



## News Sheet – November 2010

### Diary Dates - December

- 1<sup>st</sup> Photographer in School  
PTA Meeting
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Show – Arabian Adventure, P1 – P7  
Nursery Extended Schools Workshop – ‘Santa’s Little Helpers’ (selected pupils)  
Pupil Council Meeting  
Soccer Match v Edenderry at home, 2.30pm  
First Rehearsal for Extended Schools Drama – Drumcree College (Selected Key Stage 2 pupils)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Assembly – Road Safety
- 8<sup>th</sup> School Christmas Dinner
- 9<sup>th</sup> Second Rehearsal for Extended Schools Drama – Drumcree College (Selected Key Stage 2 pupils)
- 10<sup>th</sup> Jo Jingles in Nursery and LSC
- 13<sup>th</sup> Choir/Instrumental Ensemble to Lisnisky Care Home
- 14<sup>th</sup> P6 and P7 to ‘Cinderella’ Pantomime at Market Place Theatre, Armagh
- 15<sup>th</sup> Nursery – P5 Show – ‘The Great Carmo’ by Lyric Theatre  
Choir/Instrumental Ensemble to Rushmere, 1.30pm
- 16<sup>th</sup> Choir/Instrumental Ensemble to Tesco, Meadows Shopping Centre, 1.30pm
- 17<sup>th</sup> Christmas Celebration – 10.00am followed by Refreshments. (All parents invited)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Last day of Term 1 – School finishes at 12 noon. No uniform and no dinners.

### Christmas Holidays

Ballyoran Primary School will close at midday for all pupils on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2010. School re-opens for the Spring Term on **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2011**. Please note the change to published Christmas Holiday Dates by one extra day.

### P4 Road Safety Walk

P4 pupils have been participating in a Practical Child Pedestrian Training Scheme which they began last year in P3. The aim of the Scheme, organised by the Department of the Environment (DOE) was to develop children’s awareness and understanding of their road environment.

Pupils took part in a supervised pedestrian walk along the Garvaghy Road where they had opportunities to develop their pedestrian skills; learning about observing dangers and how to cross roads safely.

### P7 Young Enterprise Day

Our Primary 7 pupils took part in a ‘Young Enterprise’ Day in school on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2010. ‘Young Enterprise’ gives our pupils an insight into the world of business. The pupils were divided into groups and each group represented a different country. Pupils had to design a product and market it. They all gained much from the day.

### **Professional Writer shares her skills with Primary 6 and Primary 7**

P6 and P7 pupils have been very fortunate this term to experience working with a professional writer. Maura Johnston has been sharing her expertise, knowledge and skills during Writing Workshops. The children have had opportunities to develop writing and creative skills by writing mini-sagas. We are looking forward to reading the final pieces of writing and working with Maura Johnston in the future.

### **Poetry Competition**

On National Poetry Day, Key Stage 2 pupils attended a Poetry Workshop in the Navan Centre in Armagh. The theme of the day was 'Home' and the pupils met Living History Interpreters who talked about their home in bygone days. Maura Johnston, Poet in Residence at the Navan Centre, led a poetry workshop based on this theme. Back at school Key Stage 2 pupils reflected on the skills and techniques from the day and wrote poems for the competition. Conlon Prentice (P7) and Zoe McGurgan (P6) were winners in the Key Stage 2 Category. Conlon and Zoe received their prizes on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2010 at a special poetry evening held at the Navan Centre.

### **Border Crossings Project**

On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2010, Liz Weir, a professional storyteller and writer, spent the day telling stories and sharing writing tips with P5. This workshop was partly funded by Poetry Ireland Border Crossings Project. Sara Williams from Massachusetts who is currently interning with Liz Weir also shared her writing expertise with the children.

### **Diocesan RE Advisor Visits School**

The Annual Diocesan visit took place on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2010. Sister Elizabeth visited Primary 4 and Primary 7 classes and was very pleased with the children's responses.

### **Anti-Bullying Week**

Anti-Bullying Week took place between 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> November 2010. Pupils focused on bullying as part of their PDMU lessons and there was a special whole school assembly with an Anti-Bullying Theme.

### **New PTA (Parent/Teacher Association)**

Thank you to the parents who have stated that they would be interested in being part of the new PTA. An initial Meeting was held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2010. A further Meeting is planned for Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2010 at 7.30pm when the first PTA Event will be planned and new members will be welcome.

### **Asthma Training**

The school staff (Teachers, Classroom Assistants and Lunchtime Supervisors) had Asthma Training recently. This training was very useful in raising asthma awareness as well as training staff in how to respond to an asthma attack. A reminder that it is the responsibility of parents to inform the school if their child develops asthma. We also recommend that if your child requires an Inhaler, that they carry a spare and one is given to the Class Teacher. Consent Forms must be completed and sent into school regarding Inhalers. If you have not already completed one of these, they are available from the school office.

### **P7 Commitment Ceremony**

A Commitment Ceremony was held for P7 children on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2010. Father O'Dwyer commented on how well children had participated in the Ceremony.

### **Nursery Pantomime**

The children in the Nursery and the Nursery Staff had their first outing of the year on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2010 to 'Little Miss Muffett's Magical Christmas' in Lurgan Town Hall. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

### **P7 Enjoy 'The Wizard of Oz'**

Our P7 pupils were invited to St Catherine's College, Armagh on Thursday morning, 25<sup>th</sup> November 2010 to see the school's musical production: 'The Wizard of Oz'. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the music, singing and choreography. They all agreed with the message at the end ... *'There's no place like home!'*

### **Mad Hair Day**

A big thank you to all the parents for supporting our Mad Hair and Non-Uniform Day on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2010. It was great to see the majority of pupils entering into the spirit of the day. At the special whole school assembly, attended by Nursery pupils as well, prizes were awarded for effort in each class. A reminder that sponsorship Money and Forms must be returned to school by **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2010**. If no money is collected, a blank form should be returned.

### **Supporting Your Child in Literacy – Advance Notice**

On Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> 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. A reminder will be sent home after Christmas.

### **Blood Transfusion Service Leaflet**

The Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service will be in Portadown Town Hall on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2010 from 1.30 – 4.00pm and 5.15 – 8.00pm. They have asked us to distribute a leaflet advertising this which accompanies this News Sheet.

### **Alcohol Leaflet**

We have been asked to distribute a leaflet about the dangers of alcohol to P5 – P7 pupils by the Craigavon Community Safety Partnership.

### **Cold Weather Reminder**

Please remind your child/children to be careful when walking to school during the cold spell. Parents driving to school should exercise caution on frosty mornings as the roads outside school are not gritted.

Also there are still a significant number of pupils who come to school without a warm coat. Please ensure that you child is equipped for the winter weather.

### **Cakes in School**

From 1<sup>st</sup> December 2010, the school's policy on parents sending cakes into school will change. From this date parents will no longer be permitted to send cakes into school for birthdays, etc. This decision has been taken following Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) advice and is primarily based on Health and Safety grounds. If anyone needs clarification on this matter, they should speak to the Principal.

Menu for December 2010

	06.12.10	13.12.10	20.12.10
<b>Mon</b>	Shepherd's Pie or Chicken and Broccoli Pasta Bake, Gravy, Baton Carrots, Mashed Potatoes  Rice and Peaches	Sausages or Filled Wraps, Gravy, Cabbage or Mixed Vegetables, Mashed Potatoes  Ice Cream Wafer	Homemade Ham and Cheese Pizza or Filled Wraps, Baked Beans or Sweetcorn or Salad or Coleslaw, Chips or Baked Potatoes  Rice Pudding and Peaches
<b>Tues</b>	Oven Baked Steak Burger or Cheese and Tomato Omelette, Gravy, Peas or Sweetcorn, Mashed Potatoes  Lemon Sponge and Custard	Homemade Tomato and Cheese Pizza or Cheese Omelette, Green Beans or Cauliflower Cheese, Chips or Baked Potato or Tossed Salad  Jelly and Fruit Salad	Homemade Vegetable or Cream of Chicken Soup Hot Dog with Sauce and Onions or Filled Rolls with Chicken or Salad or Tuna  Wholemeal Biscuit or Fresh Fruit
<b>Wed</b>	Christmas Dinner: Turkey, Cocktail Sausages, Stuffing, Carrots and Parsnips, Gravy, Creamed and Roast Potatoes  Choc Ice	Irish Stew with Carrots and Onions, Broccoli or Sweetcorn or Sweet and Sour Chicken with Boiled Rice and Crusty Bread  Rice and Peaches	
<b>Thur</b>	Chicken Nuggets, Baked Beans and Chips  Jelly and Ice Cream	Chicken Pie with Crumble Top, Gravy, Carrots and Parsnips or Peas, Mashed Potatoes  Lemon Sponge and Custard	
<b>Fri</b>	Homemade Vegetable or Cream of Chicken Soup Hot Dog with Sauce or Onions or Filled Rolls with Chicken or Tuna or Salad  Frozen Yogurt or Fresh Fruit	Battered Small Fry or Macaroni Cheese, Baked Beans or Mixed Vegetables or Beetroot or Salad or Coleslaw, Mashed Potatoes  Fruit Crumble and Custard	

Milk, Water, Bread, Fruit and Yogurt available daily

Menu subject to deliveries