



News Sheet – June 2017

Diary Dates for June 2017

1 st	KS2 Healthy Kids Year 3 & 4 Shared Education Sessions
2 nd	Year 6 & 7 Swimming starts Year 3 & 4 Shared Education Sessions Year 7 End of Year Trip – Lisburn Leisureplex Year 7: St John the Baptist College Induction Morning
5 th	Year 7 DVD Filming Year 2 Shared Education Session Year 7 Lismore Entrance Tests
6 th	Year 7 DVD Filming Year 2 Shared Education Session Nursery Football Coaching Session
7 th	Sports Day – 9.30am - School finishes at 1pm for all pupils
8 th	School Closed: Exceptional Closure - Polling Station use for General Election
9 th	Brownlow Cup Soccer Tournament Nursery End of Year Trip – Peter Pan’s, Portadown
14 th – 16 th	Year 6 & 7 Edinburgh Trip
14 th	Jo Jingles in Nursery Year 5 End of Year Trip – Lisburn Leisureplex
15 th	Year 3 End of Year Trip – Jumping Jack’s, Lisburn Last night of homework Last day of after school clubs
16 th	Year 6 & 7 Swimming ends
20 th	Year 1 End of Year Trip – Scallywags, Lurgan Year 4 End of Year Trip – Golf & Ski Centre, Lurgan
21 st	Year 7 Love for Life Conference with Bocombra PS Year 6 End of Year Trip – We Are Vertigo, Belfast
23 rd	Prize Day Last Day of term for Year 7 pupils Annual Reports / Transition forms issued
26 th	Nursery Graduation – 10am
27 th	Class Changes
28 th	Colour Run – People’s Park – 6.30pm
29 th	End of Year Class Parties
30 th	Last day of Term, no uniform, no dinners – school finishes at midday for all pupils

School Closures – June 2017

School will be closed as follows in June:

- Thursday 8th June: Exceptional Closure for General Election Polling Station Use.

Prize Day

As last year, parents of Year 7 pupils will be invited to attend Prize Day.

Sports Day

This will take place on Wednesday 7th June 2017 at 9.30am. The Nursery event will take place in the Nursery Outdoor Play Area with Years 1 – 4 and Years 5 – 7 on the All Weather Pitch. Refreshments will be served and there will be Parents' events. Please support our pupils on this very important day in our school calendar. Please note school will finish at 1.00pm for all pupils on this day. Please note, if it is wet, Sports Day will be rescheduled for the next available dry day. Pupils will finish school at 1.00pm on Wednesday 7th June 2017 even if Sports Day is cancelled.

Annual Reports / Nursery Transition Forms

These will be sent home on Friday 23rd June 2017. Please sign both copies and return one to school. If you have any queries about anything written in the Report, please do not hesitate to contact the Class Teacher.

Induction Meetings

A big thank you to all those parents who attended our Nursery and Year 1 Induction Meetings. Anyone who was unable to attend and has still not collected their Induction Packs should call at the School Office as soon as possible.

Diocesan Visit

Father Ryan McAleer, Diocesan Adviser, paid the annual visit to Year 4 and Year 7 classes on Monday 15th May. He spoke to the children about the sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion. He was very pleased with the children's responses.

First Holy Communion

Twenty four children from Year 4 made their First Holy Communion in St. John the Baptist Church on Saturday 20th May. The ceremony was conducted by Canon Toner and all the children participated in the ceremony. The School Choir, accompanied by Mrs McCreesh-West, provided the lovely music. The children joined with family, friends and teachers for refreshments afterwards in the Pastoral Centre.

Pupil Council visit the Lord Mayor

On Wednesday 17th May, 12 Pupil Council members, Mrs Martin and Mrs Fox went to meet the Lord Mayor of Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon in the Civic Centre. The Lord Mayor, Mr Gareth Keating brought us inside a dining area where he chatted to us about school, football teams, Pupil Council and much more. We then went upstairs to the Council Chamber, which was very grand. We used special microphones to speak. He answered all our questions – from "Do you own many hats?" to "What does a Lord Mayor actually do?" and we all got to wear the chain. We made up mottos, like, "Be happy" or "Be responsible", even "Everything should be free." He spent a lot of time with us and made us feel very special. Mrs Martin was very proud of us as we behaved extremely well.

Crotchets and Quavers

The Nursery children enjoyed the Crotchets and Quavers music workshop on Tuesday 9th May when they got to play the Saxophone. They also got to sing, dance and play a selection of percussion instruments.

Success in Credit Union Poster Competition

Congratulations to the following pupils who were successful in the Credit Union Poster Competition. They all received prizes at a Special Presentation in the Town Hall on Tuesday 9th May 2017.

Age Group	Name	Local Level	Chapter Level
Special Category			
Under 7yrs	Ryanlee Flynn	1 st	2 nd
	Donald Lucas	2 nd	
		3 rd	
8 – 10 yrs	Jamie Campbell	1 st	1 st
	Malachy Kofa	2 nd	
	Natan Sochan	Joint 3 rd	
	Caoimhin Barry	Joint 3 rd	
	Baylee Blanton	Joint 3 rd	

Assessment Fortnight

Thank you for ensuring that your child/children were in school every day during Assessment Fortnight.

Fidget Spinners

As you will be aware Fidget Spinners are the latest must have item for children across the world. A significant number of pupils have been bringing these into school and they have been the cause of disruption as well as disagreements. With this in mind I have decided to ban these items from school and the children have been made aware of this. Despite this however a number of pupils have still been bringing them into school. If any pupil is found to have a fidget spinner in school, they will be confiscated until the end of the day. I would ask you to help us by ensuring that if your child has a fidget spinner that they do not bring it into school. Thank you for your co-operation on this matter.

Gaelic Blitz

Ballyoran PS hosted a Gaelic Blitz at the Tir Na nOg pitch on Thursday 18th May. The other teams taking part were St Mary's PS Maghery, St Oliver Plunkett's Ballyhegan and St Peter's PS Collegeland. Well done to all the players for taking part to the best of their ability and for the tremendous attitude shown throughout the tournament. We are very grateful to Tir Na nOg for allowing the use of the pitch and for providing coaches to referee the games. Player of the Day for Ballyoran was Year 7 pupil Noah Mc Cann.

Stay Safe and Stay Out Campaign

As we approach the summer we have again been asked by the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland to bring to your attention the dangers of children going near quarries.

The potential hazards that people expose themselves to are:

- Swimming in quarry lakes that can have very cold water even on a hot day in the middle of summer. Strong swimmers have drowned in quarries due to the unexpected impact that the extreme cold has had on their bodies.
- The water in quarry lakes can be very deep and shelving, exit from the water may only be possible in a few places, there may be pumps working or currents that can drag you under the water.
- There can be concealed underwater obstructions and other hazards that can seriously injure swimmers or individuals jumping into the water – tombstoning into quarry lakes is not safe.
- Tunnelling into piles of sand or playing on stockpiles exposes you to the risk of sudden collapses or movements that can easily bury you.

- Walking near the edge of quarry faces exposes you to the risk of serious falls as the edges can be unstable and collapse unexpectedly or sheer faces be obstructed by vegetation.
- Climbing or walking near rock faces can expose you to the risk of rock falls.
- Surfaces in quarries that may look solid, such as the surface of a silt pond, can suddenly break and act like quick sand sucking you down.
- Trail and quad biking in a quarry exposes riders to risks from unstable terrain, unexpected obstructions and being hit by moving plant.
- Young people on bikes or on foot may not be visible to operators of large machinery, they may not appreciate that the driver cannot see them.
- Quarries can often be located in remote sites where mobile reception is poor and there is no one on hand to help in the event of an accident.

Colour Run

You will see on the school diary that the school is having a Colour Run on Wednesday 28th June 2017 at 6.30pm in the People's Park. This is a joint event for charity with our Shared Education partner school Bocombra Primary School. The event is open to all pupils from Nursery to Year 7. All children attending must be accompanied by an adult. More information will be distributed after the Bank Holiday break.

Pupil Personal Information Forms

During the month of June Miss Doran will be sending home a print out of the information that we hold on your child/children. We would ask you to check this carefully with particular reference to the emergency contact details, make any amendments and return to school before the 23rd June.

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 June 2017

(See last page)

R Woolsey
Principal