



News Sheet – March 2017

Diary Dates for March 2017

1 st	World Book Day
	Friendly soccer match at Richmount PS
2 nd	School Closed – Exceptional Closure – Polling Station use for Assembly Election
	Yr 7 Service of Light – St John's Church: 6pm
3 rd	Yr 5 Shared Education session at Ballyoran
6 th – 10 th	Parent/Teacher Meetings- school closes at 1pm for all pupils
6 th	Yr 6 'Bee Safe' event – The Hub, Brownlow
8 th	Diocesan RE Visit
	Yr 1 Shared Education session at Ballyoran
9 th	Yr 5 Shared Education session at Ballyoran
10 th	Fair Trade Assembly
13 th	Parents Talk 'The Active Child' with Maggie Redmond, Community Paediatrics
14 th	Yr 7 Confirmation practice – St John's Church
15 th	School closes at 1pm for all pupils to facilitate staff training
16 th	St Patricks Irish Dancing Festival: 1.30 – 3.30pm
17 th	School Holiday – St Patrick's Day
21 st	Class & Group Photographs taken
22 nd	Yr 1 Shared Education session at Ballyoran
	Yr 7 Confirmation practice – St John's Church
23 rd	Yr 5 Shared Education session at Ballyoran
24 th	Yr 7 & Choir Confirmation practice – St John's Church
25 th	Confirmation – 3pm – St John's Church
28 th	Numeracy Parents Talk – Yr 3 – 7 parents: 2 – 3pm
30 th	Yr 5 Shared Education session at Bocombra
31 st	Jo Jingles in Nursery

School Closures – March 2017

Ballyoran Primary School will be closed as follows during March:

- 2nd – Exceptional Closure – Polling Station use for Assembly Election
- 15th – School closes at 1pm for all pupils to facilitate staff training
- 17th – St Patrick's Day

Parent Teacher Meetings

A reminder that Parent / Teacher Meetings will take place during the week Monday 6th March – Friday 10th March 2017. You should have already received your meeting date and time and we would encourage you to attend as this is a vital part of partnership with parents. School will finish at 1pm during this week for all pupils. To ease congestion at the gate, dismissal times will be as follows:

- Years 1 – 3: 12.50pm
- Years 4 – 7: 1pm

Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers

We are collecting these vouchers, please send them in with your child. There is a collection box in the foyer.

World Book Day

World Book Day will take place on Wednesday 1st March 2017. Every child will receive a **£1 World Book Day Book Token** that can be exchanged for one of TEN special £1 World Book Day books or to get £1 off any book costing £2.99 or more in Asda, Tesco or Easons. Nurseries, schools and libraries across the UK celebrate World Book Day with a huge range of events and activities. Here's what we will be doing on World Book Day on Thursday 3rd March:

- Dress up as your favourite well known book character. Children should come to school as story book characters NOT footballers or film characters; the aim is to get children thinking about books that they have enjoyed reading.
- Whole school assembly.
- Reading activities in every classroom.

You can join us in building your child's enthusiasm for books well beyond World Book Day by reading together regularly and joining your local library if you are not yet members. For more information about World Book Day and ideas on sharing books at home please visit www.worldbookday.com.

St Patrick's Day Irish Dancing Festival

This will take place in the Assembly Hall on Thursday 16th March from 1.30 – 3.30pm and we would encourage you to support it. Please note you are free to come and go as you please during the event.

Easter Squares & Easter Basket Draw

These will go on sale very soon.

Pledge Mass

As part of their preparation for Confirmation, year 7 pupils attended Mass on Sunday 26th February (Temperance Sunday). The children took the Abstinence Pledge during the Mass.

Football Tournament

On Friday 3rd February, the football team took part in the annual Jones' Shield 5 a side tournament at the Football Warehouse in Portadown. After narrowly losing our first match against tournament favourites Hart Memorial, we bounced back magnificently to record victories over Richmount, Mullaghglass and a highly fancied Edenderry PS team. Aaron Prunty, Noah McCann and Paul Hendron were in scoring form while Aodhan O'Connor played well throughout. Special mention must go to our goalkeepers on the day Tiernan Brennan and Sean Coyle. Well done everybody on a terrific team performance.

Safer Internet Day

This year we celebrated Safer Internet Day on 7th February 2017. The theme of this year's campaign was Be the change: unite for a better internet! Children were involved in a special assembly and completed various activities throughout the day to help inform them of some of the dangers of being online. All classes took part in a competition asking them to design an emoji to promote Safer Internet. The prize winners were announced in our Friday morning assembly and they were awarded emoji themed prizes.

Winners were:

- Emilijus Bulvydas – Year 4
- Oliwia Rybak – Year 5
- Paula Karnarkowska – Year 6
- Julia Oliveira – Year 6

The Digital Leaders were announced during our Internet Safety assembly. This group of children will work together with Miss McGibbon to learn about staying safe online. They will be responsible for informing their friends and classes throughout the school on how to stay safe online. The Digital Leaders are:

- Year 5 McK – Aine Gorman and Luana Mota
- Year 5 McG – Dayna Hughes and Ellie McNeice
- Year 6 – Kassie Blanton and Kajus Ciuijevas
- Year 7 – Dakota Wilson, Evie Judge and Olivia Dunbar

Year 5 Young Enterprise

On Thursday 9th February, the children in Year 5 participated in the Young Enterprise programme 'Our City'. The pupils had great fun finding out about the people, the jobs and the businesses that make up a modern city and surrounding areas. The pupils were able to plan, design and construct their own city as part of a team.

Football Coaching

On Tuesday 7th February the children in the Nursery enjoyed their second visit from Coach Chris. We developed our football skills and look forward to his next visit.

Names on Clothing

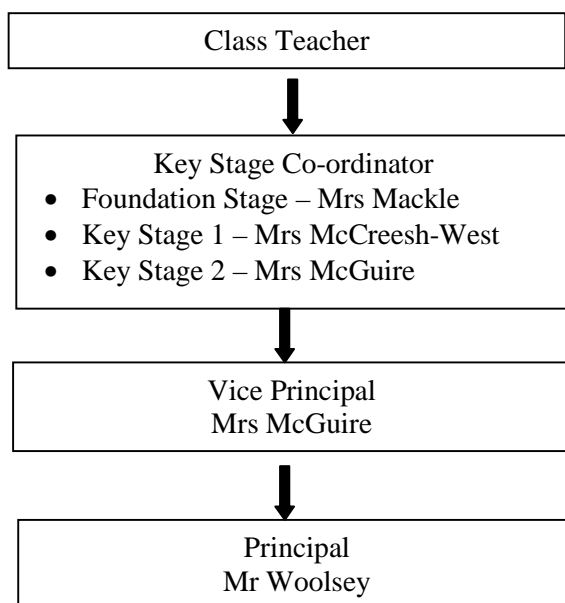
Pupils frequently lose items of clothing in school and it is very difficult for staff to reunite lost items with pupils if there are no names on the item. With this in mind, I would ask that parents ensure that all items of school uniform and PE uniform have your child's name on them.

Safeguarding

Please note that there has been a change to the Designated Teachers for Child Protection. Mrs McGuire is now the Designated Teacher and Mrs Heaney is now the Deputy Designated Teacher. The school's Child Protection Policy has been amended to reflect this and is available on the school website.

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.

Early Pick Up of Pupils

In recent weeks we have noticed a major increase in the number of parents collecting pupils early from school. We do understand that from time to time pupils may have appointments or there may be family circumstances which mean that this is unavoidable. We would however encourage you to keep early collections to a minimum as they do have an impact on your child's education.

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 March 2017

(See final page)

R Woolsey
Principal

