



## News Sheet – December 2018

### Diary Dates – December 2018

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Year 3 Young Enterprise  
Parents Workshop – Helping your child with reading and writing – 9.15am
- 4<sup>th</sup> St John The Baptist College Taster Day with Year 7
- 5<sup>th</sup> Christmas Panto – ‘Aladdin’ at Market Place Theatre
- 6<sup>th</sup> Last Day of Homework  
NSPCC ‘Digital Detox’ Cheque Presentation
- 7<sup>th</sup> Canteen Christmas Dinner for pupils  
Year 5 Swimming
- 10<sup>th</sup> Parents Workshop – Helping your child with Maths – 9.15am  
Year 3 Young Enterprise  
Senior Choir at Rosemount Care Home - 1.30pm
- 12<sup>th</sup> Pupil Council Meeting
- 13<sup>th</sup> Jo Jingles in Nursery
- 15<sup>th</sup> Senior Choir singing at Carol Service in St John’s Church – 6pm
- 18<sup>th</sup> ‘A Taste of Christmas’ Performances – Performance 1 - 10am,  
Performance 2 - 1.30pm
- 19<sup>th</sup> Nursery Christmas Nativity – 10am
- 20<sup>th</sup> Christmas Parties and Disco – No Uniform – Christmas Jumper Day for Charity
- 21<sup>st</sup> Last day of term, no uniform, no dinners, unhealthy break - school finishes at midday for all pupils.  
Dismissal times: Years 1 – 3: 11.50am  
Years 4 – 7: 12 noon

### Christmas Holidays

School will be closed from Monday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2018 to Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019. Term 2 begins on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

### Christmas Performances

The Primary School will again be having two performances on the same day on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December – one starting at 10am and the other at 1.30pm. On this day all Year 1 & 2 pupils will stay in school until 3pm. The Nursery will be having their own Christmas Nativity separate from the Primary School on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at 10am. All 3 performances are ticket only and information regarding ticket ordering has already been issued. Please return your ticket order forms as soon as possible.

### Christmas Squares

The Christmas Squares draw will take place on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December and these can be bought in classes at 50p each.

### Christmas Post

This will begin on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018. Please ensure the following are put on the envelopes: Both names, Year Group e.g. Year 1 and Teacher’s Name. LSC pupils will once again be organising this.

### **Christmas Card designed by pupils**

These have been sent home this week, please return with order form and money by **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018** if you wish to order these.

### **Choir and Instrumentalists**

Once again the Choir and Instrumentalists have a busy Christmas Programme with a number of engagements. They will be appearing in Rosemount Care Home on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018 and the Carol Service at St John the Baptist Church on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm.

### **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 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018, any pupils who do not bring a coat to school will have to remain inside at break and lunch time.

### **Year 5 Visit to INTO Film**

Year 5 pupils enjoyed a trip to Armagh Omniplex as part of the INTO Film Festival. They watched 'Peter Rabbit' and everybody had a great time. We look forward to completing some INTO Film activities in class.

### **Nursery News**

#### **Mackeys Eye Care Visit Nursery**

Caroline and Elaine from Mackey's Eye Care visited the Nursery. They encourage eye tests for all children of Nursery age.

#### **Welly Boot Walk**

The children all really enjoyed our Sponsored Welly Boot Walk to raise money for our Nursery. We were overwhelmed by your generosity and have raised an amazing £636. Thank you so much.

#### **Boogie Beat Music and Movement**

The children enjoyed a visit from Boogie Beat. We joined in with the songs and loved using the parachute! Please remember to check our website for new photos!

### **Parent/Teacher Meetings**

A big thank you to everyone who supported their child's education by attending our Parent/Teachers at the end of October.

### **Pupil Attendance**

The average Pupil Attendance for October was 90.3%. Well done to the classes with the highest attendance for October which were Yr 1 and Yr 5A.

### **Photographs**

The photograph orders have now been collected from school by the company but if you still wish to order, you can contact the company directly using the number on your proof.

### **Little Listeners**

A small group of Year 1 pupils participated in a four-week programme provided by the RISE NI Team. The aim of the programme is to support children to develop early attention and listening skills.

### **Switch Off Fortnight**

As part of our Green Flag renewal, the Eco-Committee organised a 'Switch Off Fortnight' in school. They held an assembly to remind everybody the importance of saving energy by turning off lights, switching off electronic devices and closing any open windows or doors. The Eco-Committee were also responsible for reminding teachers and pupils throughout the fortnight to switch off any appliances which were not in use. It was a great success!

### **Parent Workshops**

Unfortunately, the first workshop on Mental Health was not well supported by parents. There are two more left which we would encourage you to attend – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December: Helping your Child with Reading and Writing and Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December: Helping your child with Maths. Both are at 9.15am.

### **Year 2 Young Enterprise**

Year 2 pupils have successfully completed their Young Enterprise programme. Year 2 followed the 'Ourselves' programme where the pupils explored the 'world of work' and the importance of saving, earning, decision making and teamwork. All of the pupils thoroughly enjoyed the activities.

### **Year 3 Young Enterprise**

Year 3 have been taking part in Young Enterprise workshops. Their topic is 'My Family'. They have been learning about the different roles of family members and the importance of belonging to a family.

### **Year 5 Millennium Courts Arts Centre Workshops**

The Millennium Court Arts Centre (MCAC) provided an art workshop for our Year 5 pupils to participate in. They were able to turn their plastic bottles into a contemporary decoration. The finished art was then displayed in the MCAC centre as part of the Twilight Market celebration in Portadown. This session helped Year 5 to realise the effect that plastic is having on our planets and oceans.

### **Year 1 Trip to Gosford Castle**

As part of their topic 'Kings, Queens and Castles', Year 1 pupils went on a day trip to Gosford Forest Park. They enjoyed a walk through the forest to find the castle. They walked around the outside of the castle and explored the grounds. The children looked for signs of Autumn and then spent some time in the play park before enjoying a picnic lunch. A great time was had by all.

### **Digital Leaders**

The Digital Leaders Team is made up of children from KS2 who had to apply for the role. This year the Digital Leaders will play a very important role in educating and teaching their friends about how to stay safe online. Children know that they can talk to our Digital Leaders if they have a problem or need advice. The Digital Leaders wear a badge and their photos are displayed around the school.

Year 5 – Ben McKee, Caitlin Kelly, Emma Creaney & Filip Zaliwki

Year 6 – Emma Breen & Owen Reynolds

Year 7 – Alisha Griffin, Daniel Costa Nalazek, Sebastian Rozynek and Chelsey Williamson

## **NSPCC**

On Tuesday 13th November, trained NSPCC staff and volunteers delivered the Speak Out Stay Safe programme to pupils from a Year 1- 7 in Assembly. The aim was to equip children with the knowledge and understanding they need to stay safe from abuse and neglect. The team from NSPCC also delivered workshops to Year 6 and 7 classes. The pupils participated enthusiastically and discussed reasons why a child may feel sad, worried or anxious and need someone to talk to. Staying safe online was also discussed. NSPCC is one of our chosen charities this year and we will contribute funds raised on our Digital Detox day to this excellent charity.

## **Digital Detox Day in aid of NSPCC**

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018 was the day Ballyoran Primary School decided enough was enough and rose to the challenge of not using technology for 24 hours. The pupils had sponsorship from family and friends with the guarantee that they could do it all for a very good cause. Initially, there was a lot of uncertainty if this task was possible as we are all so reliant on technology. Positively, the challenge was achieved and all classes and staff including Mr Woolsey did a fantastic job not using any technology throughout the school day. The school would like to thank all of those who kindly sponsored a child for the Digital Detox Day. The total raised was £655.43.

## **Brownlow STEM Day**

On Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November Year 7 went to Brownlow Integrated College for a STEM Day. They worked in groups of two, programming a robot vehicle to move forwards, backwards, turn left and right, and rotate. Some pupils put their robot forward for a race on a curving pathway and congratulations to Ellie and Molly who came first overall. Year 7s also constructed a basic rocket and got the chance to launch it into the air using compressed air. Dayna and Aoife achieved the longest flight, well done. The pupils worked hard and said they would definitely recommend this STEM Day to next year's senior pupils. Great work Year 7.

## **Pupil Council Bun Sale**

On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November, the Pupil Council held a Bun Sale to raise money for Children In Need. It was a huge success and raised £390.55! The Pupil Council ensured the day ran smoothly and did a fantastic job selling the buns. As a school, we would like to thank everyone who sent in buns and to all those who bought buns to support such a worthy cause. We would not have had such a successful fundraiser without your support.

## **REIM Internet Safety Workshop**

On Thursday 22nd November children in Years 5 to 7 had the opportunity to take part in an Internet Safety Workshop provided by REIM. Year 5 participated in 'The Fundamentals Workshop' which involved discussion based around the positive and negative aspects of Internet use, the importance of keeping personal information private, recognising who is a trusted adult and the dangers of chatting to strangers online. Having previously participated in this workshop Years 6 and 7 took part in a follow on workshop based around Cyberbullying. They were able to learn what Cyberbullying is, what devices, apps and websites can be used to Cyberbully, define the terms Upstander and Bystander, understand the feelings associated with being cyberbullied and know where and who to go to, to get help if placed in this situation. All workshops were extremely informative and children demonstrated a good understanding of how to stay safe online. It also brought to our attention the amount of children engaging in social media and online chat forums and so we ask you as parents to continue to question and monitor what children are doing online to ensure their safety.

## **Anti-Bullying Week**

This year's Anti-Bullying Week was from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2018. We marked it in the following ways:

- Pupils did activities related to anti-bullying in class.
- At least one homework had an anti-bullying theme.
- Assemblies had an anti-bullying theme.

A major focus was what to do if you feel that you are being bullied and we all agree that telling someone you trust is vital, and then we can all help to change the situation. Remember, you don't have to put up with being bullied. Anti-Bullying work goes on all year round.

ChildLine 0800 1111

## **Tharp Family from USA**

On Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018, we had a visit from the Tharp Family from USA. This is the fifth year that they have visited Ballyoran and the visit took the form of a Musical Concert.

## **Admissions for Nursery and Year 1 – September 2019**

The admissions process for Nursery and Year 1 for September 2019 is going digital this year. The application process will open at 10am on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2019 and close at midnight on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019. More information will follow shortly.

## **Picking Pupils Up**

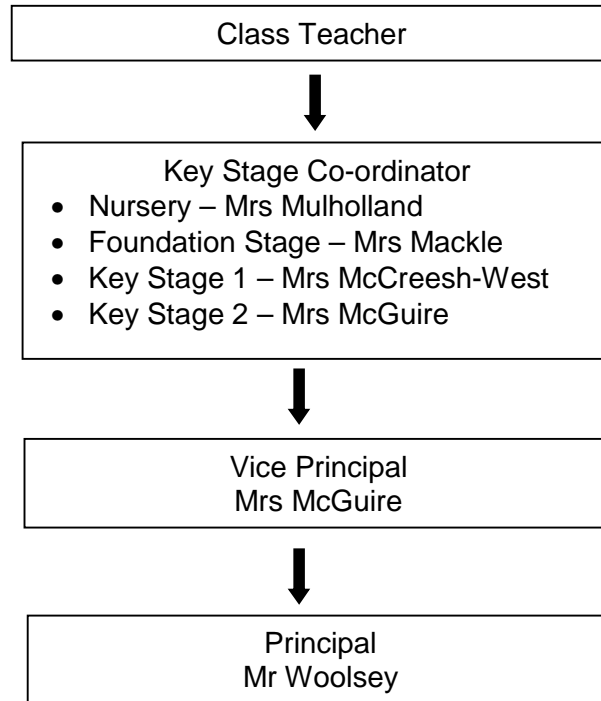
A significant number of pupils are not being picked up at the end of the school day on time. It is vital that parents are punctual when collecting their children otherwise they get anxious. If you are running late we would ask that you phone the office and inform us of this. If a child is not collected and we are unable to make contact with parents/carers we have no option but to phone Social Services and/or the Police.

## **Emergency Contact Details**

It is vitally important that we hold up to date emergency contact details for our pupils. An increasing number of parents are not informing us when they change their mobile phone numbers. This is unacceptable and leaves us in a very difficult position if for example we needed to contact you if your child was seriously ill. I cannot stress the importance of this enough, please keep us up to date. Again as with late pick up, if we are unable to contact a parent/carer in the event of an emergency we will have no option but to refer this to Social Services.

### General Queries / Concerns

At Ballyoran Primary School we believe in a strong partnership with parents and communication between home and school is a vital part of this. Meetings can be arranged with staff at any time and we would encourage you to follow the flow chart below when raising general queries / concerns:



Obviously parents are free to make an appointment to speak to the Principal at any time.

### Christmas Gifts

This year we are again asking that instead of buying presents for staff that you consider donating food or toys to the St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal. Boxes will be placed in the foyer to receive your kind donations.

### 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 Christmas Card Competition 2018 Winners

<b>Class</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Runner Up</b>
<b>Year 1</b>	Brody Winter	Leanna McGeown
<b>Year 2</b>	Sophia Metcalfe	Mia Liggett
<b>Year 3N</b>	Aogan McAlinden	Goda Valiute
<b>Year 3McC</b>	Aishlinn Hughes	Courtney McGeown
<b>Year 4</b>	Caoimhe McNeice	Mike Martins
<b>Year 5A</b>	Nicola Kanarkowska	Brooke McGeown
<b>Year 5McG</b>	Roisin McAleese	Filip Zarwski
<b>Year 6</b>	Caoimhe O'Connor	Gabija Olchova
<b>Year 7B/M</b>	Ellie McNeice	Molly Davies
<b>Year 7 W/H</b>	Emilia Baran	Bethany Castles
<b>LSC</b>	Shea Wilson	Caleb Sterritt

Overall Winner: Emilia Baran (Yr 7W/H)

### Menu for December

See last page

R Woolsey  
Principal

