



News Sheet – January 2018

Merry Christmas

Winning Design for School Christmas Card Competition
by
Alisha McConville (Year 7)

End of Term Arrangements

Thursday is Christmas Jumper Day. This is a non-uniform day and pupils should come to school wearing a Christmas Jumper. Pupils are asked to bring £2 each for Save The Children.

School will finish at midday on Friday 22nd December 2017. Pupils do not need to wear uniform on this day and there will be no dinners served.

Start of New Term

Ballyoran Primary School will re-open for pupils on Monday 8th January 2018.

Diary Dates for January 2018

8th Term 2 begins

10th 12noon: Closing date for Nursery and P1 Applications for September 2018

17th Pupil Council Meeting

18th Brownlow College Year 7 Transition Day

Mrs McGinnell

Mrs McGinnell will be retiring at Christmas after 26 years service at Ballyoran Primary School. As well as teaching a wide range of classes including Year, 2, 3 and 4 she also was the PDMU Co-ordinator, Teacher Tutor and more recently the Shared Education Co-ordinator overseeing our link with Bocombra Primary School. We thank Mrs McGinnell for her tireless commitment and dedication to this school over the years and wish her a long and happy retirement.

Miss Nelson has been appointed by the Board of Governors to replace Mrs McGinnell and will take up her post teaching Year 2 in January.

Jo Jingles in Nursery

Jo Jingles visited the Nursery on Wednesday 13th December. It was a morning of fun, music and movement.

Year 1 – 7 Christmas Pantomime Outing

On Wednesday 6th December 2017, pupils from Years 1 - 7 enjoyed a trip to the Market Place Theatre in Armagh for this year's pantomime 'Sleeping Beauty'. The story sparkled as never before and the pupils all enjoyed it.

Parents and Friends Christmas Draw & Christmas Squares

Thank you all for supporting our Parents and Friends Christmas Draw and Christmas Squares. We raised a total of £584.00 which will be used to buy resources for the pupils to use in school.

The winners from our Christmas Draw were:

1st Prize £100 cash, Mary O'Connor

2nd Prize £50 Toy Voucher from Judges, Elaine Sterritt

3rd Prize £25 Meat Voucher from Charlie Mallon Butchers, Michelle Corkin

Christmas Squares Winners

Nursery 1 Florie Loughlin

Nursery 2 Charlie Keegan

Year 1 Emma Corrigan

Year 2McG Sabina Baran

Year 2B Sienna Wright

Year 3 Rory Maguire

Year 4McCW Caitlin Kelly

Year 4A Filip Zaliwski

Year 5 Nicholas Suhaj

Year 6B/M Bethany Castles
Year 6McK Dayna Hughes
Year 7 Humberto Marinho
LSC Donald Lucas

Christmas Dinner

Our pupils enjoyed a really tasty Christmas dinner in school on Friday 8th December 2017. A big thank you to Mrs Donna Campbell and her team in the kitchen for providing this.

Busy Christmas for Choir

Once again, it has been a busy time for the Choir/Instrumentalists who performed Christmas Carols at Mahon Hall Care Home on Monday 11th December 2017, Rushmere, Craigavon on Wednesday 13th December 2017 we wish to thank those parents and friends who came along to these events to support our pupils. They also took part in the Community Choir Carol Service in St Patricks Church on Thursday 14th December 2017. A big Thank You and well done to all our loyal Choir members.

Years 1 – 7 Christmas Disco

Pupils in Years 1 – 7 will enjoy a Christmas Disco paid for by the Parents and Friends of Ballyoran on Thursday 21st December 2017. Every pupil will receive a Selection Box from the Parents and Friends.

St John The Baptist College Taster Day

On Monday 4th December, Year 7 pupils walked to St John the Baptist's College for a 'Taster Day'. They took part in a range of classes including Cookery, PE, Technology and Science, getting to see what it will be like as they move on to a new school. All the Year 7 pupils enjoyed the day, which included a free dinner, and agreed that it has helped them to feel enthusiastic about the exciting year ahead. Science was a favourite with some of the boys and girls as they learned how to use a Bunsen Burner, receiving a certificate to prove it. Cookery was popular too as they could eat the marshmallow creation at the end of the class. All the pupils took an active part in the Taster Day and the Principal and Staff of the College made them feel very welcome – a great learning day out.

Nursery and Year 1 Admissions

A reminder that application forms are available from the office. The closing date for all applications is 12 noon on Wednesday 10th January 2018. Please remember a Birth Certificate is required for all applications.

Year 7 Transfer to Post Primary School

The month of January is very important for our Year 7 pupils as they and their parents make decisions on which Post-Primary School to transfer to in September 2018. As part of this process, schools visit our Year 7 pupils and give presentations on their schools. Post-Primary schools will also be having Open Days/Nights in January/February.

Coats

Thank you to all parents for ensuring that your children are in school every day with a coat. Please ensure this continues throughout the winter. It is also important that your child's name is on all clothing.

Seasonal Flue Advice

Please see the School Website www.ballyoranps.com for further information.

Sickness

Please do not send your child to school if they are sick as they will spread their sickness to other pupils and staff. The Public Health Agency advises that pupils should be kept at home for 48 hours after the last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea. Public Health Agency guidance

on these matters is available on the school website under 'Parents' and 'Sickness/Illness' or from your GP.

Contingency Planning – Winter

The school has been reviewing its Winter 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.

Picking Pupils Up

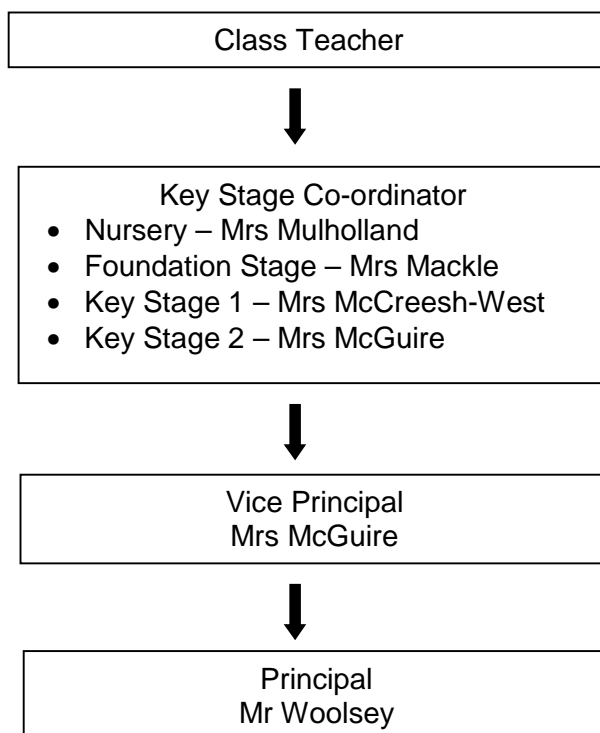
A significant number of pupils are not being picked up at the end of the school day on time. It is vital that parents are punctual when collecting their children otherwise they get anxious. If you are running late we would ask that you phone the office and inform us of this. If a child is not collected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

Christmas Gifts

This year we are again 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.

Menu for January 2018

See last page

Thanks and Happy Christmas

A big thank you to all my Staff for all their hard work during this very busy term.

Thank you also to parents for your continued support and co-operation and to the pupils for making this such an enjoyable term.

A Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year to the entire School Community.

R Woolsey
Principal

