



## News Sheet – October 2012

### Diary Dates for November

1 <sup>st</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup>	Half Term – School Closed
6 <sup>th</sup>	PTA Meeting at 8.00pm - All Welcome
9 <sup>th</sup>	Years 4 and 5 Swimming begins
17 <sup>th</sup>	Common Entrance Assessment
19 <sup>th</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Anti-Bullying Week
28 <sup>th</sup>	Pupil Council Meeting
30 <sup>th</sup>	Show by West Midland Theatre: <i>'The King of Copenhagen'</i>

### Advance Notice – Christmas Dates

4 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Key Stage 2 Panto – Sleeping Beauty – Market Place Theatre
5 <sup>th</sup>	Open Afternoon and PTA Christmas Fair 1.00 – 4.00pm
12 <sup>th</sup>	Choir to sing at Asda: 1.30 – 2.30pm
13 <sup>th</sup>	Choir to sing at Tesco, Craigavon: 1.30 – 2.30pm
18 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Concert: 10.00am
19 <sup>th</sup>	PTA Christmas Parties

### Half Term Holiday

School will be closed from Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October until Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2012 for the Half-Term Break. School will re-open on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

### Coats

A reminder that as we move into the colder weather every pupil should have a coat in school with them every day.

### Speech and Language Therapy Service

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's speech, language or communication, please go along to a *'Talking Walk-In'* session at Portadown Health Centre. These sessions take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every month from 10.30 – 11.30am. No appointment is necessary and everyone will be warmly welcomed.

If you require more information feel free to contact the Speech and Language Office on 028 38311023

### Year 6 Visit Titanic Belfast

Year 6 pupils had a memorable day on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2012 as they got to see and experience the story of the very famous Titanic ship and its passengers at the new Titanic Quarter in Belfast. The class had previously completed a project on the Titanic so this visit really brought it all to life for them. The whole museum is interactive and every corner they turned uncovered the true legend of the Titanic. The journey is made up of a wide range of exhibits starting with the construction of the ship, its launch, the fit-out, the maiden voyage, the actual sinking, the aftermath, myths and legends and the exploration

of the wreckage. It was all so interesting and enjoyable that it was agreed that it is a place that everyone should visit!

### **Extended Schools Drama**

Well done to the following pupils who were successful in their recent audition for the Extended Schools Cluster Drama Project. These pupils will now be working towards a performance in March 2013 with pupils from St John the Baptist, Hart Memorial, Millington and Presentation Primary Schools and Drumcree College.

Year 5	Danica Hall	Reghan McKinstry
	Shannon Berry	Oliwia Osinska
Year 6	Catherine Hyde	Tieghan Douglas
	Helena Santos	Emma Dunbar
	Mia McKee	

### **PTA News**

The Parent/Teacher Association held its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2012. The Office Bearers elected for this year were:

Chairperson	Mrs C Dunbar
Vice-Chairperson	Mrs A Kelly
Treasurer	Mrs S Garland
Secretary	Mr Woolsey

The PTA has arranged the following projects/events for this term:

#### Christmas Cards

All pupils will again get the opportunity to design their own Christmas Card and have it professionally printed. Packs of these can be bought for £6 each. More information on this very soon.

#### Christmas Fair

The PTA will be holding a Christmas Fair in the Assembly Hall on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2012 from 1.00pm until 4.00pm. There will be lots of craft stalls and activities for the children. More information to follow.

#### Christmas Parties

The Annual PTA Christmas Parties will take place on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2012. There will, as usual, be lots of fun and games with Years 4 – 7 having a disco. Santa will also be making a guest appearance.

All of the above events require lots of help and we would encourage as many people as possible to get involved in the PTA. It is not an exclusive committee; it is open to everyone. Please come to the next meeting on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2012 at 8.00pm.

### **Photograph Orders**

Anyone wishing to order a school photograph must return the envelope to school, with the money, by **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2012**. A reminder that photos can also be ordered online – follow the instructions on the Order Form.

### **Pupil Council Meet the Mayor of Craigavon**

Twelve members of the Pupil Council visited Craigavon Civic Centre on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2012. They were given a tour of the Council Chamber by the Mayor and learnt much about how our local Council operates. Pupils were then treated to some refreshments before returning to school.

### **St Mary's Youth Club**

Ryan from St Mary's Youth Club in Obins Street visited school to talk to Year 5 – 7 pupils on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2012. Pupils were given an outline of the After School activities provided by the Youth Club.

### **Firework Safety**

The PSNI visited school on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2012 to talk to pupils about Firework Safety and being sensible during the Hallowe'en period.

### **Year 7 Visit Stormont**

On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2012 Year 7 pupils visited Parliament Buildings. They were given an introduction to the workings of our NI Assembly and the process of Politics and voting. The visit also involved a tour of the Assembly Rooms where the pupils got to sit in the seats of our politicians and debate the issue of 'school uniform'. Everyone agreed it was a very interesting morning, especially when BBC cameras were noticed in the main hall. Well done to Year 7s who took part actively and enthusiastically during the outing.

### **Eco Committee**

This Year's Eco-Committee members are:

Year 7	Niamh Garland	Hollie O'Neill	Zuzanna Osinska
Year 6	Emma Larkin	Catherine Hendron	
Year 5	Oliwia Osinska	Calum Caulfield	
Year 4	Aidan Kelly	Shay Kelly	Emma-Rose White-Trainor

This Year we are working towards achieving our final 'Green Flag Award'. Our first project is to reduce the amount of energy wasted in the school. We will be installing an Energy Monitor in school and using it to monitor how much energy we are using and how much energy we are saving through our 'Save Energy' campaign.

### **Official Opening of Community Learning Centre**

The Minister for Social Development, Mr Nelson McCausland officially opened the new Community Learning Centre at Ballyoran Primary School on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2012.

The new facility comprises an ICT Suite, multi purpose Community Room, Interview Room, toilets, changing rooms and baby changing facilities.

The Community Learning Centre is used by the school during the day and is available for the local community to use both inside and outside school hours. Blossom Surestart are already using the Community Room three days each week to house one of their In Tune Programmes for Two Year olds and the school has hosted an ICT Beginner's Course for adults.

Anyone wishing to book the new centre should contact the school office.

### **Anti-Slavery Day**

On Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October, Mrs Barkley spoke, in assembly, about Anti-Slavery day. The pupils learned that, although slavery is illegal in most countries of the world, there are estimated to be 27 million slaves in the world today. Mrs Barkley outlined some of the main types of slavery and told the pupils a true story about a little boy called Arjun who worked as a slave in a brick kiln in India. The children also learned that slavery is happening in Northern Ireland. Mrs Barkley suggested some ways that the children could help, e.g. buying goods with the Fair Trade mark or supporting charities. She also told children about the local Anti-Trafficking Action Group, Craigavon ACT which has given out stickers to taxi drivers on Anti-Slavery Day.

### **Year 4 Enrolment Ceremony**

As part of their preparation for First Holy Communion, Year 4 pupils attended an Enrolment Ceremony in St John the Baptist Church on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2012. The children participated in the Mass and were presented with Enrolment Certificates.

### **Nursery News**

The Nursery children enjoyed a visit from Jo Jingles on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2012. It was a morning of fun, music and movement.

### **Year 1 Visit Tannaghmore Gardens**

Year 1 pupils from Mrs Mackle's and Mrs Baxter's classes paid a visit to Tannaghmore Gardens on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2012. They had an opportunity to walk around the farm before going on an 'Autumn Ramble'. They also spent some time in the play park before returning to school. An enjoyable time was had by all.

### **Soccer Festival**

On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2012, the soccer team took part in a 7-a-side Festival for medium schools at Lurgan Junior High School. Although the team failed to qualify from the group, we are very proud of the players, particularly three Year 5 pupils who were representing the school for the first time. Player of the tournament for Ballyoran was goalkeeper Pedro Paulino who made some truly inspirational saves.

### **'My Armagh' Draw**

This year, for the first time, Ballyoran decided to take part in the 'My Armagh' Grand Draw. The purpose of the draw is to generate funds for My Armagh to use in the promotion of Gaelic Games within the county and also for the participating schools to generate funds for school resources. We are very pleased with the response and would like to thank all those who were able to sell some tickets. Anyone who still has to return ticket money or unsold tickets should do so as soon as possible.

### **Book Fair**

During the week beginning Monday 1st October 2012, Year 7 was in charge of our school's annual Book Fair. This year the theme was Book Fair Feast and we had hundreds of new books for ages 2 to 12. The Year 7s organised the books, read to the younger children, organised the money and the books, counted the money and talked to parents. Our target was £500 and the final amount raised was just over £700! This will allow us to buy new books for school. A very sincere thank you to all pupils, parents and family members who came along and supported our Book Fair.

## **Dissolving Boundaries**

Dissolving Boundaries is a cross-border exchange programme that uses technology to support joint curricular work between schools in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. After mid term break Year 5 will use a web cam and emails to communicate with pupils from Scoil Mhichil Naofa, Athy, Co.Kildare.

## **Computer Based Assessment**

You will be aware that over these past few weeks in school, all pupils in Year 4 – 7 have been completing new Computer-Based Assessments.

These diagnostic tests were designed to give detailed outcomes of what your child could and could not do in Literacy and Numeracy which would be useful to teachers. You were due to receive a report on your child from these tests at the Parent/Teacher Meetings.

As you may have heard on the news, the administration of these tests across N Ireland has been fraught with technical difficulties, e.g. computer screens freezing and tests disappearing. These difficulties have been beyond our control and we believe that our pupils have not been given a fair opportunity to complete them to the best of their ability. Close analysis of the outcomes in many cases has also confirmed to us that the results are not accurate and do not reflect your child's abilities.

As a result of this, we have taken the decision, along with many other primary schools, not to report the outcomes of these tests to you as we do not see any value in giving you misleading and inaccurate information on your child.

## **Thank You**

As you aware since the refurbishment of the school, the morning routines have changed with all Year 1 – 7 pupils now coming in via the main office entrance to the school. To ensure the smooth operation of the school, we asked that pupils are dropped off outside the school building. I want to place on record my thanks to all the parents who have respected and abided by this request. Your co-operation is much appreciated. A reminder that if you do need to speak to the class teacher in the morning that you must report to the school office in the first instance. If it is not possible to speak to the teacher at this time, an appropriate time can be arranged or a message can be passed on.

## **School Meals**

The menu for school has been reviewed recently and you will notice some changes. The kitchen plan to carry out a parental survey in relation to school meals before Christmas and we would encourage you to take part in this. We are very grateful to Donna Campbell and her team for the excellent service they provide us with on a daily basis.

## **Review of Discipline Policy – Parent Consultation**

We are currently reviewing our school Discipline Policy, a copy of which has been distributed with this News Sheet and is also available on the school website. We would encourage you to read over it and give us any feedback on the reply on the back page by Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

## **Farewell to Miss McBride**

We say thank you and farewell to Miss Tracey McBride who finished today after 4 years as a cleaner in the school.

## Menu for November

	<b>Week commencing: 05.11.12</b>	<b>Week commencing: 12.11.12</b>	<b>Week commencing: 19.11.12</b>	<b>Week commencing:26.11.12</b>
<b>Monday</b>	School Closed – Half Term Break	Homemade Vegetable Or Chicken Soup Hot Dogs, or Tuna Baguette, Salad, Coleslaw  Frozen Mousse & Piece of Fruit	Chicken Crumble Or Fish Fingers. Chips Or Mashed Potato, Salad, Coleslaw, Peas.  Milk Shake & Flakemeal Biscuit	Chicken Nuggets Or Chicken Wraps, Sweetcorn, Salad, Coleslaw, Chips Or Mashed Potato.  Ice Cream Wafer & Fruit
<b>Tuesday</b>	Homemade Vegetable Or Chicken Soup Hot Dog or Chicken Baguette  Flakemeal Biscuit & Fruit	Homemade Pizza Or Chicken/Tuna Wraps, Sweetcorn, Salad, Chips Or Mashed Potato.  Ice Cream, Pears & Chocolate Sauce	Savoury Mince Or Bacon & Cheese Pasta Bake, Sweet corn, Mashed Potato & Gravy.  Date Fudge Square & Custard	Savoury Mince Or Bacon, Stuffing, Peas, Turnip, Mashed Potato, Gravy.  Rice Krispie Square & Custard
<b>Wednesday</b>	Chicken Curry & Rice or Chicken Crumble, Broccoli, Peas, Mashed Potato, Naan Bread.  Rice Krispie Square & Fruit	Lasagne Or Fish Fingers, Peas, Herb Diced Potato, Mashed Potato, Salad.  Fresh Fruit Salad & Custard	Sausages Or Chicken Curry & Rice, Beans, Mixed Vegetables, Mashed Potato.  Flakemeal Biscuit & Custard	Spaghetti Bolognese Or Steak Burger with Onion Gravy, Mashed Potato, Mixed Vegetables.  Shortbread & Custard
<b>Thursday</b>	Roast Beef Or Shepherd's Pie, Turnip, Carrots, Mashed Potato, and Gravy.  Chocolate Sponge & Custard	Roast Pork, Apple Sauce, Stuffing, Broccoli, Carrots, Mashed Potato, Gravy.  Marble Sponge & Custard	Boiled Gammon, Pineapple, Stuffing, Gravy, Mashed Potato,  Muffin Cake & Custard	<b>American Thanksgiving Special</b> Roast Turkey, Baton Carrot, Peas, Mashed Potato, Roast Potato, Gravy  Stars & Stripes Biscuit & Milkshake
<b>Friday</b>	Fish Fingers Or Chicken Casserole, Peas, Sweet Corn, Chips or Mashed Potato, Gravy.  Rice Pudding & Fruit	Steak Burger Or Chicken Curry & Rice, Naan Bread, Mixed Vegetables, Mashed Potato, Gravy  Cornflake Crunch & Custard	Bacon Slice or Homemade Pizza, Chips, Mashed Potato, Salad, Coleslaw.  Chocolate & Pear Muffin Cake & Custard.	Fish Fingers or Chicken Pasta Bake, Beans, Peas, Salad, Mashed Potato.  Flakemeal Biscuit & Fruit

**Milk, Water, Bread, Fruit and Yoghurt available daily**

**Menu subject to deliveries**



## Consultation on Reviewed Discipline Policy

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments on Policy:

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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return to school by Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2012**