



## News Sheet – March 2016

### Diary Dates for March 2016

29 <sup>th</sup> February – 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Parent Teacher Meetings
3 <sup>rd</sup>	World Book Day
7 <sup>th</sup>	Jo Jingles in Nursery
8 <sup>th</sup>	Nursery Cross Community Day with Hart Memorial: 'The Gathering Drum'
9 <sup>th</sup>	Pupil Council Meeting
10 <sup>th</sup>	Confirmation Practice
11 <sup>th</sup>	Swimming ends Years 4 & 5
14 <sup>th</sup>	Confirmation Practice Year 6 'Bee Safe' Event
15 <sup>th</sup>	Irish Dancers to Rosemount Care Home Class & Group Photographs Confirmation Practice
16 <sup>th</sup>	St Patrick's Day Irish Dancing Festival 1.30pm
17 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup>	School closed for St Patrick's Day and Staff Training
19 <sup>th</sup>	Confirmation 3pm
21 <sup>st</sup>	No Homework & No Afterschool Clubs this week
23 <sup>rd</sup>	'Wear It, Beat It Day' – Non Uniform Day for Charity.
24 <sup>th</sup>	Last Day of Term 2, No Uniform, No Dinners, school finishes at 12noon
25 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> April	School Closed: Easter Holiday

### School Closures – March 2016

Ballyoran Primary School will be closed as follows during March:

- 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> – St Patrick's Day & Staff Training
- 25<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Holidays

### Parent Teacher Meetings

A reminder that Parent / Teacher Meetings will take place during the week Monday 29<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2016. 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 except Year 4 Mrs McCreesh – West who will be in school for the normal full days. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2016. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://www.worldbookday.com).

### **St Patrick's Day Irish Dancing Festival**

This will take place in the Assembly Hall on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Spring into action and enjoy a wide range of fun-filled sports at Ashgrove Community Centre's St Patrick's Sports Day!**

Taking place on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March from 10am-1pm, boys and girls aged between 6 and 12 years old can get a taste of a variety of different sports in this multi sports activity event. Sport NI, and Lottery funded Active Communities Coaches will be running this lively event costing just £2 per child. Places are limited. To book or for further information please contact Ashgrove Community Centre on 028 3833 1650 or e-mail [ashgrovecc@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk](mailto:ashgrovecc@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk)

### **Credit Union Quiz Success**

Well done to our Team who came second at the annual Credit Union Quiz held recently in Drumcree Pastoral Centre. The team finished the 10 rounds in joint first place with Presentation PS and it took five tie breaker rounds to separate the two teams. The Team was:

Grace O'Connor – Year 7	Andy Byrne – Year 7
Evie Judge – Year 6	Sean Coyle – Year 6

Each pupil received a £15 cash prize from the Credit Union.

### **Parents & Friends Update**

#### **St Valentine's Day Raffle**

Thank you to everyone who supported our Parents & Friends Valentine's Day Raffle. The amount raised was £342.00 and the winners were:

- 1st prize: Zio's voucher, Marian Thornbury
- 2nd prize: Lades Van Scoy Watch, Caroline Hayden
- 3rd prize: Debonair Voucher, Sharon Thornbury
- 4th Prize: Sitara Morgan Scarf, Rhea Maguire
- 5th Prize: Ladies Bracelet, Jodie McCann

#### **Easter Squares & Easter Basket Draw**

These will go on sale very soon and you will be given information on this in due course.

#### **NSPCC Assemblies & Workshop**

All our pupils attended assemblies taken by NSPCC recently and you have been given information. These were followed by a workshop for our Year 6 and 7 pupils.

#### **Diocesan RE Visit**

Sister Elizabeth paid her annual visit to Year 4 and Year 7 pupils on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2016 and was very pleased with the children's preparation for the Sacraments.

#### **Dance-A-Thon**

On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2016, we had our NSPCC fundraiser. Children have been raising money for this very worthwhile charity through sponsorship and they took part in a 'Dance-a-thon'. Local dance teacher, Kirstie Toman, spent the day in school doing dance sessions with the children. A big thank you to all parents and children for their effort.

#### **Nursery Cross Community Day**

On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February the children enjoyed their visit to Hart Memorial Nursery and Hart Memorial enjoyed their day out to Ballyoran Nursery. They are looking forward to meeting their friends on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March to participate in 'The Gathering Drum' music workshop.

#### **Pupils play at Half Time at GAA Match**

We are delighted that Aodhan O Connor and Evie Judge from Year 6 were selected to play at half time in the recent Armagh v Laois game at the Athletic Grounds in Armagh. It was a tremendous honour to have two pupils chosen to play in the Armagh colours in front of a crowd of several

thousand people. Aodhan and Evie were very excited to take part and both players put up a very strong performance, representing the school with great distinction.

### **Football Tournament**

Ballyoran PS took part in the annual Jones' Shield 5 a side football tournament on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February at the Football Warehouse in Portadown. Despite being drawn in a very tough group, the team performed excellently. We did not qualify for the later stages but came out with real credit and the highlight of the day was a well-deserved 1-1 draw against an Orchard County side that featured two Northern Ireland youth internationals! Well done to all the players, particularly Andy Byrne and Paul Hendron who scored goals. Man of the match was judged to be Sean Coyle for an outstanding performance in nets.

### **Year 7 Prepare for Confirmation**

As part of their preparation for Confirmation, Year 7 pupils joined with other local schools to attend a Ceremony of Light in St John the Baptist Church on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February. Some parents and children participated in the ceremony. We wish all of our Year 7 pupils God's richest blessing as they make their Confirmation on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

### **Safer Internet Day**

Safer Internet day was held on 9<sup>th</sup> February. To recognise this special event in school, Mrs Biggerstaff held two assemblies to talk to the children about staying safe online. The theme this year was 'Play your part for a better internet'. Children discussed how they could make the internet a better and safer place for everyone. This was then followed up by various classroom activities. We would encourage you as parents to monitor your child's use of the internet carefully and always be aware of what they are doing online.

### **Year 5 Young Enterprise**

On Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February, Alsya from HSBC delivered a very interesting workshop called 'Our City' to Year 5. During the workshop the pupils had opportunities to identify the key features of a city. They also had the opportunity to design a city and place key industries appropriately on the map of the city.

### **Motor Sensory Groups**

We are currently in the process of setting up a Sensory Motor Group. This will entail a sequence of activities carried out on a regular basis to promote the development of motor and sensory skills. The group will be set up by an Occupational Therapist and will be delivered by two classroom assistants in the Assembly Hall four mornings a week (Mon –Thurs) starting at 8.45am and finishing at 9.05am. Teachers have nominated children who they feel would benefit from this support and their parents have been informed. If you are concerned about your child's physical development and would like your child to participate in this group please contact Mrs McGuire.

### **Names on Clothing**

Pupils frequently lose items of clothing in school and it 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. Name tags can be ordered through the office.

### **'Wear It, Beat It Day'**

This is a non-uniform day when pupils are asked to come to school wearing something red and bring £1 each to support the British Heart Foundation. The canteen will also provide a special themed menu for this day!

### **Advance Notice – School Closure – Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016**

Ballyoran Primary School will be closed on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016 as it is being used as a Polling Station for the EU Referendum.

### **Menu for March 2016**

(See final page)

R Woolsey  
Principal

## Menu for February 2016

	<b>Week commencing 29.02.16</b>	<b>Week commencing 07.03.16</b>	<b>Week commencing 14.03.16</b>	<b>Week commencing 21.03.16</b>
<b>Monday</b>	Fish Fingers or Chicken Pasta Bake, Beans, Sweetcorn, Salad, Mashed Potatoes  Ice Cream, Fruit, Chocolate Sauce	Oven Baked Steak Burger or Stuffed Bacon Rolls, Carrots, Sweetcorn, Salad, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy  Rice Pudding & Oranges	Oven Baked Chicken Nuggets or Tuna Wraps, Peas, Salad, Coleslaw, Chips, Baby Boiled Potatoes, Sauces  Jam & Coconut Sponge & Custard	Lasagne or Fish Fingers, Beans, Sweetcorn, Salad, Mashed Potatoes, Crusty Bread  Rice Pudding & Peaches
<b>Tuesday</b>	Shepherds Pie or Chicken Curry & Boiled Rice, Carrots, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy  Vanilla Sponge & Custard	Spaghetti Bolognese or Fish Fingers, beans, Sweetcorn, Salad, Potatoes, Crusty Bread  Biscuit, Fruit & Custard	Roast Turkey, Stuffing or Vegetable Pasta Bake, Carrots, Parsnips, Broccoli, Potatoes, Gravy  Jelly, Fruit & Cornflour Sauce	Savoury Mince, Mixed Vegetables, Pasta, Mashed Potatoes, Bread or Chicken Curry & Rice  Chocolate Cake & Custard
<b>Wednesday</b>	Oven Baked Sausages or Lasagne, Turnip, Cabbage, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy or Salad  Flakemeal Biscuit, Fruit & Custard	Cheese & Tomato Pizza or Chilli Chicken Wraps, Peas, Sweetcorn, Salad, Chips, Boiled Potatoes  Rice Krispie Bun & Custard	Homemade Sweet Potato Soup or Chicken Soup, Burgers, Tomato Sauce or Filled Chicken or Salad Rolls  Raisin Cookie & Fruit	Cocktail Sausages or Chilli Chicken Wraps, Beans, Salad, Tomato Sauce, Chips, Baby Boiled Potatoes  Strawberry Mousse & Fruit
<b>Thursday</b>	Roast Turkey, Stuffing or Macaroni Cheese, Carrots, Broccoli, Gravy, Mashed Potatoes  Jelly & Fruit Salad	Chicken Crumble Top Pie or Vegetable Pasta Bake, Turnip, Broccoli, Mashed Potages, Gravy  Ice Cream, Fruit, Chocolate Sauce	<b>St Patrick's Day School Closed</b>	<b>School Finishes at 12noon No Dinners</b>
<b>Friday</b>	Homemade Pepperoni Pizza, or Tuna Wraps, Chips, Baby Boiled Potatoes, Salad, Sweetcorn, Peas  Apple Crumble & Custard	Homemade Vegetable or Chicken Soup, Hotdogs, Sauces, Filled Chicken or Salad Rolls  Frozen Mousse & Fruit	<b>School Closed</b>	<b>School Closed</b>

Milk, Water, Bread, Fruit and Yoghurt available daily

Menu subject to deliveries

For further information on allergenic ingredients, please contact the school