closed – Christmas Holidays
Wednesday	Chicken Nuggets or Tuna Wraps, Salad, Chips, or Pasta & Sauces Frozen Mousse & Fruit	Christmas Dinner Roast Turkey, Stuffing, Cocktail Sausages, Roast or Mashed Potato, Gravy Choc Ices, Jelly, Fresh Fruit Salad	Homemade Vegetable or Chicken Soup Hot Dog or Filled Chicken/Salad Rolls Flakemeal Biscuit & Fruit	School Closed – Christmas Holidays
Thursday	Roast Pork & Stuffing or Bacon & Cheese Tagliatelle, Carrots, Sweetcorn, Mashed Potato, Gravy Pineapple Sponge & Custard	Homemade Pepperoni Pizza or Irish Stew, Sweetcorn , Chips Or Mashed Potato Jelly & Fresh Fruit Salad	Homemade Pizza or Beef Curry & Rice, Peas, Sweetcorn, Mashed Potato or Chips. Frozen Mousse & Fruit	School Closed – Christmas Holidays
Friday	Home Made Vegetable Soup or Chicken Soup Steak Burger, or Filled Salad or Chicken Rolls Shortbread Biscuit & Fruit	Fresh Breaded Fish or Chicken Wraps, Beans, Peas, Salad, Mashed Potato Rice & Peaches	School Closes at 12 noon No Dinners	School Closed – Christmas Holidays

Milk & Water available daily

Fruit and Yoghurt available daily

Menu subject to deliveries