



## News Sheet – December 2016

### Diary Dates – December 2016

- 1<sup>st</sup> Last day of Homework Term 1  
Coats rule enforced
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Canteen Christmas Dinner
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Nursery Extended Schools Visit to Panto – Selected pupils
- 5<sup>th</sup> Christmas Post begins
- 6<sup>th</sup> Choir and Instrumentalists to Mahon Hall Nursing Home
- 7<sup>th</sup> Pupil Council Meeting  
Choir to Rushmere Shopping Centre: 1.30pm
- 8<sup>th</sup> All After School Clubs finish for Term 1
- 9<sup>th</sup> Christmas Draws in Assembly  
Swimming ends – Years 4 & 5
- 12<sup>th</sup> Panto - Market Place, Theatre, Armagh
- 15<sup>th</sup> Christmas Performances – Year 1 – 7 10am & 1.30pm  
Choir at Carol Service at St John's Church: 7pm
- 16<sup>th</sup> Nursery Christmas Nativity – 10am  
South Ulster Community Band Christmas Treat for pupils  
School finishes at 1pm for all pupils
- 19<sup>th</sup> Christmas Parties and Disco  
Christmas Jumper Day for Charity
- 20<sup>th</sup> Last day of term, no uniform, no dinners, school finishes at 12noon for all pupils.  
Dismissal times to reduce congestion: Years 1 – 3: 11.50am; Years 4 – 7: 12 noon

### Christmas Holidays

School will be closed from Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2016 to Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2017. Term 2 begins on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017. Please note Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January is an extra holiday for pupils. Staff will be training on this day.

### Christmas Performance

We are doing things differently this year in terms of our Christmas performances. The Nursery will be having their own Christmas Nativity separate from the Primary School on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at 10am. The Primary School will again be having two performances but on the same day – one starting at 10am and the other at 1.30pm. On this day all Year 1 – 3 pupils will stay in school until 3pm. All 3 performances are ticket only and information regarding ticket ordering has already been issued.

### Christmas Raffle & Squares

One book of Tickets has been issued to every family. Please support our Parents and Friends by selling these. More booklets are available if required. The Draw will take place at Assembly on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2016. All ticket stubs, money and unsold tickets must be returned to school by **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016**. The Christmas Squares draw will take place on the same date and these can be bought in classes at 50p each.

## **Choir and Instrumentalists**

Once again the Choir and Instrumentalists have a busy Christmas Programme with a number of engagements. They will be appearing in Rushmere Shopping Centre on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016, Mahon Hall Nursing Home on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2016, and the Carol Service at St John's Church on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm and I would encourage you to support them by going along to hear them at Rushmere and the Carol Service.

## **Coats**

As the weather has been turning colder in recent weeks, we have been advising pupils to bring a warm coat to school. From Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016, any pupils who do not bring a coat to school will have to remain inside at break and lunch time.

## **Year 4 Visit to INTO Film**

INTO Film was formed in 2013 after the merger between two leading film education charities, FILMCLUB and First Light. Its aim is to enable children and young people to see and discuss a broad range of films in educational settings through extra-curricular film clubs. Year 4 went to Ranfurly House in Dungannon on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November to see the animated film James and The Giant Peach. This film was relevant to what we were doing during Anti-bullying Week and Into Film provided follow-up activities that were Literacy based also. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the film.

## **Healthy Kids**

This year we have once again been receiving coaching support from the Healthy Kids team. In the first half term, Healthy Kids ran an after school club for pupils from Year 2 to Year 7. Since the mid-term break, Healthy Kids have been running coaching sessions for Year 5, Year 6 and Year 7 pupils. Each pupil is tested over a number of areas on the first visit such as strength and speed. Over the following weeks, the pupils receive a coaching session from the team. Then on the last visit, the pupils are tested again to see how they have developed in the different areas.

## **Nursery News**

### Visit from Mackey Eye Care

On Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November Michelle and Caroline from Mackey's Eye Care visited the Nursery. They encourage eye tests for all children of Nursery age.

### Crotchets and Quavers

The children enjoyed the Crotchets and Quavers music workshop on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November when they got to play the trombone. They also got to sing, dance and play a selection of percussion instruments.

## **Brownlow STEM Day**

On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November, Year 7 visited Brownlow Integrated College to attend a Sentinus Technology Day. Throughout the day they were actively involved in programming robot cars in order to make them follow a track. Pupils found this enjoyable and very challenging. In the afternoon, after lunch which was provided by Brownlow Integrated College, pupils made rockets which were flight tested outside at the end of the day.

## **Year 3 Cool Kids**

Year 3 have been working with the ACE team on the Cool Kids programme. Cool Kids is a whole class programme to help promote social, emotional and behavioural wellbeing in children. This is a five week programme and the children have been learning about rules and why we have them. Year 3 have been learning about being a good friend and how we are all different and unique. We read stories and complete worksheets and at the end of the session we practice our relaxation. Year 3 are really enjoying this programme.

### **West Midland Theatre Show**

The West Midland Theatre Company have already visited the school with their annual Christmas performance. This year they came a little earlier than usual on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2016. Their panto this year was 'Pinocchio' which the children really enjoyed.

### **Charity Update**

#### Children in Need 2016

On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2016, the children supported BBC Children in Need's 'The Big Spotacular' by coming to school dressed in spots and donating money. A total of £411.30 was raised for this very worthwhile cause. Thank you for your continued support and kind donations.

### **Anti-Bullying Week**

This year's Anti-Bullying Week was from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2016. We marked it in the following ways:

- Pupils did activities related to anti-bullying in class.
- At least one homework had an anti-bullying theme.
- An anti-bullying Poster Competition was held.
- Assemblies had an anti-bullying theme.
- All Year 4 – 7 pupils were given an Anti-bullying Pledge to sign up to.
- Every family received a 'Say NO to bullying' handbook for parents.
- All pupils received an anti-bullying wristband.

A major focus was what to do if you feel that you are being bullied and we all agree that telling someone you trust is vital, and then we can all help to change the situation. Remember, you don't have to put up with being bullied. Anti-Bullying work goes on all year round.

ChildLine 0800 1111

### **Tharp Family from USA**

On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2016, we had a visit from the Tharp Family from USA. This is the third year that they have visited Ballyoran and the visit took the form of a Musical Concert.

### **School Supports Portadown Rotary Club Polio Initiative**

Members of the Eco Committee have assisted Portadown Rotary Club in raising awareness of their 'End Polio Campaign', by planting 1000 purple crocus bulbs in the school's Eco Garden.

Thanks to a new campaign, every dollar donated to Rotary will be matched 2 to 1 by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. As a result of their campaign, Rotary has helped reduce the number of annual cases from 350,000 to fewer than 250 and remain committed until every child is safe from the disease.

### **Peer Paired Numeracy Training**

Miss Dixon and two Year 6 pupils went to Cran Rua at Millington Primary to receive training for the Peer Paired Numeracy programme. The pupils had time to investigate numeracy websites and demonstrate their own mathematical ability. They will be joined by two Year 7 pupils and will work with a small group of Year 4 pupils to help them with their Numeracy on a weekly basis by playing maths games and talking to them.

### **Shared Education Monitoring Visit**

The Education and Training Inspectorate completed a Shared Education Monitoring Visit at Ballyoran Primary School on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2016. The visit assessed how our partnership with Bocombra Primary School was progressing. The ETI were delighted with the

progress to date and have moved their judgement of where our partnership is from 'Developing' to 'Expanding' in the majority of areas.

### **Cookery Club**

A group of pupils from Year 4 - 6 have thoroughly enjoyed cooking with Mrs McGuire and Miss Dixon every Thursday for the last six weeks. Here is a list of what they made:

Week 1: Fairy Cakes and Top Hats

Week 2: Top Hats and Fairy Cakes

Week 3: Pizza

Week 4: Ham, cheese and pineapple toasties

Week 5: Scones with butter, jam and cream

Week 6: Rice Krispie buns

A big thank you to Head Chef Declan Lucas from Year 5 who shared his culinary skills with everyone!

### **Eco Committee**

The new Eco Committee for 2016 – 2017 has been elected and received their badges. Congratulations and well done to:

Year 4: Blathnaid Moylan & Owen Reynolds

Year 5 McG: Stephen Millar & Ellie McNeice

Year 5 McK: Leandro Gomes & Molly Cullen

Year 6: Alisha McConville & Conor Mulholland

Year 7 Kaya Kaplan & Catriona Mackle

Miss Carbery will be co-ordinating the Eco Committee's work this year.

### **Admissions Paperwork**

Admission packs for Nursery and Year 1 applications for September 2017 are now available in school. This documentation is also available on the school website and the Education Authority website. The closing date for applications is Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 12 noon.

### **Information for Parents re School Starting Age**

The Department of Education and the Education Authority have published a new guidance booklet on the above. This is available on our school website under '*Parents*' and '*Useful Leaflets*'.

### **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.

## Christmas Gifts

This year we are asking that instead of buying presents for staff that you consider donating food or toys to the St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal. Boxes will be placed in the foyer to receive your kind donations.

## Christmas Card Competition 2016 Winners

Class	Winner	Runner Up
Year 2/3	Rory Maguire	T J Hughes
Year 3	Sandro Graca Vassalo	Rachel Mallon
Year 4	Gabija Olchova	Caoimhe O'Connor
Year 5 MCK	Mollie Cullen	Daniel Veiga
Year 5 MCG	Bianca Pinto	Chelsey Williamson
Year 6	Paula Kanarkowska	Jack Campbell
Year 7	Aodhan O'Connor	Olivia Dunbar
LSC	Jamie Campbell	Caoimhin Barry

Overall Winner of Ballyoran Competition: Bianca Pinto

## Contingency Planning - Winter

As the winter is fast approaching, the school has been reviewing its contingency plans should the school need to close due to bad weather. Once again, we will be using our Text Alert system, the school website and local media to inform parents should a closure be necessary.

## Menu for December

See last page

R Woolsey  
Principal

Menu for December

	<b>Week commencing: 05.12.2016</b>	<b>Week commencing 12.12.2016</b>	<b>Week commencing: 19.12.2016</b>	<b>Week commencing: 26.12.2016</b>
<b>Monday</b>	Oven Baked Sausages or Spaghetti Bolognese, Carrots, Broccoli, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy  Rice Pudding & Oranges	Chicken & Ham Pasta Bake or Fish Fingers, Beans, Sweetcorn, Salad, Mashed Potatoes  Ice cream, Fruit, Chocolate Sauce	Cocktail Sausages or Chicken Chilli Wraps, Peas, Sweetcorn, Salad, Sauces  Biscuit, Fruit, Ice cream	<b>School Closed – Christmas Holidays</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	Homemade Pepperoni Pizza or Lasagne, Chips, Baby Boiled Potatoes, Peas, Sweetcorn, Pasta, Salad  Rice Krispie Squares & Custard	Oven Baked Steak Burger or Beef Curry, Boiled Rice, Carrots, Parsnips, Broccoli, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy  Jelly & Fruit Salad	<b>School closes at 12noon No Dinners</b>	<b>School Closed – Christmas Holidays</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	Fish Fingers or Macaroni Cheese, Mashed Potatoes, Beans, Sweetcorn, Salad, pasta  Egg Sponge & Custard	Savoury Mince, Carrots, Mashed Potatoes, Pasta, Crusty Bread or Chicken Curry & Boiled Rice  Vanilla Sponge & Custard	<b>School Closed – Christmas Holidays</b>	<b>School Closed – Christmas Holidays</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	Roast Turkey, Stuffing or Sweet & Sour Chicken & Rice, Mashed Potatoes, Turnip, Peas, Gravy  Jelly, Fruit, Ice cream	Roast Pork, Stuffing or Macaroni Cheese, Turnip, Broccoli, Gravy, Mashed Potatoes  Rice Pudding & Fruit	<b>School Closed – Christmas Holidays</b>	<b>School Closed – Christmas Holidays</b>
<b>Friday</b>	Homemade Vegetable Soup or Chicken Soup, Steak Burger or Chicken Roll, Potatoes, Sauces  Frozen Mousse, Fruit or Raisin Cookie	Chicken Nuggets or Tuna Wraps, Chips, Baked Potatoes, Peas, Sweetcorn, Salad, Sauces  Tubs of Ice cream, Fruit	<b>School Closed – Christmas Holidays</b>	<b>School Closed – Christmas Holidays</b>

Milk and Water Available daily

Fruit and Yoghurt available daily

Menu subject to deliveries

For further information on allergenic ingredients, please contact the school