



News Sheet – November 2018

Diary Dates – November 2018

1 st – 2 nd	School Closed for Half Term
5 th	Tharp Family Concert (USA)
7 th	Photographer in school – individual and family photos
9 th	Year 5 Swimming Begins
12 th – 16 th	Anti Bullying Week
13 th	NSPCC Assembly & Year 6 Workshop NSPCC Parent Workshops: 2 - 3pm
12 th	'Switch off Fortnight' begins
14 th	NSPCC Year 7 Workshops Pupil Council Meeting
17 th	GL Common Entrance Assessment
22 nd	Years 5 – 7 Internet Safety Workshop
23 rd	'Ditch The Dark Day'
26 th	Parents Workshop 'Presenting Positive Mental Health'
30 th	West Midland Theatre Show – 'Old King Cole' – Years 1 – 7

School Closures: November

A reminder that school will be closed for Half Term from Monday 29th October – Friday 2nd November 2018.

Diary Dates - Advance Notice

- Confirmation - Saturday 30th March 2019 at 3pm
- First Holy Communion – Saturday 11th May 2019 at 11am

Photographer

The Photographer will be in school on **Wednesday 7th November 2018** taking Individual and Family Photographs.

Parents and Friends of Ballyoran

Unfortunately there was a very disappointing turn out at our Annual General Meeting in September. The Parents and Friends Group is open to any parent or friend of the school and exists to organise social events and raise money to be spent on the pupils. Please come to the next meeting when it is arranged.

We plan to have a Christmas Draw in the lead up to Christmas. Please support this by buying a ticket. These will go on sale after Half Term.

School Book Fair

From Monday 8th October to Friday 12th October 2018 we held our annual Travelling Book Fair in our Central Library Area. There were over 300 titles to choose from and book prices started at £2.00. There was also a colourful selection of posters and stationery, always very popular. Year 7 pupils really enjoyed the experience of organizing and running the Book Fair which was a great success, raising just over £1100. This is one of our largest totals ever!

A huge thank-you must go to all the pupils, parents and friends who supported our Book Fair; this will mean lots of extra books for our school.

Young Enterprise

Year 4

Year 4 had an enjoyable morning spent with Elaine from Asda, learning all about “Our Community” and the sorts of jobs/roles people have, from butchers to bank managers, plumbers etc. The pupils learned how business and government work together for the good of the whole community. Through posters and simulation activities, pupils learned about the importance of government, decision-making, voting, taxes and working together. In groups, the pupils had to construct a community of their own and they thoroughly enjoyed the interactive work.

Year 5

On Wednesday 10th October, both Year 5 classes came together to take part in Young Enterprise. Elaine from Asda led the learning and the pupils were actively involved in planning a town/city. They had to make lots of smart decisions like, where would a hospital be best placed? Lots of discussion followed about hospital car parks, easy access and environmental impact... The pupils also got to design the frontage for a restaurant of their own; planning the menu was a favourite activity. The active learning took the Year 5s right up to lunch time and all the talk of food meant they were ready to eat. A big thank you to Asda for their input and well done to all Year 5 pupils.

Under the Hawthorn Tree

On Wednesday 3rd October, after an early lunch, thirty-four Year 7 pupils, Mrs Martin, Mrs Heaney and Mrs Fusco went to The Mac Theatre in Belfast to see an adaptation of Under the Hawthorn Tree. We are reading this book in class, so we knew a part of the story already. It was an excellent production and depicted the story of Eily, Michael and Peggy during the Potato Famine in Ireland in the 1800s. The play was brilliant and the children loved the special compartments in the stage that added scenery and dimension to the show and the traditional Irish musical instruments. We had a great day out and thoroughly enjoyed the show.

Gaelic Blitz

On Thursday 4th October pupils from Year 5, 6 and 7 took part in a Gaelic Blitz at St John's PS Eglisish with teams from several other local primary schools. All of the pupils took part with great enthusiasm and represented the school really well. We are very grateful to Mr Mac Iomhair from St John's who organised the tournament and provided great hospitality for all involved. Ryan Paulino from Year 7 was chosen as the player of the tournament for Ballyoran.

Wes Magee Author

On Monday 8th October Wes Magee visited our school for the day. Wes is an award-winning author for children and for adults. He has published six poetry collections for adults, and more than one hundred books for young readers – fiction, poetry, plays, picture books and anthologies. Children in school have enjoyed reading some of his works in Guided Reading sessions in school.

He worked with Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 pupils, reading and acting out a selection of his poetry with rhymes and actions. With key Stage 2 pupils he held Writing Workshops with each class, where pupils got to produce a piece of writing. Teachers and pupils alike, enjoyed the day spent with him and he in turn sent a very complimentary e-mail about the school and the interest and response of all the children.

Coding Classes

Year 7 children have been taking part in a series of Coding classes with St John the Baptist's College through their Digital Schoolhouse Project. Ms Sharkey, a teacher from St John the Baptist's College, visits our school every fortnight to teach our Year 7 pupils about Coding and Interactive Design. So far the Year 7 pupils have taken part in lessons focusing on giving and following instructions. They have been learning about the importance of precise and correct instructions when computers, phones and tablets use code to operate. They will progress to using code through a range of apps on the iPads.

Cancer Focus Workshops

On Thursday 11th October Cancer Focus NI visited our school to carry out workshops with each year group. Children were told about the importance of eating healthily, exercising regularly and taking care in the sun. Establishing healthy habits early is essential to a child's future health. As a school we are keen to promote this.

Year 6 Sustrans Cycling

Year 6 pupils were delighted to participate in National Standard Cycling Training offered by Sustrans. During the three-day training, pupils were able to gain the skills and confidence required to ride their bikes safely on today's roads for short journeys such as cycling to school. Year 6 pupils thoroughly enjoyed the training and look forward to future events organised with Sustrans.

CK Football Coaching

On Monday 15th October, the children in the Nursery enjoyed their first visit from Coach Chris. We developed our football skills and look forward to his next visit.

PSNI Safety Talk

The PSNI have again visited school and encouraged our pupils to stay safe over the half term break, particularly in relation to sparklers and fireworks. We would encourage all parents to talk to your children about safety and know where they are at night.

Board of Governors

Mrs Hughes and Ms Hall are the Parent Representatives on the newly reconstituted Board of Governors for 2018 – 2022

Wednesday Club Afternoon

On Wednesday afternoon all pupils in Years 3 -7 get the opportunity to go to a different club: Choir, Drama, French, Art and Sport.

We have also set up a new Junior Choir made up of Year 3 and 4 pupils. They will perform for the first time at Christmas.

Road Safety

As the time changes and we move into the dark evenings, we would ask that you remind your children about the importance of staying safe when out and about on the roads. We would recommend that pupils wear reflectors or some type of reflective clothing.

Policy on Parents Arriving at School

A reminder that on arrival into school parents must in the first instance report to the office. If there is no-one in the office please wait until the secretary returns. Under no circumstances should a parent leave reception to go into the main school. This policy is in the interest of Safeguarding and Child Protection.

Parents are also reminded that if you need to speak to your child's teacher in the morning, you must report to the office and not go directly to the teacher.

New Pupil Council

Congratulations to Ellie McNeice and Mark McGeown who were recently elected Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of our Pupil Council.

Temporary Positions

If anyone would be interested in having their name placed on a list to cover absences of Cleaners and Kitchen Staff, please contact Mrs Mayers in the office.

Safeguarding & Child Protection

You have been given copies of a summary of our Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy at Parent/Teacher Meetings. These documents in the various languages represented in our school are also available on the school Website by clicking on 'Parents' and 'Safeguarding Children'.

School Budgets

You will be aware from the media that all schools in Northern Ireland continue to face challenges because of budget cuts. This is unfortunately going to have an impact on our school if no extra funding is made available by the Department of Education. This will mean the Board of Governors having to make difficult decisions. I would ask you to lobby your local politicians on this matter.

Clothing Bank

A reminder that you can place the following items in our clothing bank: Clothing, Towels, Sheets, Blankets, Shoes and Curtains. The school will receive money for this.

School Development Plan Priorities 2018/2019

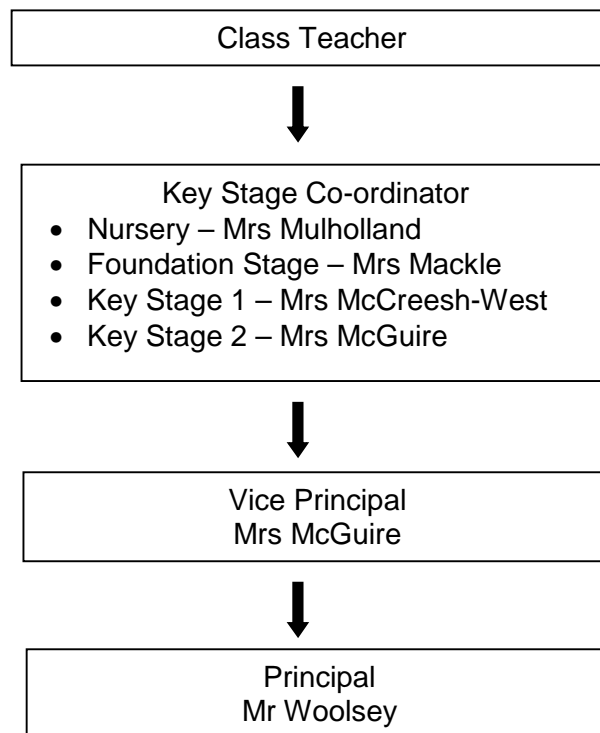
	2018-2019
<p>Child Centred Provision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Climate of the School * Pastoral Care * Child Protection * SEN Interventions/Support * Inclusion/Diversity * Healthy School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health – pupils and staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ü Emotional Health & Well Being Audit ü Mental Health First Aid • Target drop in attendance • Review Attendance Policy • Prepare for new Anti-Bullying legislation • Securus implementation • Review Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy • Review Pastoral Care Policy • Review RSE Policy • Review Circle Time • Review School Vision • SEN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ü Intensive Support Review ü ASD Training ü Dyslexia Friendly Classrooms Training ü SEND implementation ü Agree Provision Map ü Nurture ü LSC Provision • Embed Daily Golden Mile

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce Sustrans • Review Healthy Living Policy – Target Healthy Eating • Playground Development • Pupil Council Development
<p>High Quality Teaching & Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Curriculum Provision * Literacy & Numeracy * Learning & Teaching Strategies * Assessment/Data Analysis * Self Evaluation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ü Writing - Narrative ü Accelerated Reader • Numeracy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ü Making Maths Fun ü Maths Mastery ü Embed Izak 9 • ICT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ü Coding ü Online Safety ü Develop Digital Leaders ü Develop 'See Saw' app ü Assessment of 5Es ü IWB Training • WAU <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ü Embed Outdoor Learning – linked to Numeracy • Art & Design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ü Revision and evaluation of classroom practice • Review The Arts • RE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ü Complete new scheme – Yr 7 • Review Activity Based Learning in KS1 • Review Marking Policy • Review Learning & Teaching Policy • Review Music Policy • Develop use of PASS Data • Nursery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ü Compliance with new Curricular Guidance for Pre School Education ü Develop Writing ü Embed new Observation process – '2 Build A Profile' ü Transition to Foundation Stage
<p>Effective Leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Effective School Development Plan * Continuing Professional Development * Curriculum Leadership * Financial Management * Accommodation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustain enrolment • Efficient and effective use of budget resources in challenging financial climate • Investigate more creative ways of fundraising to fund resources for pupils eg IWBs • Review Communication Policy • Disseminate new Complaints Procedure • Middle Management Training • GDPR compliance & training • Rolling painting programme • Nursery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ü Review of policies and procedures in relation to new Curricular Guidance for Pre School Education ü Review and develop interactions ü Outdoor Play Equipment

School Connected to the Local Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared Education • Eco Schools Green Flag Reassessment • Sustrans • Parental engagement – Introduce Primarysite School App • Consultation with parents • Review Educational Visits Policy • Parent Workshops – Literacy, Numeracy & Mental Health • Nursery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ü Reputation ü Enter Shared Education ü Embed 'Big Bedtime Read' ü Parental access to 'Too Simple'
--	--

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.

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.

Menu for November

(See last page)

Can I wish the entire school community a pleasant and relaxing Half Term break.

R Woolsey
Principal

