



News Sheet – December 2010

Diary Dates – January 2011

- 10th Term 2 begins
- 12th Closing date for Nursery Applications – 12 noon
- 14th Term 2 Swimming begins P6 and P7
- 19th Closing date for P1 Applications – 12 noon
Parents Meeting – Paired Reading Programme, P3 – P7 at 2.00pm
- 24th Sure Start Speech and Language Session in Nursery
- 31st P7 Transfer Interviews

End of Term Arrangements

Pupils do not need to wear school uniform and there will be School Dinners as normal on Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st December 2010.

School will finish at the normal times on Tuesday 21st December 2010, which will now be the last day of this term.

School will re-open on Monday 10th January 2010 for the Spring Term.

New Parent/Teacher Association (PTA)

Ballyoran Primary School has a new PTA. Two initial Meetings were held during November/December with thirteen parents in attendance which was very pleasing.

The main aims of the PTA will be: Fundraising and organising social events for the school

At the Meeting on Wednesday 1st December 2010, the Office Bearers for this year were appointed:

Chairperson:	Mrs C Dunbar	Vice-Chairperson:	Mrs M McBride
Secretary:	Mrs S McCann	Treasurer:	Mrs S Garland

It was agreed that the first PTA event would be Christmas Parties which will take place on 21st December 2010.

The PTA is not an exclusive body and new members would be more than welcome. The next Meeting will take place in the new year.

Arabian Adventure

On 2nd December 2010, P1 – P7 pupils once again attended a Christmas Show performed by the West Midland Theatre Company called 'Arabian Adventure'. This show, which is now an annual fixture on our school calendar, was a Christmas treat for the pupils and was enjoyed by all who attended.

Santa's Little Helpers Workshop

Ten Nursery pupils and their parents attended a very enjoyable Christmas Workshop called 'Santa's Little Helpers' on 2nd December 2010. The event took place at the Hart Memorial Primary School and was funded through our Extended Schools' Cluster. The feedback from the pupils and parents who attended was very positive.

Pupil Council

The Pupil Council had its monthly Meeting on 2nd December 2010. At this Meeting, pupils spent time researching new playground equipment which they have been asked to

choose. The Pupil Council and Class Councils continue to bring very good ideas and suggestions to the Principal. Some of the things that have come about through the Pupil Council are Fruit Break, Key Stage 2 Disco in June and new mirrors in the Key Stage 2 toilets.

Sure Start Speech and Language Session in Nursery

Some of the Nursery children have had the experience of going out to work with a Speech and Language Therapist and an Occupational Therapist. This will continue throughout the year.

Extended Schools Drama Workshop

Ten Key Stage 2 pupils have been chosen to take part in a Drama production with other schools in our Extended Schools Cluster. The pupils who were auditioned for this have been attending practices on Thursday nights at Drumcree College. The Production will take place in the Town Hall in the New Year.

P4 Road Safety Project

Well done to P4 pupils who were presented with Certificates at a Special Assembly on Friday 3rd December 2010 in recognition of their participation in a DOE Road Safety project. Mrs Vivienne Nicholl, DOE Road Safety Education Officer spoke to all P1 – P7 pupils and made the presentation.

Christmas Post

A big thank you to our LSC pupils who have been responsible for the Christmas Post this year. They have collected, sorted and delivered Christmas Cards each day.

Jo Jingles in Nursery

The children in the Nursery had a really enjoyable morning of song and dance with Ollie and Jo Jingles. Thank you to Sure Start who helped to fund this.

Busy Week for Choir and Recorder Group

Christmas has once again been a very busy time for our Choir and Recorder Group who have had three engagements outside school at Lisnisky Care Home, Rushmere Shopping Centre and Tesco at the Meadows Shopping Centre: this on top of performing at our own '*Christmas Celebration*'. The comments from all of these events have been very favourable. Well done to all our Choir members and Instrumentalists who have, once again, been great ambassadors for the school and a big thank you to Mrs McCreesh-West for all her hard work in preparing our musicians for this busy Christmas programme.

P4 – P7 'Cinderella' Panto

Forty eight pupils from P4 – P7 and LSC attended the classic rags to riches tale of '*Cinderella*' in the Market Place Theatre, Armagh on Tuesday 14th December 2010. This event was originally for P6 and P7 only but was extended to P4 and P5 due to a very poor response from P6 and P7. The pantomime was full of festive fun, fabulous costumes, spectacular scenery and of course the ugliest sisters Armagh has ever seen! It was a very enjoyable trip.

'The Great Carmo'

On Wednesday 15th December 2010, '*The Great Carmo*' rolled into Ballyoran Primary School to perform for the children from Nursery to Primary 5. This enchanting theatre show from the Lyric Theatre featured live music, magic, circus tricks, illusion, dance and lots more. The children were mesmerised by The Great Carmo's spellbinding illusions and fascinating conjuring tricks. This was a delightful story about fun, friendship and determination which was thoroughly enjoyed by all the children and adults.

Optician Visits Nursery

Mackey Eye-Care came to visit the Nursery and talked to the children about eye-care. The children enjoyed trying on glasses.

Christmas Hampers

As in previous years, the children in school have prepared Christmas Hampers to be distributed to nominated Senior Citizens in the local community. Thank you to all parents who gave donations for the Hampers.

Christmas Celebration – A Great Success

Thank you to all parents and friends who attended our Christmas Celebration on Monday 20th December 2010. The Assembly Hall was well filled and everyone was treated to a celebration of Christmas through music, readings and drama. Every pupil from Nursery to P7 was included and they are to be commended for their efforts. Afterwards parents and friends were invited to stay and join staff for refreshments.

Christmas Card Competition

The following are the prize winners from our Annual Christmas Card Competition which every pupil had the opportunity to enter. The competition was organised by Mrs Barkley (Art and Design Co-ordinator) and the entries (which were of a very high standard) were judged by Mrs Lynas, a former teacher at Ballyoran Primary School. A winner and runner-up were chosen from each class and then an overall winner was chosen from these. The winning entry was used for our school Christmas Card.

Class	Teacher	Winner	Runner Up
P1	Mrs Mackle	Sheilagh Pinto	Evie Judge
P1	Mrs O'Hanlon	Dakota Wilson	Kirsty Creaney
P2	Mrs Garvey	Grace O'Connor	Madison Hall
P3	Mrs McGinnell	Oliwia Osinska	Courtney Sharpe
P4	Mrs McCreesh-West	Mia McKee	P[earse McGeough
P5	Miss Daly	Wiktoria Kania	Weronika Czerniak
P6	Mrs Brown/Mrs Walker	Brooke McCann	Zuzanna Baran
P7	Mrs Heaney	Rebecca Skelton	Cain Girvan
LSC	Mr Hendron	Micheal Reynolds	Amy Wilson

Overall Winner: Brooke McCann

Literacy Parents Meeting

On Wednesday 19th January 2011 at 1.30pm, Kate O'Hanlon (SELB Literacy Advisor) will host a meeting in the Assembly Hall for parents on the benefits of Paired Reading and how parents can support their child in developing literacy skills. All parents, guardians, grandparents, etc. are warmly invited. Refreshments will be provided.

P7 Transfer to Secondary Education

The month of January is very important for our P7 pupils as they and their parents make decisions on which Secondary School to transfer to in September 2011. As part of this process, secondary schools visit our P7 pupils and give their presentations on their schools. This begins on the first day back – Monday 10th January 2011 with a talk by Brownlow College, followed by talks from Lismore Comprehensive and Dungannon Integrated on Tuesday 11th January 2011. Secondary schools will also be having Open Days/Nights in January/February. A list of these will be sent out to all P7 parents.

Another important aspect to the Transfer Procedure is the Transfer Interview Meetings when P7 parents are invited into school to discuss their child's transfer and complete the relevant paperwork. These will take place on Monday 31st January 2011 and Tuesday 1st February 2011. More information will be sent out about these in the New Year.

Payment of Money

We prefer that as far as possible, all monies that are paid to school are sent in with your child. Money should be paid to the Class Teachers by pupils and there is no need for parents to come directly to the office to do this. We believe that this is giving pupils responsibility – a very valuable life skill. We would also prefer that money is placed in a sealed envelope and labelled with the child's name, the amount and what it is for. This makes the teacher's job much easier.

Mad Hair Day

A big thank you to everyone who supported this. The amount raised totalled £969.15.

The PSNI have asked us to inform parents of the following:

Postal Scam

The Trading Standards Office are making people aware of the following scam:

A card posted through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on 0906 6611911 (a Premium rate number). **DO NOT** call this number, as this is a mail scam originating from Belize. If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £315 for the phone call.

If you do receive a card with these details, then please contact Royal Mail Fraud on 020 7239 6655.

Child Safety During Winter 2010/11

Please don't play on frozen lakes

Numerous reports both province wide and locally of young people walking over frozen lakes. Very real danger of loss of life, should ice break.

- Victim unable to find point of entry and able to surface
- Victim will be in shock and hypothermia will develop in few minutes
- Rescue unlikely as ice will break further

Please don't obstruct roadways or throw snow at vehicles.

Some young people have been involved in this activity recently. By this behaviour a driver could lose concentration and control of their vehicle causing danger to all those concerned.

Please have fun in the snow, safely.

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