



News Sheet – June 2018

Diary Dates for June 2017

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Prize Day

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

Sports Day

This will take place on Tuesday 5th June 2018 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. We ask that children come to school in their PE kit that day, bring a hat, water bottle and sunscreen already applied. 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 still finish school at 1.00pm on Tuesday 5th June even if Sports Day is cancelled.

Annual Reports for Year 1 to 7 and Nursery Transition Forms

These will be sent home on Friday 22nd June 2018. 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.

First Holy Communion

Thirty-six children from Year 4 made their First Holy Communion in St. John the Baptist Church on Saturday 19th May. The ceremony was conducted by Very Rev. 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 Thursday 10th May, members of the Pupil Council along with Mr Hendron and Mrs Cahoon went to meet the Lord Mayor of Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council in the Civic Centre. The Lord Mayor, Mr Gareth Wilson gave pupils a tour of the Council Chamber and explained how the Council works. Pupils also visited the Lord Mayor's Parlour and got refreshments.

Shannaghmore

Thirty-Five Year 6 and Year 7 pupils enjoyed a highly successful trip to Shannaghmore Outdoor Education Centre from the 23rd to 25th May. During the trip the pupils had the opportunity to experience canoeing, adventure walk, ropes course, beach walk and orienteering. The staff would like to say well done to all the pupils for taking part in such a positive manner. It was a great opportunity for the pupils to meet new challenges and work as part of a team.

Ballyoran Gaelic Blitz

Year 4 – Year 7 pupils represented Ballyoran PS at a Gaelic Blitz held at the Tir nOg Club on Thursday 31st May. Over 100 pupils from seven different schools enjoyed a glorious morning's football played in a magnificent spirit. Congratulations to Lara Lopes from Year 5 who won a prize for being player of the tournament for Ballyoran.

NSPCC Visit to Ballyoran

Year 7 pupils enjoyed a visit from the NSPCC on the 17th May. They participated in a workshop and learned about how they can stay safe.

Shared Education

Years 2, 3 and 4 took part in a series of six Shared Education sessions with their friends from Bocombra Primary School. Year 2 and Year 3 explored a range of Coding apps on the iPads. They also focused on Digital Media looking at different types of shots and the types of sounds that are used in movies. Year 4 will work with the AmmA Centre to design and develop their own characters using a range of apps on the iPads. Each class will take part in a celebration event in the People's Park to mark the end of their sessions.

Best Kept Schools Award

Ballyoran recently had a visit from the adjudicators of the Best Kept Schools Award. The school worked hard to ensure the grounds were clean, tidy and litter free to impress the judges. The judges were very pleased with the Eco Club's hard work during the year.

Nursery Visit to People's Park

The Nursery enjoyed their visit to the People's Park on Friday 18th May. We would like to thank all the parents and grandparents who helped us out.

Cycling Proficiency

Cycling Proficiency has so far been running for 8 sessions and we have 4 more to complete. The children are very much enjoying bringing their bikes to school and learning how to safely make turns and manage road junctions. They are all making good progress and hopefully on course to pass their final assessment on the 14th June.

Assessment Fortnight

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

Attendance

The overall school attendance percentage for the month of April was 93.7%. The winners of the class competition were:

Foundation/Key Stage 1: Year 4 Mrs McCreesh-West with 97.5%

Key Stage 2: Year 5 Mrs McGuire with 97.1%

Well done to all the pupils in these classes.

Sun Safety in School

The good weather is here and we are all looking forward to spending lots of time outside for playtimes and also lessons! It is incredibly important that children bring a hat in to school every day. We also ask that all children wear sun cream to school which is applied before they arrive in the morning as this offers protection during the school day. Finally, pupils should have water with them in non-spill bottles.

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.

Pupil Personal Information Forms

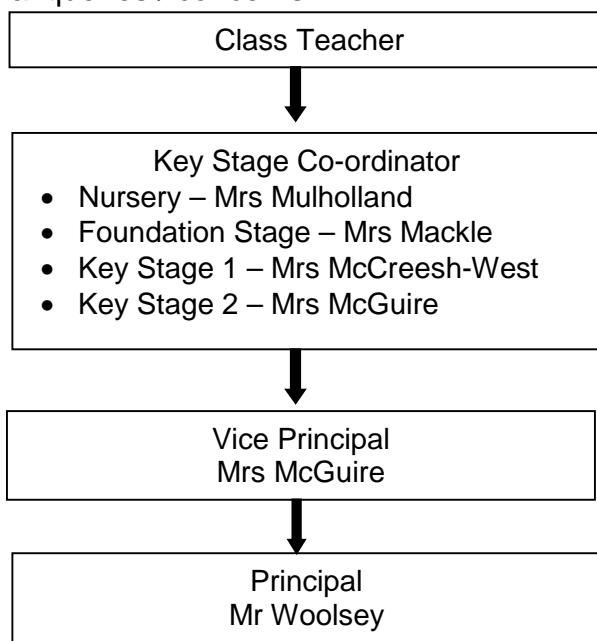
During the month of June, you will receive a print out of the information that we hold on your child/children. We would ask you to check this carefully with particular reference to the emergency contact details, make any amendments and return to school before 22nd June.

Data Protection

I am sure most of you are aware that new GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) came into effect on Friday 25 May 2018. Rest assured, any personal information we hold on our pupils and their families is kept safe and secure, and is fully compliant with the new data protection regulations. We keep these details so that we can keep your children safe and give them the best possible education during their time at Ballyoran Primary School. Further information about how we store and use data can be found in our data protection policy and privacy notice. You can read these at <http://www.ballyoranps.com/data-protection/>

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.

School Uniform

Thank you to the majority of parents who ensure that pupils are wearing school uniform every day. We are very proud of how smart our pupils look in their uniforms. However, as we approach the end of term a significant number of pupils are not wearing proper uniform. A reminder that footwear should be black and ties must be worn every day. Please ensure that standards do not slip.

Menu for June 2018

(See last page)

R Woolsey
Principal

Diary Dates for June 2018

| Date | Events |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Monday 4th June | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 7 - Transition to Post-Primary School Workshop Year 7 - Class Photo for Portadown Times Year 2 - Shared Education Session in Bocombra PS in morning 3.15pm - Induction meeting for parents of pupils starting Year 1 September 2018 (no children please) |
| Tuesday 5th June | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sports Day starting at 9.30. (School closes at 1pm for all pupils) |
| Wednesday 6th June | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nursery Football Coaching Session in morning Gaelic Blitz at Maghery PS Pupil Council Meeting |
| Thursday 7th June | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 2 - Shared Education Session at Bocombra PS Year 7 - Healthy Kids Trip to the Bushcraft Centre, Oxford Island |
| Friday 8th June | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-School Stage 2 letters posted to parents Year 7 - Amazing Brains Workshop in school Year 3 - Shared Education Celebration at The People's Park Year 4 – Shared Education Session at Bocombra PS |
| Monday 11th June | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 2 - Shared Education Session in Ballyoran PS Year 4 – Shared Education Session in Ballyoran PS Year 7 - Transition to Post-Primary School Workshop |
| Tuesday 12th June | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 2 - Shared Education Session at Ballyoran PS Year 7 - Love for Life Conference with Bocombra PS in Ballyoran PS |
| Wednesday 13th June | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nursery Trip to Peter Pans, Portadown 2pm - Nursery Induction Meeting for parents and pupils starting Nursery in September 2018 (Current Nursery Pupils to go home at 12.30pm) |
| Thursday 14th June | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Last Day for Homework & After School Clubs |
| Friday 15th June | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Induction Day at St Patrick's Academy, Dungannon for new Year 8 pupils Year 4 – Shared Education Session at Ballyoran PS |
| Monday 18th June | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 4 - Trip to Craigavon Golf and Ski Centre Year 2 - Trip to Armagh Planetarium Year 7 - Transition to Post-Primary School Workshop |
| Tuesday 19th June | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 5 - Trip to Lisburn Omniplex Year 6 - Trip to Lisburn Omniplex Year 2 - Shared Education Session in Ballyoran PS |
| Wednesday 20th June | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 1 - Trip to Scally Wags, Lurgan 10am - Nursery Graduation in Assembly Hall Year 2 - Shared Education Celebration Event at Tannaghmore Gardens Year 3 - Trip to Jumping Jacks |
| Thursday 21st June | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jo Jingles in Nursery Year 4 – Shared Education Celebration at People's Park |
| Friday 22nd June | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prize Day Annual Reports for Year 1 - Year 7 & Nursery Transition forms sent home to parents |
| Tuesday 26th June | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class changes for Next Year |
| Thursday 28th June | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> End of year Class Parties |
| Friday 29th June | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Last day of term - no uniform, school meals not available, school finishes at 12 noon for all pupils |