



News Sheet – March 2015

Diary Dates for April 2015

2 nd – 10 th	School Closed – Easter Holidays
13 th	Term 3 begins
13 th – 15 th	Year 6 and 7 Shannaghmore Residential
17 th	Nursery Admission Acceptance Letters posted Year 1 Trip to Dobbie's Garden Centre Year 6 and 7 Swimming starts Friday Night Kids' Club starts
21 st	Brownlow College Soccer Tournament
29 th	Year 1 Admission Acceptance Letters posted Pupil Council Meeting

End of Term Arrangements

School will close at midday for all pupils on Wednesday 1st April 2015. To avoid congestion at the gate, pupils will be dismissed as follows:

Years 1 - 3	11.50am
Years 4 – 7	Midday

Easter Holidays

Please note that school will be closed from Thursday 2nd April to Friday 10th April 2015 for the Easter holidays.

Year 4 Prepare for First Communion

Penance Mass

Year 4 attended 7.00pm Mass on Saturday evening, 28th February 2015 in St John the Baptist Church. The theme of the Mass was *Penance* which was in preparation for their First Confession. Pupils participated in the reading of the Penitential Rite, Prayers of the Faithful and in the Offertory Procession.

First Confession

Year 4 pupils received the Sacrament of Penance on Thursday evening, 12th March 2015 in St John the Baptist Church in preparation for receiving their First Holy Communion on Saturday 9th May 2015.

Confirmation

Year 7 pupils made their Confirmation on Sunday 8th March 2015 in St. John the Baptist Church. The Celebrant was His Eminence Archbishop Eamon Martin assisted by Very Rev Michael O'Dwyer and Father Sheehan. This year pupils from Ballyoran Primary School, led by Mrs Mc Creesh-West, had the responsibility for providing the beautiful music. They received many well deserved and positive comments from various people, in particular, the Archbishop. Some children participated in the ceremony. Everyone looked very smart in their new clothes and enjoyed the celebration.

St Patrick's Day Irish Dancing Festival

On Friday 13th March 2015, a group of Yr3 - Yr7 pupils took part in our 13th Folk Dancing Festival. The adjudicator, Miss Caitriona Breen, praised all the dancers for their behaviour and performances. She added that this was her first visit to Ballyoran and she was very impressed with the standard of all the dancers. A group of local musicians, Clanbrassil Comhaltas, added to the atmosphere with a selection of Irish Traditional tunes. In addition, Megan Stewart and Grace O'Connor, two of our Year 6 pupils treated us to an exhibition Reel and Treble Jig. Major prize-winners were: Danica Hall (Year 7), Courtney Sharpe (Year 7) and Caitriona Mackle (Year 5). A special thank you to those who came to support our celebration - our largest audience ever. A big well done to all the team for dancing to the best of their ability, especially those who were on stage for the first time!

Year 7 Intergeneration Programme

For five weeks in February and March a group of Year 7 pupils took part in an Intergeneration Programme where they mixed with residents from Rosemount Care Home for a variety of workshops.

Week 1: Introduction/ Age Awareness

Week 2: PSNI Workshop, Street Scene

Week 3: Sports Development

Week 4: Arts/Crafts Workshop

Week 5: Celebration Event in the Seagoe Hotel

The Year 7s all agreed that this was a fantastic experience which reminded them to respect others and themselves, no matter what age they are. They learned a lot and met some new friends. Well done to all the pupils involved.

World Book Day

On Thursday 5th March 2015, the whole school celebrated World Book Day by reading books, writing about characters and talking about books. The pupils and staff dressed up as their favourite book character and they all looked fantastic. We also had the privilege of having the Armagh Rhymers in school this year again. Pupils from Years 4 and 6 got the opportunity to work with the Armagh Rhymers, creating a drama sketch based on a traditional tale. After break, the drama sketch was performed for the whole school and the atmosphere was electric!

Fair Trade Assembly

On Friday 6th March 2015, to mark Fair Trade fortnight, Mrs Barkley spoke to the pupils about Fair Trade sugar. She showed PowerPoint slides explaining the process of extracting sugar from sugar cane and encouraged pupils to look for the Fair Trade logo when they are shopping in local supermarkets. Mrs Barkley explained how Fair Trade guarantees farmers and producers a fair price for their goods and also helps community development. Mrs Barkley told a story about a farmer from Malawi. The farmer, called Joyce, now has electricity in her home. Her village also has a pump so that she does not need to walk to the river each day to get water. Joyce is very happy because she does not need to go to the dangerous river and risk being eaten by a crocodile! She is also happy because she will have enough money to send her son to school.

Nursery News

Gathering Drums

On Friday 6th March 2015 the Nursery children and their parents, along with their friends from Hart Memorial Nursery, enjoyed a fun morning with Jo and his wide variety of drums.

Jo Jingles

The children really enjoyed their recent visit from Jo Jingles on Monday 9th March 2015. It was a morning of fun, music and movement!

Year 3 Story Telling Magic

On Tuesday 10th March 2015, Year 3 and LSC visited the Armagh Market Place Theatre to watch Roald Dahl's version of the Three Little Pigs. During Literacy the children had been learning about how the use of music brings a story to life and can change our opinion on a character. All the children really enjoyed the show.

Sports News

Spring Soccer Festival

Ballyoran Primary School recently took part in the MUSFA Spring 7-a-Side Soccer Festival at Lurgan Junior High School. The team performed exceptionally well and finished top of their group which meant that they qualified for the semi-final. In the semi-final they were beaten by a very strong team from Orchard Primary School. The whole squad played their part in a very memorable day and Player of the Tournament for Ballyoran Primary School was Joao Paulo Ferreira.

Sean Coyle and Kathlyn Paulino

Sean Coyle (Year 5) and Kathlyn Paulino (Year 6) had a tremendous experience recently when they played at half-time in the National League game between Armagh and Fermanagh at the Athletic Grounds in Armagh. This was organised by Cumann na mBunscoil. Both pupils agreed that playing in front of a crowd of over 5,000 was something they will never forget. The pupils and their families thoroughly enjoyed the occasion.

William Paulino and Joao Paulo Ferreira

Year 7 pupils William Paulino and Joao Paulo Ferreira recently took part in an elite training squad organised by Cumann na mBunscoil at the Athletic Grounds in Armagh. Both pupils enjoyed the day and received a Certificate for taking part in the event.

Year 6 Moy Park Masterclass Challenge

On Tuesday 24th March 2015, 20 Year 6 pupils went to the Seagoe Hotel to participate in workshop activities organised by Young Enterprise and sponsored by Moy Park. The children participated in various activities which included making a character from junk materials, which portrayed a healthy lifestyle. They also had to invent a new chicken product, devise a business plan for it, market and advertise it. The workshops emphasised the importance of a healthy lifestyle, encouraged teamwork and gave the children a basic understanding of how a business operates. The workshops concluded with photographs and a lovely lunch. Many of the pupils won prizes for their efforts. Well done to all. Photographs of some of the activities can be viewed on our class webpage.

Speech and Drama Festival

Children from Years 4 – 7 had been preparing for the Portadown Speech Festival after school on a Wednesday afternoon for 6 weeks with Miss McGibbon. All children performed their poem in the Portadown Town Hall. Each child had an individual poem to perform against other children in their age group from a range of schools in the area. Congratulations to Kassie Blanton, Evie Judge, Paul Hendron, Madison Hall, Katie Hatton and Oliwia Osinska who all represented Ballyoran Primary School.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

A big thank you to parents for attending the Parent/Teacher Meetings at the beginning of March. These are a vital part of our home-school partnership and we are delighted with the very pleasing overall attendance of 93%.

Summer Uniform

After the Easter Holidays, pupils may come to school wearing the summer uniform as follows:

Boys may wear grey shorts

Girls may wear a blue checked dress and white socks

We continue to be very proud of how smart our pupils look in their uniform.

Congratulations

Congratulations and well done to Mrs McGuire who has graduated from Queen's University, Belfast with Accredited Teacher Status (ATS) awarded by the British Dyslexia Association. This is the culmination of two years' hard work as part of a SEN CPD Literacy Project through Stranmillis University College.

Food Safety Certificates

Congratulations to the following 3 Staff who have recently successfully completed their Food Safety Level 1 Training.

Mrs M Cusack	Mrs D Larkin	Mrs L Larkin
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Advance Notices

First Holy Communion	Saturday 9 th May 2015 at 11.00am in St John's Church
Sports Day	Wednesday 3 rd June 2015 at 9.30am
Prize Day	Friday 12 th June 2015
	Foundation/Key Stage 1 at 9.30am
	Key Stage 2 at 10.45am
Annual Reports Issued	Friday 12 th June 2015
Nursery Graduation	Thursday 18 th June 2015 at 10.00am
Trip Week	Monday 22 nd – Friday 26 th June 2015
Last Day of Term	Tuesday 30 th June 2015

A reminder that you can keep up to date by checking our Calendar on the School Website: www.ballyoranps.com

Holidays for 2015/2016

See next page

Menu for April 2015

(See last page)

Finally, I would like to thank all members of the school community for their support during another very busy term and wish everyone a happy and relaxing Easter break.

R Woolsey
Principal

Term Dates & School Holidays 2015/2016 Year

All dates are inclusive

Term 1

Term Dates

Tuesday 1st September – Friday 18th December 2015

Holidays

- Thursday 29th & Friday 30th October 2015 – Half Term

Christmas Holiday: Monday 21st December 2015 – Friday 1st January 2016

Term 2

Term Dates

Monday 4th January – Wednesday 16th March 2016

Holidays

- Monday 15th – Friday 19th February 2016 – Half Term
- Thursday 17th & Friday 18th March 2016 – St. Patrick's Day Holiday & Staff Training Day

Easter Holiday: Monday 21st March – Friday 1st April 2016

Term 3

Term Dates

Monday 4th April – Thursday 30th June 2016

Holidays

- Monday 2nd May 2016 – May Bank Holiday
- Monday 30th & Tuesday 31st May 2016 – May Bank Holiday & Staff Training Day

Please note 2 further closures for Staff Training days have still to be set.

School will finish at midday on the last day of each term.

Note: Removing pupils during term time is not recommended; please try not to book holidays or other trips during the school term. Staff cannot prepare work in advance for children who are on holidays and very often these children miss vital work during their absence. The school is also required to inform the SELB when a child is removed from school for a holiday. This information is recorded and may be used by the SELB in appropriate situations, i.e. Special Educational Needs Assessments or Child Protection issues.

We hope this information is of use to you as you attempt to plan family holidays for the year ahead.

Menu for April 2015

	Week commencing 06.04.15	Week commencing 13.04.15	Week commencing 20.04.15	Week commencing 27.04.15
Monday	School Closed – Easter Holidays	Fish Fingers or Chicken and Broccoli Bake, Beans, Sweet Corn, Salad, Coleslaw, Mashed Potatoes Ice Cream and Chocolate Sauce	Shepherds' Pie or Chicken Tagliatelle, Carrots, Broccoli, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy Vanilla Sponge and Custard	Oven Baked Steak Burger or Stuffed Bacon Rolls, Turnip, Broccoli, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy Lemon Sponge and Custard
Tuesday	School Closed – Easter Holidays	Homemade Pizza or Tuna Wraps, Peas, Sauces, Salad, Chips or Baked Potatoes Rice Pudding and Peaches	Oven Baked Sausages or Spaghetti Bolognese, Peas, Sweet Corn, Salad, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy Jelly Fluff and White Sauce	Fish Fingers or Chicken Curry and Boiled Rice, Beans, Sweet Corn, Salad, Coleslaw, Mashed Potatoes Ice Cream and Chocolate Sauce
Wednesday	School Closed – Easter Holidays	Chicken Curry and Boiled Rice, Crusty Bread or Savoury Mince, Carrots, Pasta, Mashed Potatoes Pineapple Sponge and Custard	Fish Fingers or Beef Curry and Boiled Rice, Beans, Salad, Coleslaw, Mashed Potatoes Flakemeal Biscuit, Fruit and Custard	Chicken Crumble Top or Macaroni Cheese, Carrots, Sweet Corn, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy Rice Pudding and Fruit
Thursday	School Closed – Easter Holidays	Baked Gammon or Sweet and Sour Chicken, Cabbage, Broccoli, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy Jelly and Fruit Salad	Roast Turkey and Stuffing or Vegetable Pasta Bake, Carrots and Parsnips, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy Rice Pudding and Oranges	Roast Pork with Stuffing or Ham and Pasta Bake, Turnip, Broccoli, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy Apple Crumble and Custard
Friday	School Closed – Easter Holidays	Homemade Vegetable or Chicken Soup Hot Dog or Filled Rolls, (Chicken/Salad), Sauces Frozen Mousse or Raisin Cookie, Fresh Fruit	Homemade Pizza or Chicken or Salad Wraps, Peas, Sweet Corn, Sauces, Chips, Baby Boiled Potatoes Ice Cream, Fruit and Wafer	Homemade Vegetable or Chicken Soup Hot Dog or Filled Rolls, (Chicken/Salad), Sauces Biscuit, Fruit and Mousse

Milk, Water, Bread, Fruit and Yoghurt available daily

For further information on allergenic ingredients, please contact the school

Menu subject to deliveries