



News Sheet – November 2015

Diary Dates – December 2015

- 2nd Pantomime – Years 3 – 7: Market Place Theatre
- 3rd Christmas Fair 1.00 – 3.00pm
School closes at 1.00pm for all pupils
Dismissal Times: Years 1 – 3: 12.50pm; Years 4 – 7: 1.00pm
- 4th West Midland Theatre Pantomime: Beauty and the Beast
Drumcree College Multi-Cultural Day- Years 6 and 7
Canteen Christmas Dinner for pupils
Last day of Homework and Homework Club – Term 1
- 7th Choir and Instrumentalists to Rushmere Shopping Centre: 1.30pm
Christmas Post begins
- 8th Nursery Christmas Workshop with Hart Memorial Nursery
Choir and Instrumentalists to Mahon Hall Nursing Home
- 9th Pupil Council Meeting
- 11th Last day of Swimming, Years 4 and 5
Flu Vaccinations
Jo Jingles in Nursery
- 14th *No After School Clubs this week*
- 15th Christmas Performance 1 – 10.00am
- 16th Christmas Performance 2 – 10.00am
School finishes at 1.00pm for all pupils
- 17th Christmas Jumper Day for Charity
Christmas Parties and Disco
Choir and Instrumentalists to Tesco Extra Craigavon – 10.00am
- 18th Last day of term: School finishes at 12 noon. No uniform, no dinners
Dismissal Times: Years 1 – 3: 11.50am; Years 4 – 7: 12 noon

Christmas Holidays

School will be closed from Monday 21st December 2015 to Monday 4th January 2016. Please note that Monday 4th January 2016 is an extra day's holiday for the pupils. This will be a Staff Training Day. Term 2 begins on Tuesday 5th January 2016.

Christmas Performance

We will again hold two performances – one on Tuesday 15th December 2015 at 10.00am and one the following day Wednesday 16th December 2015 at 10.00am. Both performances will be ticket only with 220 tickets available for each day. A letter will go out inviting you to order tickets which will be issued, free of charge, on a first come, first served basis. In order to ensure fairness, the number will be limited to 4 per family with the opportunity for you to request more if they become available. We hope you will support these performances.

Christmas Raffle

One book of Tickets has been issued to every family. Please support our Parents and Friends by selling these. More booklets are available if required. The Draw will take place at the Christmas Fair on Thursday 3rd December 2015. All ticket stubs, money and unsold tickets must be returned to school by **Wednesday 2nd December 2015**.

Christmas Fair

Our Parents and Friends Christmas Fair will take place in the Assembly Hall and Canteen on Thursday 3rd December 2015 from 1.00 – 3.00pm To facilitate this, school will finish at 1.00pm for all pupils We would encourage you to support this event. Entry is £2 for adults (includes tea/coffee, shortbread or mince pie); primary school age children are free. Please help us by sending in items for the Tombola – unwanted gifts, sweets, etc. or if you wish to have a table, please contact the office.

Choir and Instrumentalists

Once again the Choir and Instrumentalists have a busy Christmas Programme with a number of engagements. They will be appearing in Rushmere Shopping Centre on Monday 7th December 2015, Mahon Hall Nursing Home on Tuesday 8th December 2015, Tesco Extra Craigavon, on Thursday 17th December 2015 at 10.00am and I would encourage you to support them by going along to hear them at Rushmere and Tesco Extra.

Coats

As the weather has been turning colder in recent weeks, we have been advising pupils to bring a warm coat to school. From Tuesday 1st December 2015, any pupils who do not bring a coat to school will have to remain inside at break and lunch time.

Year 3 Visit Armagh County Museum

Year 3 visited Armagh Museum at the end of October as part of their *World Around Us* topic of Houses and Homes. The children took part in a workshop looking at homes in the past. They worked in small groups to explore an object from the past and guess what it was used for and how it worked. The children discovered how people lived, cooked and washed. Pupils also made individual prints and discussed different ways to decorate their homes.

Switch Off Fortnight

The Eco Committee was in charge of trying to save energy in the school during Switchoff Fortnight. They talked in assembly and gave everyone lots of ideas on how to save energy both in home and at school. Each class has an Energy Monitor who is in charge of monitoring how the class is saving energy on a daily basis.

Nursery News

Crotchets and Quavers

The children enjoyed the Crotchets and Quavers music workshop on Wednesday 4th November when they got to play the trombone. They also got to sing, dance and play a selection of percussion instruments.

Cross Community Link with Hart Memorial

This year pupils in our Nursery classes are linking with Hart Memorial Nursery as part of our Community Relations Equality and Diversity programme. On Wednesday 25th November the

children enjoyed their first visit to Hart Memorial Nursery and Hart Memorial enjoyed their day out to Ballyoran Nursery. They are looking forward to meeting their friends again in the near future.

Brownlow STEM Day

Year 7 enjoyed a great day on Friday 6th November 2015 at Brownlow College, participating in STEM activities. They learned how to programme and control robots and had the opportunity to create and test rockets.

Friendly Soccer Match

On Friday 6th November 2015, Ballyoran played a series of short friendly matches against Derryhale PS and Orchard County PS. The matches were played in a competitive but friendly spirit. Congratulations to the players who remained unbeaten throughout the matches. Well done to Shane Caulfield and Paul Hendron who both scored a goal. Many thanks to Orchard County for hosting the event.

Year 2 Visit and Visitors

Children in Year 2 are currently learning about the Emergency Services. As part of this topic Year 2 had a trip to Portadown Fire Station. They really enjoyed their visit and got to learn all about the Fire Service and also about Fire Engines. Following this, the Police visited our classes on Monday 16th November 2015. The Police spoke to the children about keeping safe and not talking to strangers. The children then got to see the Police Car. Year 2 have really enjoyed this topic. Please have a look at our photographs on our class pages on the school website.

Charity Update

Children in Need 2015

A massive thanks to everyone who supported our 'Spots and Mad Hair Day' in aid of BBC Children in Need on Friday 13th November 2015. All parents and children went to a lot of effort and looked fantastic! An amazing £470 was raised for this very worthwhile charity. Thank you for all your donations. Pictures of the day can be viewed on our website.

Hospice Coffee Morning

On Friday 20th November 2015, along with our Numeracy morning with Timothy Doyle, we held a Coffee Morning in aid of Northern Ireland Hospice. With thanks to the parents who showed their support, and staff, a total of £105 has been raised so far. Thank you to all those who contributed. It was disappointing that more parents did not support this event.

Anti-Bullying Week

This year's Anti-Bullying Week began on Monday 16th November 2015. Staff had an opportunity to download resources from the official website

www.endbullying.org.uk/anti-bullying-week/resources/

Everyone in the school community made anti-bullying a major focus around the school and in the classrooms. Posters arrived early and will remain on display. Some pupils created posters while others discussed the issues during Circle Time. Others wrote stories and dramatised bullying situations – well done everyone!

A major focus was what to do if you feel that you are being bullied and we all agree that telling someone you trust is vital, and then we can all help to change the situation. Remember, you don't have to put up with being bullied. Anti-Bullying work goes on all year round.

ChildLine 0800 1111

0Year 5 Fire Safety Talk

The Crew Commander and two Fire-fighters from Portadown Fire Station visited our Year 5 classroom recently and talked about the importance of making sure our homes are fitted with working smoke alarms. The Fire-fighters also talked about ensuring we all have a prepared fire escape route should a fire break out in our homes. Each child received a Fire Safety Pack which included word searches and a spot the danger picture. Year 5 would like to thank our local Fire and Rescue Service for all their bravery and the hard work they do to keep our community safe.

*Smoke alarms are free of charge and are available from Portadown Fire Station.

Numeracy Parent Workshops

On Friday 13th November 2015 we held two sessions on 'How to Help your child with Maths at Home'. Timothy Doyle led the meetings and demonstrated how to help children develop their concept of maths using everyday activities, websites etc. It was very disappointing that so few parents attended these workshops. A big thank you to the four parents who attended. They all found it very beneficial and enjoyable.

Year 4 'Farm to Fork' Tesco Visit

Year 4 visited Tesco for a field trip entitled 'Farm To Fork' at the Meadows Centre on Thursday 19th and Wednesday 25th November 2015. This was linked to our World Around Us topic about Food. The children got to taste different types of vegetables and nuts.

For their break, the children were treated to toast, juice and chopped bananas. After break we visited the huge fridge and freezer to see all the foods that are kept there. The children visited the Cheese Counter to learn about different types of cheese and sampled Mature Cheddar, Smoked Cheese and a Hot Chilli and Lime Cheese. This was a very exciting way of learning more about food.

Year 7 Confirmation Mass

As part of their preparation for Confirmation, Year 7 pupils participated in a Commitment Ceremony on Sunday 22nd November 2015 in St John the Baptist Church.

On-line Safety Meetings

As a school we recognise the importance of educating children about online safety as all children are exposed to the internet from an early age. On Tuesday 24th November 2015, Mrs Biggerstaff delivered an Internet Safety Assembly to Years 1 - 4. Children were told the story of 'Smartie the Penguin' to highlight the importance of staying safe online and telling an adult if something happens which you do not like when using the computer.

On Wednesday 2nd November the PSNI spoke to Years 5, 6 and 7 about staying safe online. Children were able to discuss with the PSNI what they use the internet for and learn how to ensure they stay safe when using the internet at home. The PSNI highlighted the importance of protecting your personal information and identity online. Through the above discussions it was brought to our attention the number of pupils who have Social Networking profiles. We cannot emphasise enough the importance of monitoring these profiles and also monitoring how your children are using the internet. This was also discussed by the PSNI at the Parent Information session. Again it was very disappointing that this was not supported by our

parents. Please refer to the parents section on our school website for more information on ensuring your children stay safe online. Other useful websites are:

<http://www.kidsmart.org.uk>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

Tharp Family from USA

On Wednesday 11th November 2015, we had a visit from the Tharp Family from USA. This is the second year that they have visited Ballyoran and the visit took the form of a Musical Concert.

School Photographs

The proofs for the school photographs have now arrived in school and been distributed. These must be returned to school by **Monday 7th December 2015**.

Admissions Paperwork

The Admissions paperwork for Nursery and Year 1 applications for September 2016 will be available in school by the end of this week. This documentation is also available on the school website and the Education Authority website. The closing date for applications is Wednesday 13th January 2016 at 12 noon.

Confirmation – Advance Notice

This will take place on Saturday 19th March 2016 at 3.00pm.

Books Amnesty

A reminder that if you have any school reading books at home, these can be sent into class with your child or placed in the Box in the foyer and no questions will be asked. We would encourage all parents to have a good look at home for any school books which have not been returned. Thank you.

Homework Club

After Christmas, Homework Club will no longer operate on Thursdays. It will run on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays only.

Information for Parents re School Starting Age

The Department of Education and the Education Authority have published a new guidance booklet on the above. This is available on our school website under '*Parents*' and '*Useful Leaflets*'.

Department of Education 'Get Involved' Campaign

The Department of Education are continuing their PR Campaign to try to encourage parents to take an active part in the education of their children. More information on this is available on: nidirect.gov.uk/education-works.

Well Done to Past Pupils

Congratulations to two former pupils of Ballyoran Primary School for achieving top marks in Northern Ireland in this summer's GCSE examinations. Cara Matchett came

second in Health and Social Care while Courtney Millar came third in Learning for Life and Work. Both girls are pupils at St Catherine's College, Armagh.

School Office

Mrs Milligan left Ballyoran at Half Term after two years as a Clerical Officer assisting Mrs Tedford in the Office. We thank her for all that she gave to the school during this time and wish her well for the future.

Mrs Tedford our school Secretary will be retiring at Christmas after 27 years at Ballyoran Primary School. The Board of Governors have appointed Miss Doran as Mrs Tedford's successor. She has already started work in the Office and will be shadowing Mrs Tedford up until Christmas.

Christmas Card Competition 2015 Winners

Class	Winner	Runner Up
Year 1	Corey Simpson	Jaciara Mendes Da Silva
Year 2AB	Roisin McAleese	Jade McGeown
Year 2BMG	Brooke McGeown	Nikki Hall
Year 3	Caoimhe O'Connor	Romit Guterres
Year 4McK	Jessica Todd	Chelsey Williamson
Year 4 McW	Oliwia Rybak	Aoife Madden
Year 5	Gabriele Matuleviciute	Tyler Beattie
Year 6	Evie Judge	Aodhan O'Connor
Year 7	Madison Hall	Grace O'Connor
LSC	Alice Robinson	Malachy Kofa

Overall Winner of **Ballyoran Competition**: Madison Hall

Card chosen for **EASR Competition**: Gabriele Matuleviciute

Menu for December

See last page

Menu for December

	Week commencing: 07.12.15	Week commencing 14.12.15	Week commencing: 21.12.15	Week commencing: 28.12.15
Mon	Fish Fingers or Chicken and Broccoli Bake, Beans, Sweet Corn, Coleslaw, Salad, Mashed Potatoes Rice Pudding and Oranges	Shepherd's Pie or Stuffed Bacon Rolls, Turnip, Cabbage, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy Jelly and Cornflour	School Closed – Christmas Holidays	School Closed – Christmas Holidays
Tues	Savoury Mince or Chicken Curry and Boiled Rice, Pasta, Carrots, Mashed Potatoes, Crusty Bread Vanilla Sponge and Custard	Roast Turkey, Stuffing or Macaroni Cheese, Carrots, Broccoli, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy Rice Pudding and Fruit	School Closed – Christmas Holidays	School Closed – Christmas Holidays
Wed	Homemade Pizza or Chicken Wraps, Chips, Baby Boiled Potatoes, Peas, Sweet Corn, Salad Ice Cream, Fruit and Chocolate Sauce	Chicken Nuggets or Tuna Wraps, Chips, Baby Boiled Potatoes, Peas, Sweet Corn, Sauces Tub of Ice Cream and Fruit	School Closed – Christmas Holidays	School Closed – Christmas Holidays
Thurs	Gammon, Turnip, Broccoli, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy or Sweet and Sour Chicken and Boiled Rice Jelly and Fruit Salad	Cocktail Sausages or Filled Salad Rolls, Mashed Potatoes, Beans, Coleslaw, Salad Raisin Cookies, Fruit Mousse, Fruit	School Closed – Christmas Holidays	School Closed – Christmas Holidays
Fri	Home Made Sweet Potato and Bacon Soup or Chicken Soup Filled Rolls (Chicken, Salad), or Hot Dog, Sauces Frozen Mousse or Cookies or Fruit	School closes at 12 noon No Dinners	School Closed – Christmas Holidays	School Closed – Christmas Holidays

Milk and Water Available daily

Fruit and Yoghurt available daily

Menu subject to deliveries

For further information on allergenic ingredients, please contact the school