

News Sheet – May 2018

School Closures – May 2018

School will be closed as follows in May:

- Monday 7th May - Bank Holiday
- Monday 28th – Wednesday 30th May - Bank Holiday & Staff Training

Diary Dates – May and June 2018

(See Page 4)

Staffing

Mrs Elliot left her post as SEN Classroom Assistant in April. We thank her for the service that she has given to the school this year.

End of Year Trips

During the month of June all classes will again go on a fun End of Year Trip.

First Holy Communion

We wish our Year 4 pupils well for their First Holy Communion on Saturday 19th May 2018 at 11am in St. John the Baptist Church. This is an important date in our school calendar and we would ask as many people as possible to support our Year 4 pupils by attending the service which will be followed by refreshments in the Pastoral Centre.

Year 4 First Confession

As part of their preparation for First Holy Communion, Year 4 pupils received the Sacrament of Penance in John the Baptist Church on Tuesday 17th April. The ceremony was conducted by Canon Michael Toner and Father Clarke

Parents & Friends Easter Draws

A big thankyou to everyone who supported our Easter draws this year. The total raised was £309

Nursery Visit to W5, Belfast

The children and adults all enjoyed their visit to W5. They loved travelling on the bus to Belfast. They took part in various activities and some children were very brave and had a go on 'Climb-It'. We had such a busy day that some children fell asleep on the bus journey home!

Portadown Music Festival

On Thursday 19th April our String Ensemble participated in the under 14 String Ensemble section of Portadown Music Festival. The ensemble played a piece entitled "Spooky" and were highly praised by the adjudicator for their ability to play well together and for their "great sense of teamwork". There were five groups in the competition and the Ballyoran PS String Ensemble came joint 3rd place with St. Patrick's PS Magheralin. Well done!

Eco Club

Eco Club has been working hard after school to keep the Eco Garden clean and tidy. They have also enjoyed creating bird feeders and taking part in the Big Schools' Birdwatch. The children participated in the Big Spring Clean which involved a litter pick around the school. The Eco Committee look forward to more events in the future.

Moy Park Masterclass Challenge

On Tuesday 17th April, both Year 6 classes went to the Seagoe Hotel to participate in the Moy Park Masterclass Challenge run by Young Enterprise and sponsored by Moy Park. Several local schools had been invited.

Pupils had a variety of activities to complete around the theme of healthy eating and lifestyle. They had to design a new product for Moy Park and produce an advertising slogan, a marketing and sales campaign and pitch it to the audience.

They had a very interactive and productive morning followed by lunch provided by Moy Park. They developed their skills of team building, communication and creativity and had good fun in completing the tasks. Well done to all the prize winners.

Post Primary Letters to Parents of Year 7 Pupils

These will be posted to parents by the Education Authority on Friday 18th May 2018. The Education Authority have put contingency arrangements in place for parents who do not receive their letter on the **Saturday 19th May 2018**. If you do not receive your letter, please call Pupil and Parent Unit on **Tel: 0300 200 7824** between 3.30pm and 5pm on Saturday 20th May

Election of Parent Representatives to the Board of Governors

A meeting will be held on Thursday 17th May 2018 at 4pm to elect two new Parent Representatives onto the Board of Governors for a new 4-year cycle.

Attendance

As you are aware your child's attendance at school is closely linked to their academic attainment. Every month we will inform you of the whole school attendance percentage for the previous month and who won our class competitions. The overall attendance for the month of March 2018 was **92.3%**. The Foundation/Key Stage 1 class with the highest attendance was **Year 3 Miss McGibbon** with **95.8%**. The Key Stage 2 class with the highest attendance was **Year 5 Mrs McGuire** with **92.5%**.

Summer Uniform

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.

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.

Gaming

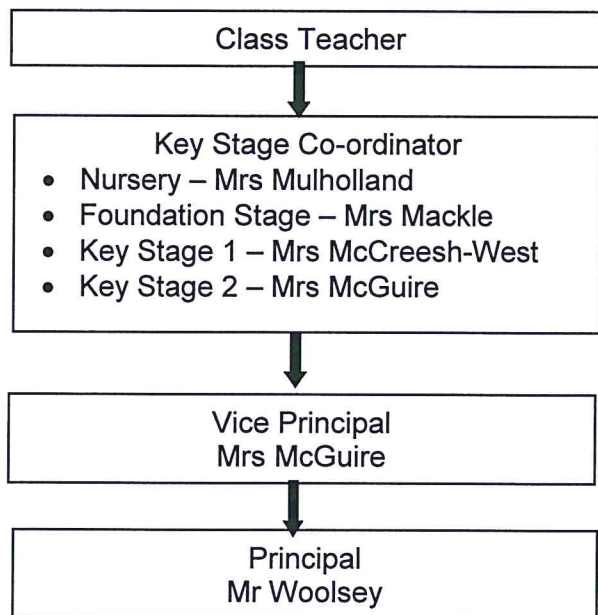
You may be aware of recent media coverage about the dangers to children when gaming. We would ask that all parents are aware at which games that their children are playing with particular reference to the age limit. A guidance sheet on the game Fortnite has been included on **pages 5 & 6**

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.

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.

Extra-Curricular Timetable Term 3

(See page 7)

Menu for May 2018

(See Page 8)

R Woolsey
Principal

Diary Dates for May & June 2018

Date	Events
30th April to 4th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment fortnight continues
Monday 7th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School closed for Bank Holiday
Thursday 10th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupil Council visit to Craigavon Civic Centre with Bocombra PS
Wednesday 16th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photographer in school to take class and group photos • Pupil Council Meeting
Saturday 19th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Holy Communion at S John the Baptist Church – 11am followed by refreshments in Pastoral Centre
23rd May to 25th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 6 & 7 Shannaghmore Residential
28th May to 30th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School closed - Bank Holiday and Staff Training
Thursday 31st May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballyoran PS Gaelic Blitz at Tir na nÓg
Monday 4th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 7 Transition to Post Primary Workshop – Session 1 • Induction Meeting for parents of Year 1 pupils starting school September 2018 at 3.15pm (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"> • Nursey Football Coaching Session • Pupil Council Meeting • Gaelic Blitz at Maghery PS
Friday 8th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 7 Amazing Brains Workshop
Monday 11th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 7 Transition to Post Primary School Workshop – Session 2
Tuesday 12th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Love for Life Conference with Bocombra PS
Wednesday 13th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursery Induction Meeting for parents and pupils starting Nursery September 2018 at 2pm (Current Nursery children to go home at 12.30pm) • Nursery Trip to Peter Pans, Portadown in morning
Thursday 14th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last day of homework and after school clubs
Monday 18th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 7 Transition to Post Primary School Workshop – Session 3
Wednesday 20th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursery Graduation in Assembly Hall – 10am
Thursday 21st June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jo Jingles in Nursery
Friday 22nd June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prize Day • Nursery – Transition forms sent home to parents • Year 1 to Year 7 – Annual Reports sent home to parent
Tuesday 26th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class changes
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

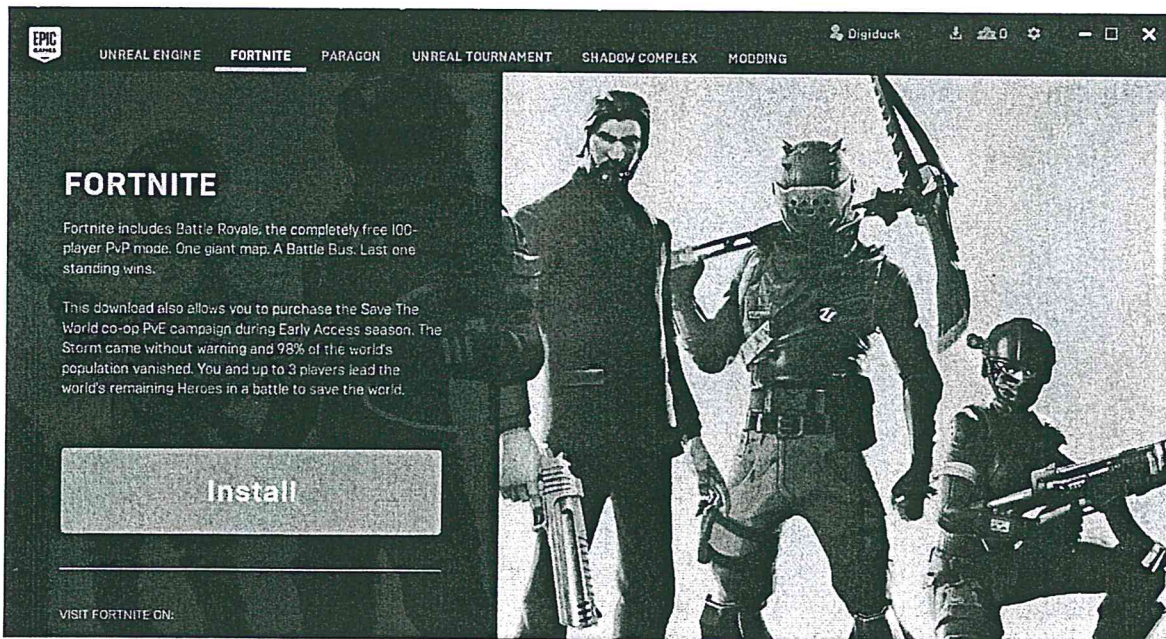
Advice re Fortnite: Battle Royale

There has been an increasing number of young people talking about the game 'Fortnite'. The following information is aimed at providing guidance to parents about Fortnite, looking at what the game is and some of the things to be aware of.

What is Fortnite?

Fortnite is an online game, which includes Battle Royale, where players do not have to pay to play. In Battle Royale, 100 players compete against each other to be the last person standing in player vs player (PVP) combat.

Users play against people of different ages from across the world, and can talk and interact with each other as they play through the in-game chat feature.



What age rating is Fortnite?

Fortnite has a PEGI rating of 12, PEGI have said this is due to the: 'frequent scenes of mild violence. It is not suitable for persons under 12 years of age'. This PEGI rating only takes into account the content in the game and not the contact element, where players may be exposed to swearing and offensive language from strangers, either through audio or on-screen text chat.

What do I need to know?

In order to play Fortnite you have to create an account. To create this account you need to provide an email address (which you will have to verify) and display/user name. However you are not asked your age in order to create an account.

You are playing against other players

As Fortnite is an online game you will play against players of different ages from across the world. You cannot turn the in game chats off or choose who you play against.

You can make in game purchases

Although Battle Royale is free to play, other aspects of the game are not. There are packs which give you different access to the full game and extensions, bonuses and weapons. These start at £34.99 and go up to £119.99. The game does ask players to make additional in-game purchases whilst playing, though these are not required to play the game.

There is animated violence

Fortnite does feature violence when players are in combat with each other, the animation of the game is very cartoonish, and the violence isn't bloody or gory. However, it is worth noting that the aim of Fortnite is to defeat other players by fighting against them.

Where you can play

Fortnite is currently available on PC, Mac, PlayStation and Xbox , and will soon be available on IOS (apple products). It is downloadable from the Fortnite website, this download gives access to both the free and paid for versions of the game.

Our advice

Have an open and honest conversation with your child

- It's important to involve yourself in your child's online life and a simple and effective way to this is by talking to them about their life online. Try to maintain an open dialogue with your child and find opportunities to talk to them about what they love to do online. Parents can help children access the amazing resources the internet has to offer whilst keeping them safe online at the same time.
- Asking your child about how they play Fortnite and what they like about it is a great way to start a conversation. Our conversation starters can help you to have this conversation.
- Play with them. It may seem daunting, but one of the best things that you can do is to engage with the gaming environment and begin to understand what makes Fortnite so attractive to young people, as well as giving yourself an idea of the reporting tools available within the game.
- Know how to make a report. On Fortnite you can report players who are behaving inappropriately by using the in-game feedback tool located in the game Main Menu, you can also make a report by emailing the creators of Fortnite.
- See what other people think of Fortnite. Common Sense Media (<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/>) allow parents and young people to give their reviews of games that they have played. They have created a very useful video guide to Fortnite with footage of the gameplay involved.