



News Sheet – November 2017

Diary Dates – November 2017

1 st – 3 rd	School Closure – Half Term
7 th	Parents Numeracy Workshop with Mr Timothy Doyle: 2 – 3pm (childcare available)
8 th	Photographer in school – individual and family group photos Year 2 Young Enterprise
9 th	Year 3 Young Enterprise Tharp Family Concert (USA)
13 th – 17 th	Anti Bullying Week
14 th	Dental Visit in LSC
15 th	Year 2 Young Enterprise Year 7 Anti Bullying Workshop
16 th	Year 3 Young Enterprise Brownlow STEM Day – Year 7
17 th	Children in Need – Non Uniform Day – Wear Spots/Mad Hair Day
18 th	GL Assessments
21 st	Year 4 pupils attending INTO Film Festival at Lough Neagh Discovery Centre
22 nd	Nursery – Football Coaching Session
23 rd	Year 3 Young Enterprise
30 th	Year 3 Young Enterprise

School Closures: November

A reminder that school will be closed for Half Term from Monday 30th October – Friday 3rd November 2017.

Diary Dates - Advance Notice

- Confirmation - Saturday 24th March 2018 at 3pm
- First Holy Communion – Saturday 19th May 2018 at 11am

Photographer

The Photographer will be in school on **Wednesday 8th November 2017** taking Individual and Family Photographs.

Children in Need

We will again be supporting Children in Need with a Non Uniform Day on Friday 17th November 2017. Parents should send in £2 per pupil on this day.

Parents and Friends of Ballyoran

Unfortunately there was a very disappointing turn out at our Annual General Meeting in September. The Parents and Friends Group is open to any parent or friend of the school and exists to organise social events and raise money to be spent on the pupils. Please come to the next meeting when it is arranged.

We plan to have a Christmas Draw in the lead up to Christmas. Please support this by buying a ticket. These will go on sale after Half Term.

School Book Fair

From Monday 9th October to Friday 13th October 2017 we held our annual Scholastic Book Fair in our Central Library Area located near the entrance to the Nursery. There were over 300

titles to choose from and book prices started at £2.99. There was also a colourful selection of posters and stationery, always very popular. Year 7 pupils really enjoyed the experience of organising and running the Book Fair which was a great success, raising just over £1000. This is one of our largest totals ever! A huge thank-you must go to all the pupils, parents and friends who supported our Book Fair; this will mean lots of extra books for our school.

Young Enterprise

Year 4

On Wednesday 4th October, Mrs McCreesh-West's class enjoyed participating in the Young Enterprise activity: "Our Community" which was delivered by two ladies from Asda. The children looked at the sorts of jobs and roles people have in a community. Through the use of posters and simulation exercises, the children learned about the importance of government, decision-making, voting, taxes and working together for the good of the whole community. The children worked collaboratively in groups to design their own community with different shops, leisure facilities and businesses.

Year 5

On Wednesday 11th October Year 5 were lucky enough to have a visit from Elaine from Young Enterprise. This year, the theme of our activity was "Our City". We learned all about town planning and opening our own business. This gave us an insight into what it would be like to have your own business empire. It was a fantastic morning and we would like to thank Elaine for all her help to make it such an enjoyable experience.

Internet Safety Workshops

On Wednesday 11th October all Key Stage 2 classes took part in an Internet Safety Workshop provided by REIM. The children were able to discuss online activities they enjoy taking part in as well as the dangers they face when online. The children enjoyed the workshops and demonstrated a good understanding of how to stay safe online. We ask you as parents to continue to question and monitor what children are doing online to ensure their safety.

Gaelic Blitz

On Tuesday 3rd October, our gaelic team took part in a blitz hosted by St John's PS Eglis. All of our players showed great sportsmanship and determination and represented the school with distinction. A lot of new players have joined the school team this year and have settled in really well. Ben Mc Kee from Year 4 was judged to be the player of the tournament for Ballyoran and was presented with his prize by Eglis PS teacher and former county player Oisin Mac Iomhair.

Half Time Game

Two of our pupils, Ben Mc Kee (Year 4) and Paula Kanarkowska (Year 7), were chosen to play at half time in the County Final between Armagh Harps and Maghery. The match was played at the Athletic Grounds Armagh on 15th October in front of a crowd of approximately 6,000 people.

New Key Stage 2 Independent Reading Programme

We are currently implementing a new Independent Reading Programme called Accelerated Reader for children in Key Stage 2.

Accelerated Reader is a digital program designed to motivate children to read, encourage reading for pleasure and improve comprehension. The software allows teachers to assess current reading levels and create a personalised reading plan to support each child in the development of vital literacy skills.

Further information about Accelerated Reader was given out at parent teacher meetings, including a letter containing the 'Renaissance Home Connect' web address and your child's login details which will enable you to access our Accelerated Reader website at home.

This will allow you to:

- View your child's progress towards reading goals
- View all books that your child has read and quizzes your child has taken
- Receive emails that reveal results for Reading Practice Quizzes as and when your child completes them

The average amount of reading suggested by Accelerated Reader is 25 minutes per day. Teachers will set aside 15 minutes per day for Accelerated Reader time in class and we would be grateful if parents could ensure that their children read for the remainder of that time, or more, at home. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

New Classroom Assistant

We welcome Miss Dudek to the school. She will be working as a Classroom Assistant in Year 4 and Year 6.

Road Safety

As the time changes and we move into the dark evenings, we would ask that you remind your child/ren about the importance of staying safe when out and about on the roads. We would recommend that pupils wear reflectors or some type of reflective clothing.

Policy on Parents Arriving at School

A reminder that on arrival into school parents must in the first instance report to the office. If there is no-one in the office please wait until the secretary returns. Under no circumstances should a parent leave reception to go into the main school. This policy is in the interest of Safeguarding and Child Protection.

Parents are also reminded that if you need to speak to your child's teacher in the morning, you must report to the office and not go directly to the teacher.

New Pupil Council

Congratulations to the following pupils who have been elected onto the Pupil Council for 2017-2018:

Class	Pupil
Yr 7	Alisha McConville Kajus Ciujevas
Yr 6B/M	Majka Adamczyk Alex Abbott-Neill
Yr 6McK	Ellie McNeice Mark McGeown
Yr 5	Caoimhe O'Connor Nicholas Suhaj
Yr 4McCW	Brooke McGeown Ben Wilson
Yr4A	Eva Williamson Jamie Cartmill
LSC	Jamie Campbell Caoimhin Barry

Office bearers:

Co-Chairpersons: Alisha McConville and Kajus Ciujevas

Secretary: Brooke McGeown

Temporary Positions

If anyone would be interested in having their name placed on a list to cover absences of Cleaners and Kitchen Staff, please contact Mrs Mayers in the office.

Healthy Kidz Programme – Years 5 – 7

We are delighted that so many parents have supported us by paying the £10 towards the cost of the Healthy Kidz. This means that the programme will be able to continue this year. If you have still not paid the £10 we would ask that you send this in as soon as possible. Reminder that this voluntary contribution will only cover half of the cost and we plan to do a fundraising event after Christmas to cover the remainder of the cost. We hope that you will support this also.

Safeguarding & Child Protection

You have been given copies of a summary of our Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy at Parent/Teacher Meetings. These documents in the various languages represented in our school are also available on the school Website by clicking on 'Parents' and 'Safeguarding Children'.

School Budgets

You will be aware from the media that all schools in Northern Ireland are facing challenges because of budget cuts. This is unfortunately going to have an impact on our school if no extra funding is made available by the Department of Education. This will mean the Board of Governors having to make difficult decisions. I would ask you to lobby your local politicians on this matter.

Clothing Bank

A reminder that you can place the following items in our clothing bank: Clothing, Towels, Sheets, Blankets, Shoes and Curtains. The school will receive money for this.

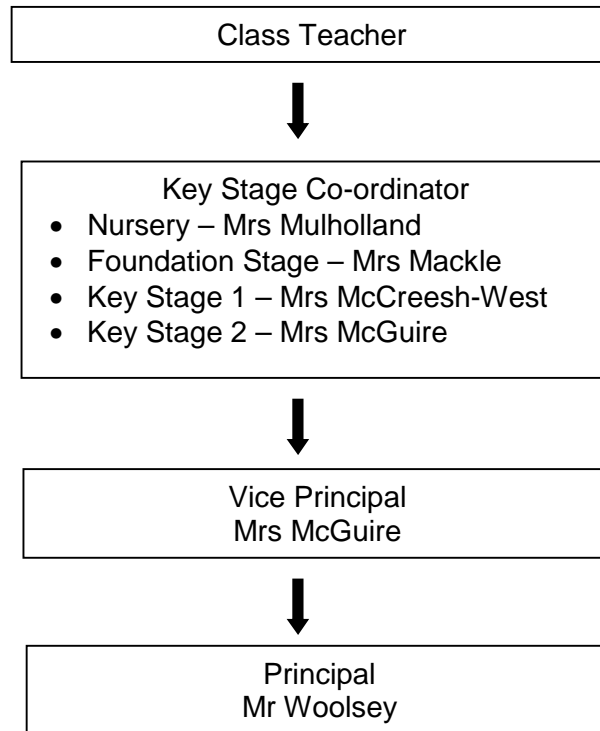
School Development Plan Priorities 2017/2018

Child Centred Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sustain improvement in attendance and review Pupil Attendance Policy• Target punctuality• Review Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy• Review Pastoral Care Policy• Staff Child Protection & Fire Safety training• Review Staff Code of Conduct• Review RSE Policy• SEN – Dyslexia Friendly Classrooms<ul style="list-style-type: none">- New Code of Practice- Gifted & Talented- LSC Provision• Mental Health – Staff & pupils• Review Induction of Newcomers• Challenging behaviours• Pupil Council Development• Embed Daily Golden Mile <p>Nursery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New Speech & Language intervention• Extend Breakfast Club to Nursery from Term 1
High Quality Teaching & Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Literacy - Reading – Accelerated Reader<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Writing: The process

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Embed Comprehension • Numeracy - Practical Maths/Izak 9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Embed Tables • ICT – Music & Sound <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online Safety Pilot 'See Saw' app • World Around Us – Improve Outdoor Learning opportunities • Foundation Stage Play • Assessment for Learning Refresher – Peer & Self-Assessment • Review Activity Based Learning in KS1 • Review Marking Policy • Review Learning & Teaching Policy • Continue new RE Scheme of Work – Key Stage 2 • Review Music Policy • Continue development of evaluation of planners • Develop use of PASS data Nursery • Embed new Observation process – 'To Build A Profile' and link to parents • Develop Talking & Listening, Reading & Writing through Outdoor Play • Develop Reading through 'Big Bed Time Read' • Transition to Foundation Stage
<p>Effective Leadership</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase enrolment • Efficient and effective use of budget resources in challenging financial climate • Review distribution of workload and develop teams • Review Communication Policy • Disseminate new Complaints Procedure • Middle Management Training • Induction of new teacher • Soft Play surface for Nursery • Use Parents & Friends fundraising to enhance resources for pupils • Review accommodation in light of increasing enrolment • Rolling painting programme
<p>School Connected to the Local Community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 3 of Shared Education • Improve parental engagement • Develop links with local community eg Visitors to school • Eco Schools Green Flag reassessment • Communication – 'See Saw' app • Consultation with parents • Review Educational Visits Policy • Nursery – 'Big Bedtime Read' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shared Education Review Transition Forms

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.

Menu for November

(See last page)

Can I wish the entire school community a pleasant and relaxing Half Term break.

R Woolsey
Principal

