



Safeguarding Team

Principal: Mr Woolsey
Designated Teacher: Mrs McGuire
Deputy Designated Teacher: Mrs Heaney
Nursery Deputy Designated Teacher: Mrs Mulholland
Designated Governor: Mrs Loney

News Sheet – April 2018

Diary Dates for April 2018

Date	Event
9th	Start of Term 3
17th	Year 4 First Confession - St John's Church at 6.30pm
18th	Nursery Trip to W5 Pupil Council meeting
23rd	Assessment fortnight begins
26th	Nursery and Primary acceptance letters posted for places in September 2018

End of Term Arrangements

Wednesday 28th March is the last day of term. There will be no uniform, no dinners and school will finish at 12 noon. Pupils may bring an unhealthy break. To reduce congestion at the gate, dismissal times will be as follows:

- **Years 1 – 3 at 11.50am**
- **Years 4 – 7 at 12 noon**

Easter Holidays

Please note that school will be closed from **Thursday 29th March to Friday 6th April 2018** for the Easter Holidays. School reopens for the Summer Term on **Monday 9th April 2018**.

Staffing

We say farewell to Mrs Donna Larkin and Mrs Lily Larkin at Easter who will be finishing as lunchtime supervisors. Mrs Donna Larkin has been a lunchtime supervisor for 34 years while Mrs Lily Larkin has been here for 12 years. We thank both ladies for their hard work, commitment and dedication to the school over the years and wish them well for the future.

Parents & Friends Easter Draws

Thank you to everyone who has supported the draws by buying a ticket or square. The draws took place in assembly on Friday 23rd March 2018. The winner of the Easter squares in every class received an Easter egg and the Easter Draw winner received a lovely Easter Hamper prepared by Mrs Clarke. **£296** was raised for Parents & Friends Fund.

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 94.5%

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 with white socks

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

Coats

As we have 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.

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 Service of Light for Year 7 pupils and their families on Wednesday 7th March in St John the Baptist Church. One pupil and a parent from each school participated in the ceremony. The children took their abstinence pledge during the ceremony.

Confirmation

26 Year 7 pupils made their Confirmation on Saturday 24th March in St. John the Baptist Church. The Celebrant was His Eminence Archbishop Sean Brady assisted Very Rev. Canon Michael Toner. Pupils from Ballyoran P.S. led by Mrs McCreesh-West provided the music. Everyone looked very smart in their new clothes and enjoyed the celebration.

Multicultural Day at St John the Baptist College

On Thursday 15th March, thirty-seven Year 6 pupils and three staff went to St John the Baptist College for a Multi-Cultural Day. There were so many stations and activities to explore, and each group got to experience five. There was music, dancing, arts and crafts, information and much, much more. All the pupils will agree that their favourite part was either all the tasty food they got to taste, or the slime making. Thanks to St John's for inviting us to participate.

Folk Dance Festival

On Friday 16th March, a group of Year 3 to Year 7 took part in our 16th Folk Dance Festival/Celebration. The adjudicator, Miss Sarah Leonard, praised all the dancers for their behaviour and performances. She added that this was her first visit to Ballyoran and she was very impressed by all the dancers. Adding to the fun, Molly Davis and Aoife Madden, two of our Year 6 pupils treated us to an exhibition Treble Reel, and a Single Jig which they had choreographed themselves. The local musicians Fastrad, led by Mary Fox, played for us and this really added to the celebration. Major prize-winners were, Caoimhe O'Connor Year 5, Ellie Mc Niece Year 6, Rayssa Siva and Julia Oliveira Year 7. A big well done to the pupils who were dancing on stage for the first time. 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.

Debbie Doolittle visits the Nursery

On Thursday 8th March Debbie Doolittle came to the Nursery with some of her animals. The children really enjoyed her visit, have a look at our school website for some photos of the children with the animals.

Big Workout Day

On Wednesday 14th March all classes from Year 1 to Year 7 had a chance to take part in The Big Workout, organised by Gavin from Healthy Kidz. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity to test their levels of energy and endurance. We would urge all families to ensure that your child returns the sponsor sheet along with any money they have collected. Well done to all the pupils for taking part. To date we have raised **£1,116**.

Colour Run

On Friday 16th March pupils from Year 5 had the opportunity to take part in the Colour Run in The People's Park. This was organised as a celebration of the highly successful Healthy Kidz programme which is now being undertaken in more than 80 schools. Over 1000 pupils were there to enjoy a fun-packed morning of different Healthy Kidz activities. The poor weather failed to dampen the spirits of those involved. The highlight for the pupils came when the children were covered in different shades of dye at the start of their colour run.

World Book Day

Due to the school closure, we celebrated World Book Day on Thursday 8th March with an Assembly and a showcasing of all the wonderful book characters that were represented by the pupils. Afterwards, pupils had lots of fun doing World Book Day activities back in class. Every pupil received a World Book Day Token which they could exchange for any one of the ten free WBD books or to receive £1.00 off the price of a book of their choice at any of the participating stores or Book shops.

Peer Paired Reading

Two of our Year 7 and two of our Year 6 pupils have been trained in the Peer Paired Reading Programme which will run for eight weeks. This enables older pupils to support younger pupils with Reading. These Year 6/7 pupils will be working with two Year 3 and two Year 4 pupils, teaching them strategies such as word decoding, using picture cues, discussing characters'/story lines as well as simply having fun reading with and to each other.

Shared Education

Our KS2 children have enjoyed taking part in Shared Education sessions with their friends from our link school Bocombra. Children from Year 5 – 7 took part in six sessions hosted by Peace Players. Peace Players are peace-building organization that uses basketball to change perceptions, bridge divide and develop leaders. The Peace Players used the power of sport to unite, educate and inspire the KS2 children to create a more peaceful world. Over the six weeks' children were given the opportunity to develop as young leaders who help to change perceptions.

Word Millionaire

Filip Tyl in year 7 has become the school's first Word Millionaire as part of our Accelerated Reader programme. This means that he has read one million words – well done Filip. Hopefully he will be the first of many in the future.

Bee Safe

On Tuesday 13th March, Year 6 went to Brownstown Community Centre 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 included an important fire safety message. They were asked to 'STOP'.

S – have a working smoke alarm.

T – test it weekly, 'Test on Tuesday' but change the battery once a year.

O – other obvious dangers. Look for dangers around the house.

P – have an escape plan in place.

They also thought about how to treat older people in the community with respect. A great informative morning was had by everyone and they were given a bag to remember their morning.

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

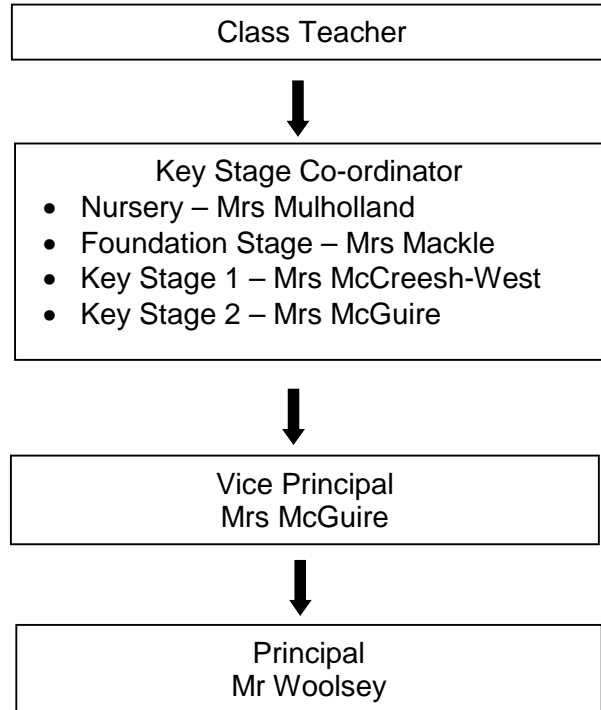
A significant number of pupils are not being picked up at the end of the school day on time. It is vital that parents are punctual when collecting their children otherwise they get anxious. If you are running late we would ask that you phone the office and inform us of this. If a child is not collected 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.

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.

Menu for April 2018

(See final page)

Holidays for 2018/19

These have now been agreed and are on page 6. These will help you to plan for the year ahead.

School Website

Remember to keep up-to-date with everything that is going on in school by logging on to our website 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
Principal