



News Sheet – October 2018

Diary Dates – October 2018

1 st	School Closed – Staff Training
3 rd	Year 7 visit to Mac Theatre for Show
4 th	Gaelic Blitz: St John's, Eglis
8 th – 12 th	Book Fair Week
8 th	Author: Wes Magee Visiting School
11 th	Cancer Focus NI Class Workshops
15 th	Sustrans Year 6 Road Cycling Training
17 th	Nursesey Closes at 12 noon for Staff Training
22 nd - 26 th	Parent/Teacher Meetings – school finishes at 1pm daily for all pupils. No Afterschool Clubs.
25 th	Flu Vaccinations
26 th	Last session of Year 6 & Year 7 Swimming
29 th – 2 nd Nov	School Closed for Half Term

Advance Dates

We aim to work in partnership with parents and, with this in mind; we have arranged as many dates as possible for the school year to give parents as much notice as possible. These can be found on the Calendar on our website www.ballyoranps.com.

School Closure: October 2018

Please note that school will be closed on Monday 1st October for Staff Training and from Monday 29th October to Friday 2nd November 2018 for Half Term.

Book Fair

This will take place from Monday 8th – Friday 12th October 2018. Please see flyer which will be sent home next week. Please give this your support.

First Aid

Our 4 First Aiders are:

- Mrs N Fusco (Co-ordinator)
- Mrs E Mackle
- Mr R Hendron
- Mrs L Baxter

Fizzy Drinks

A reminder that as part of our Healthy Schools Policy, we do not permit pupils to bring fizzy drinks into school.

Healthy Breaks

Nursery to Year 2 get a healthy snack provided by the school, Year 3 – 7 must bring in their own healthy snack. To help parents we have created a table of suitable and non-suitable healthy break snacks:

Suitable healthy break snacks	Not allowed at break
Pieces of fresh fruit	Any type of confectionery, eg chocolate products and sweets
Fruit pots of sliced or chopped fresh fruit	Crisps and crisp-like products such as tortilla chips, potato sticks, corn chips, prawn crackers, puff crackers
Canned fruit in natural juice	Cakes, buns or pastries
Salad pots	Cereal or fruit bars

Raw vegetables such as tomatoes, carrots, celery, peppers and cucumber	All biscuits
Bread, pancakes or scones with a thin spread of margarine	Fizzy drinks
Breadsticks or crackers with cheese	Dried fruit that has been sugared or coated in yogurt or chocolate
Sandwiches, bagels, baguettes, pitta bread, tortilla wraps or rolls	Pretzels
Yogurts	Nuts

Nut Allergy Advice

One of our Nursey pupils has a very serious nut allergy. The child can become very ill if exposed to nuts in any form. Even touching anyone/anything that has been in contact with nuts or nut products can cause a severe reaction. In order to protect this pupil, we will be attempting to make the school a NUT FREE environment. We would therefore be grateful if all parents could ensure that their children do not come to school with nuts or any items containing nuts, e.g. Snickers, peanut butter or Nutella sandwiches, Cashew/Brazil/Hazel nuts etc. We ask all parents to be particularly careful when preparing children's lunches. Thank you for your cooperation.

Food Allergies

Legislation means that the school kitchen must be aware of any pupils with food allergies. Whilst most special dietary requirements and food allergies should have been made known to the school already through the Medical Register forms, it is of vital importance to inform us if you have not done so already or if your child becomes allergic to something during the school year. Our school kitchen will in turn make appropriate adjustments to their menus.

Lunchbox Leaflet

We encourage parents of pupils who take a Packed Lunch, to ensure it is healthy. Leaflets are available from the Office.

Free School Meals

Are you aware that many people in Northern Ireland who are entitled to Free School Meals are not claiming them?

If you can answer 'Yes' to any of the following questions, you **may** be entitled to Free School Meals:

Are you in receipt of:

- Income Support?
- Income-Based Jobseeker's Allowance?
- Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance?
- Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit?

If you are **not** receiving one of the above benefits

- Are you in receipt of **Child Tax Credit** or **Working Tax Credit** and have an annual taxable income of £16,190 or less?
- Are you an Asylum Seeker supported by the Home Office National Asylum Support Service (NASS)?

If you have answered 'Yes' to any of these questions and are not in receipt of Free School Meals, please contact Mrs Mayers in the office for an Application Form or visit the school website 'Parents' and 'Apply for free School Meals/Uniform Allowance'.

Flu Vaccination

The Department of Health has decided that all Year 1 – 7 pupils will be offered the Flu Vaccine again this year. This will be by way of a nasal spray and will be administered in school on 25th October 2018. Parents will receive Consent Forms for this which I ask you to return promptly.

After School Clubs

The school continues to offer a varied selection of Extra Curricular Activities to its pupils. We believe that these are an important part of your child's educational experience at Primary School. We would encourage every pupil to attend at least one Club year term. Please see the Club List on page 7. A reminder that all Clubs which begin at 2.00pm finish at 3.00pm. Those Clubs which start at 3.00pm finish at 4.00pm. Please ensure your child is collected promptly after Clubs.

School Uniform

I want to say a big thank you to all our parents for ensuring that your children are in full school uniform every day. Our pupils look so smart in the uniform and we ask that you ensure that these high standards are maintained all year. A reminder that replacement ties and PE bags can be purchased from the office for £3 each.

Please note that hooded tops (hoodies) are not permitted in school.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

These will take place from 22nd – 26th October 2018 for all parents. To facilitate these, school will close at 1.00pm each day. As these meetings are a vital part of our home/school partnership we would ask that you make the effort to attend. As last year, one letter has gone out to the eldest pupil in each family. We would ask that you complete the reply to include all family members and return it to school with the eldest pupil. A reminder that there will be no after school clubs during this week.

House System

The school continues to operate the House Competition. All pupils have been placed into one of three houses:

Bann, Lagan and Foyle

Points are awarded to pupils for a range of things, (e.g. good manners) and the points are displayed in the Assembly Hall each week with a monthly House Cup presented to the House with the most points.

Congratulations to the following Yr 6 and 7 pupils who have been elected as Captain and Vice Captains this year.

House	Captain	Vice-Captain
Bann	Ryan Paulino	Issey-Mae Byrne
Foyle	Chelsey Williamson	Brendan Ferreira
Lagan	Milana Valiute	Tatiana Pereira

New Pupil Council Elected

Well done to all our newly elected Year 4-7 Pupil Council members who were recently presented with their badges in assembly. The Pupil Council will meet with Miss Nelson (Pupil Council Co-ordinator) and Mr Woolsey every month in the Conference Room.

Yr 7W/H	Aine Gorman & Daniel Veiga
Yr 7B/M	Ellie McNeice & Mark McGeown
Yr 6	Tatiana Pereira & Reuben Kerr
Yr 5McG	Rachel Mallon & Oisin Summers
Yr 5A	Nayara Sanchez Mendes & Brooke McGeown
Yr 4	Corey Simpson & Cormac Reynolds
LSC	Donald Lucas

Eco Committee

Congratulations to the following pupils who have been elected onto the Eco Committee for 2018 – 2019. They will meet on a regular basis with Miss Abraham (Eco Co-ordinator)

Yr 7 W/H – Aine Gorman & Alex Abbott

Yr 7 B/M - Dayanne Pina Tavares & D Jason de Pina Domingos

Yr 6 McM – Clodagh Coyle & Patryk Gorgol

Yr 5 McG – Jamie Cartmill & Ben Wilson

Morning and Afternoon Arrangements

A reminder that all pupils must be dropped off outside school in the mornings. We ask that parents do not enter the school building. This is to ensure the smooth operation of the school first thing in the morning. Unfortunately it will not be possible for you to speak to your child's teacher in the morning as they are busy preparing and supervising. If you have an urgent message, please go to the Office. A reminder that supervision does not begin until 8.45am, therefore your child/children should not be on the premises before this unless they are attending Breakfast Club.

You are reminded to wait outside the red gate at home time until your child is dismissed by their teacher. We ask that parents do not come in to remove their child/children or call them out until they have been dismissed.

Thank you to the vast majority of parents who respect the above requests.

Car Parks/Parking

A reminder that the car parks must not be used for dropping off or collecting pupils. Parents and pupils are asked to refrain from entering the car park for Health and Safety reasons. Again, thank you to the vast majority of parents who respect this. Traffic congestion continues to be a problem in Ballyoran Park and we would ask that you respect local residents by parking sensibly. Please also respect other drivers and pupils. No-one should park on the yellow hazard lines or block the gates. **Unfortunately, I have been informed that recently a local resident was verbally abused and threatened by someone picking up a pupil from school when they were challenged about where they had parked. This behaviour is totally unacceptable and I would ask all our parents to show respect for all local residents.**

European Day of Languages

On Wednesday 26th September we celebrated European Day of Languages. Children spoke in lots of different languages and had fun learning new songs and games.

School Attendance – Every School Day Counts

Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning. Sometimes attendance percentages can be misleading – as a whole school in 2017/18 we had an average attendance of 91.7%. From the Department of Education guidance detailed below you can see that this falls into the 'Poor' category. As a whole school we would like your cooperation in improving our rate of attendance and in turn reducing the days of lost learning. From your child's summer report you will find the rate of attendance for 2017/18 and make comparisons with the table below. Please note that rates of attendance are reviewed monthly with the Educational Welfare Office (EWO) and those children falling below 85% are automatically referred to the EWO for intervention. Thank you for your help in this matter. The Department of Education booklet '**School Attendance Matters - A Parent's Guide**' is available on the school website and from the Office.

100% Attendance	0 Days Missed	Excellent
95% Attendance	9 Days of Absence 1 Week and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Satisfactory
90% Attendance	19 Days of Absence 3 Weeks and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Poor
85% Attendance	28 Days Absence 5 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	Very Poor
80% Attendance	38 Days of Absence 7 Weeks and 3 days of Learning Missed	Unacceptable
75% Attendance	46 Days of Absence 9 Weeks and 1 Day of Learning Missed	Unacceptable

Due to Department of Education Guidelines, a present mark can only be given if a pupil is in school.

Just as Attendance is important, Punctuality is also very important. School begins at 8.55am therefore; pupils should be in school when the 8.55am bell rings. We would ask all parents to help ensure this is the case. If pupils are late, the class is disrupted and valuable teaching time is lost. **Please note that Pupils arriving in class after the 9.00am bell will be marked as late. If a pupil is late twice in one week, you will receive a letter from the teacher. If this happens again in the same half-term, you will receive a second letter and be referred to the Principal.**

School Website

Please keep up to date with what is going on in school by visiting our website on www.ballyoranps.com

Parents and Friends

The Annual General Meeting of the Parents and Friends of Ballyoran Primary School was held on Tuesday 25th September 2018. More parents and friends are urgently needed to help with organising events this year. If you are interested, please speak to Mrs Mackle.

Money Reminder

Thank you to everyone who sends all money into school in an envelope. Parents are reminded that teachers will no longer be accepting loose coins. All money coming into school must be the correct amount, in an envelope labelled with the child's name, the amount and what it is for. Also where there are more than one pupil in the school, a separate envelope should be sent for each item and each child. This will ensure that teachers have more time for teaching. Thank you for your co-operation on this matter.

Daily Mile

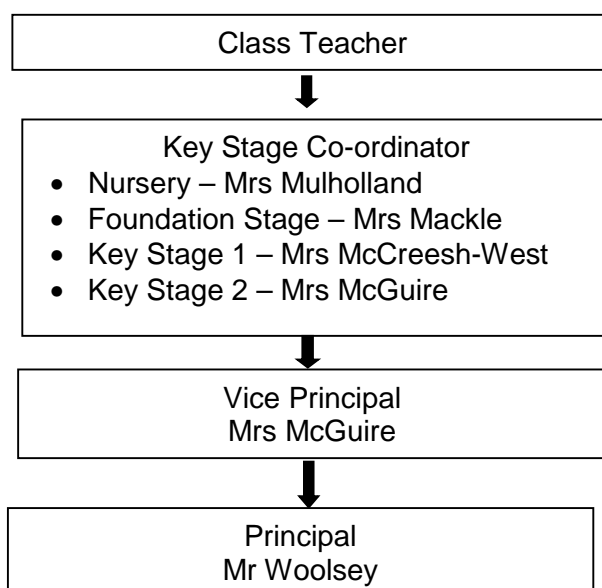
As you have previously been notified all our pupils take part in the 'Daily Mile' initiative in conjunction with the Southern Health Trust. This includes 15 minutes of walking or running each day, over and above normal PE lessons. Further information is available on the school website.

Gum Shields

Please note that it is school policy and GAA policy that everyone involved in Gaelic Football must wear a gum shield to protect their teeth and gums. All pupils attending after school Gaelic on Mondays and playing in matches and blitzes must wear a gum shield or they will not be able to take part.

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.

Extra Curricular Activities - Term 1

(See page 7)

School Holidays 2018/2019

(See page 8)

Menu for October

(See back page)

R Woolsey
Principal

Extra-Curricular Activities 2018/2019 Term 1

Club	Day	Dates	Time	Class	Staff	Location
ICT	Monday - Thursday	Weekly Commences Monday 17 th September	3.00 - 4.00	Yr 4 - 7	Mrs Glavin	ICT Suite
Gaelic	Monday	18 th , 24 th Sept, 8 th , 15 th Oct, 5 th , 12 th , 19 th & 26 th Nov, 3 rd & 10 th Dec	2.00 - 3.00	Yr 2	PC Coaching	Pitch/ Playground/ Hall
Gaelic	Monday	18 th , 24 th Sept, 8 th , 15 th , Oct, 5 th , 12 th , 19 th & 26 th Nov, 3 rd & 10 th Dec	3.00 - 4.00	Yr 3 - 7	PC Coaching	Pitch/ Playground/ Hall
Soccer	Tuesday	25 th Sept, 2 nd , 9 th , 16 th Oct & 30 th , 6 th , 13 th , 20 th & 27 th Nov, 4 th & 11 th Dec	3.00 - 4.00	Yr 5 - 7	Ambassadors In Sport	Pitch/ Playground/ Hall
Healthy Kids	Tuesday	2 nd , 19 th & 16 th Oct, 6 th , 13 th , 20 th & 27 th Nov, 4 th & 11 th Dec	2.00 - 3.00	Yr 2	PC Coaching	Pitch/ Playground/ Hall
Healthy Kids	Tuesday	2 nd , 19 th & 16 th Oct, 6 th , 13 th , 20 th & 27 th Nov, 4 th & 11 th Dec	3.00 - 4.00	Yr 3 - 7	PC Coaching	Pitch/ Playground/ Hall
Cookery	Tuesday	18 th , 25 th Sept, 2 nd , 9 th & 16 th Oct, 6 th Nov	3.00- 4.00	Yr 5- 7	Mrs McGuire	Canteen
Cross Country	Wednesday	3 rd , 10 th , 17 th Oct, 7 th & 14 th & 28 th Nov	3.00- 4.00	Yr 4 - 7	Mr Woolsey	School Pitch / People's Park
Irish Dancing	Wednesday	15 th Oct, 7 th , 14, 21 st , 28 th Nov 5 th & 12 th Dec+	3.00 - 4.00	Yr 4 - 7	Mrs Heaney	Hall/Dinnerhall
IPads	Wednesday	19 th Sept, 3 rd & 10 th Oct & 7 th , 14 th & 28 th Nov	3.00 - 4.00	Yr 4 - 7	Mrs Mulholland	Nursery 1
Arts & Crafts	Thursday	18 th , 20 th , 27 th Sept, 4 th , 11 th , 18 th & 8 th Nov	3.00- 4.00	Yr 5 - 7	Mrs McMurray	Year 6 Classroom

Please note Arts & Crafts, IPads and Cookery have very limited spaces and only those children who received a consent form from the teacher in charge of these clubs have been allocated a space.

Please note there will be no Clubs during the following weeks:

1. Parent/Teacher Meeting Week: 22nd - 26th October 2018
2. Half term week: 29th October - 2nd November 2018
3. Last week of term: 17th - 21st December 2018

Term Dates & School Holidays

2018/2019 Year

All dates are inclusive

Term 1

Term Dates

Monday 3rd September – Friday 21st December 2018

Holidays

- Friday 28th September & Monday 1st October 2018 - Staff Training
- Monday 29th October – Friday 2nd November 2018 – Half Term

Christmas Holiday: Monday 24th December 2018 – Monday 7th January 2019

Term 2

Term Dates

Tuesday 8th January – Wednesday 17th April 2019

Holidays

- Monday 18th - Wednesday 20th February 2019 – Half Term
- Monday 18th March 2019 - St. Patrick's Day Holiday

Easter Holiday: Thursday 18th – Friday 26th April 2019

Term 3

Term Dates

Monday 29th April – Friday 28th June 2019

Holidays

- Monday 6th May 2019 – May Bank Holiday
- Monday 27th & Tuesday 28th May 2019 – May Bank Holiday & Staff Training Day
- Friday 7th June 2019 – Staff Training Day

School will finish at midday on the last day of each term.

Note: Removing pupils during term time is not recommended; please try not to book holidays or other trips during the school term. Staff cannot prepare work in advance for children who are on holidays and very often these children miss vital work during their absence. The school is also required to inform the EA when a child is removed from school for a holiday. This information is recorded and may be used by the EA in appropriate situations, i.e. Special Educational Needs Assessments or Child Protection issues.