



Safeguarding Team

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

News Sheet – March 2018

Diary Dates for March 2017

1 st	World Book Day
2 nd	Year 5 Shared Education Session at Ballyoran
5 th – 9 th	Parent/Teacher Meetings- school closes at 1pm for all pupils No Afterschool Clubs
7 th	Year 7 Service of Light – St John the Baptist Church: 6.30pm
9 th	Yr 5 Shared Education session at Ballyoran
12 th	Yr 6 Shared Education session at Ballyoran
13 th	Yr 7 Shared Education session at Ballyoran
14 th	'Big Workout' Day Confirmation Practice Pupil Council Meeting
16 th	St Patricks Day Irish Dancing Festival: 1.30 – 3.30pm
19 th	School Closed – St Patrick's Day Holiday
20 st	Confirmation Practice Yr 7 Shared Education session at Ballyoran
22 nd	Confirmation Practice
24 th	Confirmation – St John's Church – 3pm
26 th	Yr 6 & 7 Shared Education session at Ballyoran
27 th	Yr 6 & 7 Shared Education session at Ballyoran
28 th	Last Day of Term, No Uniform, No Dinners, School Finishes at 12noon

School Closures – March 2017

Ballyoran Primary School will be closed as follows during March:

- 19th – St. Patrick's Day
- 29th & 30th – Easter Holidays

Staffing

Congratulations to Miss McKernan on the birth of her baby daughter. Mrs McMurray, will be covering Year 6 until the end of June.

Miss Lewsley will be covering Mrs Mayers in the office during her maternity leave.

We welcome Miss Dunlop to the school as a classroom assistant in Nursery and Year 4.

Parent Teacher Meetings

A reminder that Parent / Teacher Meetings will take place during the week Monday 5th March – Friday 9th March 2018. 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

World Book Day

World Book Day will take place on Thursday 1st March 2018. 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 1st 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 Friday 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.

Temperance Sunday Mass

As part of their preparation for Confirmation, Year 7 pupils attended Temperance Sunday Mass on Sunday 11th February. The children were invited to take their Abstinence Pledge during the Ceremony.

Cumann na mBunscol Half Time Match

On Sunday 18th February, Shea Mulholland (Year 6) and Lara Lopes (Year 5) played at half time in the Armagh v Longford National League game at the Athletic Grounds in Armagh. This was organised by Cumann na mBunscol with pupils taking part from all over the county. Despite the horrendous weather conditions, both pupils represented the school really well, showing a lot of skill and determination.

Safer Internet Day

As we celebrated Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 6th February. This year the theme was 'Create, Connect and Share Respect'. Assemblies were taken by Mrs Biggerstaff and Miss McGibbon discussing with children the importance of being kind when online and how to stay safe when using the internet. Children took part in an Internet Safety Art Competition Year 1 and 2 designed their own internet safety poster and Year 3-7 designed their own jigsaw piece relating to Internet Safety. Well done to all the class winners.

Winners were:

- Mia Liggett – Year 1
- Victoria Da Silva & Isabella Pereira – Year 2
- Michael Martins – Year 3
- Brooke McGeown & Sebastian Kottus – Year 4
- Caoimhe O'Connor – Year 5
- Ellie McNeice – Year 6
- Kimberley McGeown – Year 7
- Jamie Campbell – LSC

Nurse Sponsored Welly Boot Walk

The children all really enjoyed our Sponsored Welly Boot Walk to raise money for our Nurse. We were overwhelmed by your generosity and have raised an amazing £578. Thank you so much.

Wear Red Day

Thank you to everyone for supporting our 'Wear Red Day' for the British Heart Foundation. A total of £210 was raised.

Names on Clothing

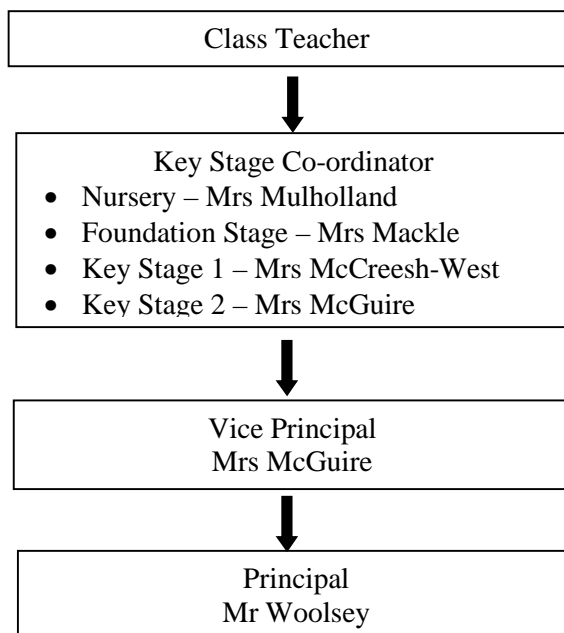
Pupils frequently lose items of clothing in school and it is very difficult for staff to reunite lost items with pupils if there are no names on the item. With this in mind, I would ask that parents ensure that all items of school uniform and PE uniform have your child's name on them.

'Big Workout' Day

This will take place on Wednesday 14th March 2018 and is a fundraiser for our Healthy Kidz Programme. It is vital that we raise funds to allow this very valuable programme to continue. Please support this very worthwhile initiative.

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

A significant number of parents are 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 still 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. Many 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 2018

(See final page)

R Woolsey
Principal

