



## News Sheet – April 2017

### Diary Dates for April 2017

4 <sup>th</sup>	Football coaching session in Nursery First Confession: Year 4 pupils – St John's Church at 6pm
7 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Draws Spring Soccer Festival – Drumgor PS Year 7 Fun Run – Lurgan Park Year 6 Sport Celebration Day – St John the Baptist College
10 <sup>th</sup>	No Homework/No Clubs this week
11 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Disco after school
12 <sup>th</sup>	Last Day of term, no uniform, no dinners, school finishes at midday for all pupils
24 <sup>th</sup>	Term 3 begins
26 <sup>th</sup>	School finishes at 2pm for all pupils to facilitate staff training
27 <sup>th</sup>	Nursery & Year 1 Admission Acceptance Letters posted
28 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4 & 5 swimming continues

### End of Term Arrangements

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April is the last day of term. There will be no uniform, no dinners and school will finish at 12noon. To reduce congestion at the gate, dismissal times will be as follows:

- Years 1 – 3: 11.50am
- Years 4 – 7: 12noon

### Easter Holidays

Please note that school will be closed from Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2017 for the Easter Holidays. School reopens for the Summer Term on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

### Parents & Friends Easter Draws

Thankyou to everyone who has supported the draws by buying a ticket or square. The draws will take place in assembly on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017, so you still have time to buy a ticket or square. The winner of the Easter squares in every class will receive an Easter Egg and the Easter Draw winner will receive a lovely Easter Basket prepared by Mrs Clarke.

The Easter Disco will take place on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2017. Yrs 1 – 3 from 2 – 3pm and Yrs 4 – 7 from 3 – 4pm. Admission is by ticket only and these are now available at a cost of £2. Pupils do not need to wear uniform to school this day.

### Parent/Teacher Meetings

A big thank you to parents for attending the Parent/Teacher Meetings at the beginning of March. These are a vital part of our home-school partnership and we are delighted with the very pleasing overall attendance of 92.5%.

## **Summer Uniform**

After the Easter Holidays, pupils may come to school wearing the summer uniform as follows:

- Boys may wear grey shorts
- Girls may wear a blue checked dress and white socks

We continue to be very proud of how smart our pupils look in their uniform.

## **Coats**

As we have now moved into Spring and the weather is a bit milder, we are no longer enforcing the coats rule at break and lunch. We would, however, encourage you to ensure your child/children come to school with a coat on a wet or cold day.

## **World Book Day**

World Book day in school began with a whole school assembly which included the Nursery children. We had a PowerPoint presentation with some Character quizzes and some of the children shared book reviews about their favourite book. Every child in school received a book token which they could either exchange for one of the eight free books especially written for World Book Day, or for £1.00 off the price of a book of their choice. The children all dressed up as their favourite Book characters and there were plenty of opportunities to celebrate World Book Day in class with reading activities emphasising the importance of reading for enjoyment every day, not just on World Book Day.

## **Nursery News**

### **Jo Jingles**

The children really enjoyed their recent visit from Jo Jingles on Friday 31st March. It was a morning of fun, music, and movement!

### **People's Park**

The children enjoyed their visit to the People's Park on Thursday 30th March. We would like to thank all the parents and grandparents who helped us out.

## **Strings Group compete in Portadown Music festival**

Eleven of our KS2 pupils competed in the String Group Section of Portadown Music Festival on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March and came third. Well done to all the pupils involved.

## **Service of Light**

As part of their preparation for confirmation, Year 7 pupils joined with St. John the Baptist and Presentation Primary schools for a Ceremony of Light for Year 7 pupils and their families on Wednesday 1st March in St John the Baptist church. One pupil and a parent participated in the ceremony.

## **Confirmation**

21 Year 7 pupils made their Confirmation on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March in St. John the Baptist Church. The Celebrant was the Very Rev. Canon Eugene Sweeney assisted by Rev Michael Sheehan and Very Rev. Canon Michael Toner. Pupils from Ballyoran PS led by Mrs McCreesh-West participated in the Community Choir. Everyone looked very smart in their new clothes and enjoyed the celebration.

## **'Bee Safe'**

On Monday 6th March, Year 6 went to The Hub, Brownlow to participate in the PCP 'Bee Safe' workshop. They learned about keeping safe on buses. They were made aware of

the dangers of playing near electricity power supplies. They were also able to identify some dangers around the house such as overloaded sockets, uncovered electrical wires and candles. Another workshop involved having a working smoke alarm in the house and the importance of making a fire escape plan. Pupils were reminded that smoke alarms should be tested every week. They also thought about how to treat older people in the community with respect. A great informative morning was had by everyone.

### **Moy Park Challenge**

On Friday 24th March, Year 6 participated in the Moy Park Masterclass Challenge. They were budding entrepreneurs for the morning. They developed their team building skills by participating with pupils from 3 other local schools to complete challenges set. The challenges included designing an imaginary creature which demonstrated a healthy lifestyle and designing a new chicken product that would appeal to children along with slogan, logo, packaging and design brief for Moy Park. We had some inventive products and who knows, you may see them in production soon. The pupils enjoyed the wealth of activities and well done to those who presented their ideas to the audience of 150 pupils - no easy task. The activities were followed by a healthy lunch sponsored by Moy Park. Many thanks to Young Enterprise and Moy Park employees for a very beneficial day and an insight into production and industry. The session ended with prizes and a photo session. For a taster of activities, go to our Year 6 class page on the school website to spot the up-and-coming product developers.

### **Maths Parents Workshop**

Many thanks to the parents who attended our Maths Parents Session 'The Tables/Useful Websites' with Timothy Doyle from Maths Improvement NI. It was encouraging to see so many parents there. The parents found the session fun, beneficial and informative with Timothy showing us strategies and websites to further our pupils enjoyment of maths. Copies of Timothy's booklets have been placed on our school website under Parents' Tab 'Useful Leaflets'. They are a useful guide to the strategies taught in school in the Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. They contain useful aids such as numberlines, hundred squares, maths reference sheets and lists of relevant websites. Timothy stressed the importance of having fun with your child in Maths in everyday situations such as shopping, reading timetables etc.

### **Red Nose Day**

On Friday 24th March, children took part in Red Nose Day for the charity Comic Relief. Children helped raise money for the charity by having a non-uniform 'Wear Red' day. Children were also given the opportunity to buy red noses in school. All proceeds were donated to Comic Relief. A total of £454 was raised, so a big thank you for all your help, donations and support.

### **Cash for Clobber Competition**

The Eco Committee invites you to gather up your unused clothes and help us to raise money for our school with the 'Cash for Clobber' competition. The school could win up to £1, 5000 by collecting all types of clothing and shoes (pairs only). The school that collects the most clobber per pupil wins a cash prize. Cash for clobber will pay out 40 pence per kilo collected. The 'Cash for Clobber' scheme aims to raise awareness of clothes reuse among children. The scheme highlights the benefits of sending clothes that can be worn to the developing world and promotes the ethos of building a cleaner, brighter future for everyone. Currently, 75% of the world's population depends on second – hand clothing. We would be grateful to have your full support in this 'bag drop' collection scheme. Please bring any donations in your own bags and we will place these items into the collection

bags provided by the scheme. The deadline for the clothes/donations to be in is Tuesday the 30<sup>th</sup> of May 2017.

### **Visit to Rosemount Care Home**

On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017, as part of St. Patrick's Day celebrations, nine pupils from the Irish Folk Dancing Club were invited to Rosemount Care Home to perform for the residents. Pupils from Year 4 to Year 7 enjoyed a walk up in the sunshine and danced beautifully as the residents smiled and clapped along. Sandra, events coordinator at Rosemount, said it was a pleasure to have the young people visit and hoped to see them again. She remarked on how friendly the pupils were, shaking hands with the residents and chatting to them. Well done to all the pupils involved!

### **St Patricks Day Irish Dancing Festival**

On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March, a group of Yr3 – 7 pupils took part in our 15<sup>th</sup> Folk Dance Festival. The adjudicator, Miss Katie Girvan, praised all the dancers for their behaviour and performances. She added that this was her second visit to Ballyoran and she was very impressed with the improvement she could see in all the dancers. Adding to the fun, Molly Davis and Aoife Madden, two of our Year 5 pupils treated us to an exhibition Treble Reel, and a reel as well as a Couples dance which they had choreographed themselves. Major prize-winners were, Caoimhe O'Connor Yr 4, Julia Osinska Year 4, Ellie Mc Niece Year 5, Alisha McConville Year 6 Mia Millar Yr7 and Olivia Dunbar Yr7. A big well done to the pupils who were dancing on stage for the first time; winners in this class were, Mafalda Lopez Year 5, Julia Oliveira Year 6, Marcelina Gorgol Year 3, Ben McKee Year 3, Djasmine Domingos Year 3 and Nayara Sanches Mendes Year 3. A special thank you to those who helped organise the event and those who came to support our celebration, one of our largest audiences ever, and a big well done to all the team for dancing to the best of their ability.

### **Half Time Match**

Congratulations to Year 7 pupils Olivia Dunbar and Paul Hendron who both played at half time during the recent Armagh v Offaly National League game at the Athletic Grounds in Armagh. Both pupils played really well and represented the school with great distinction.

### **Soccer Match v Richmount**

The school soccer team played a series of friendly matches against Richmount PS on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March. Well done to all the players, particularly LSC pupil Malachy Kofa who made his debut for the school team on this occasion.

### **Traffic Situation Outside School**

The traffic situation outside school in the morning and afternoon at 2pm and 3pm continues to be a major problem. Unfortunately many people are continuing to show a lack of respect for the safety of our pupils, other drivers and local residents. I continue to have complaints from local residents regarding this issue. I would again urge you to please show respect in how you drive and where you park when dropping off and picking up your children. A reminder that the yellow hazard lines must be kept clear at all times. Thank you to those parents who do show respect and drive and park with care and consideration for others.

### **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.

### **School Development Plan Audit Questionnaires**

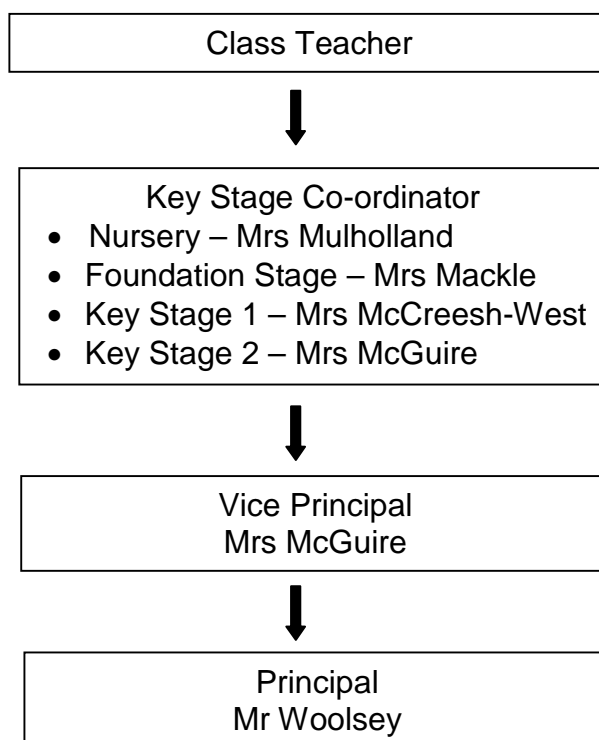
A big thankyou to everyone who took the time to complete these and return them to school. A summary of the responses will be published in due course.

### **New Parent Governor**

Ms Ceira Hall has been appointed as a new Parent Representative on the Board of Governors.

### **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.

**Staffing**

Mrs Baxter has now gone off on Maternity Leave and we wish her all the very best for this. We welcome Miss Hylands to the school, she will be covering N2 while Mrs Baxter is off.

**Menu for April 2017**

(See last page)

**Website**

Remember to keep up to date with everything that is going on in school by logging on to our website: [www.ballyoranps.com](http://www.ballyoranps.com)

Finally, I would like to thank all members of the school community for their support during another very busy term and wish everyone a happy and relaxing Easter break.

R Woolsey  
Principa

