



**News Sheet – December 2014**

# Merry Christmas



Winning Design for School Christmas Card Competition  
by  
Aidan Kelly (Year 6)

## End of Term Arrangements

School will finish at midday on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2014. Pupils do not need to wear uniform on this day and there will be no dinners served.

## Start of New Term

Ballyoran Primary School will re-open for pupils on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

## Diary Dates for January 2015

- 7<sup>th</sup> School re-opens for Spring Term for pupils
- 8<sup>th</sup> Year 7 Alcohol and Drugs: Session 1
- 9<sup>th</sup> Swimming begins: Years 6 and 7  
Friday Night Kids' Club begins
- 13<sup>th</sup> Year 6 Alcohol and Drugs: Session 1
- 14<sup>th</sup> Closing date for Nursery and Year 1 Applications for September 2015 – 12 noon
- 15<sup>th</sup> Year 4 Young Enterprise – 'Our Community'  
Year 7 Alcohol and Drugs: Session 2
- 20<sup>th</sup> Year 6 Alcohol and Drugs: Session 2
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Year 5 Young Enterprise – 'Our City'  
Year 7 Alcohol and Drugs: Session 3
- 27<sup>th</sup> Year 6 Alcohol and Drugs: Session 3
- 28<sup>th</sup> Pupil Council Meeting
- 29<sup>th</sup> Nursery CRED with Hart Nursery  
Year 7 Alcohol and Drugs: Session 4
- 30<sup>th</sup> Credit Union Quiz
- 31<sup>st</sup> Year 7 Mass – Holy Spirit Theme

## Jo Jingles in Nursery

The children really enjoyed their recent visit from Jo Jingles on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2014. It was a morning of fun, music, and movement!

## Year 3 – 7 Christmas Pantomime Outing

On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2014, pupils from Years 3 -7 enjoyed a trip to the Market Place Theatre in Armagh for this year's pantomime 'Scrooge's Christmas'. The story perfectly captured the magic of Christmas and with a lot of help from the audience, Ebenezer Scrooge was convinced that a kind heart and generous spirit makes the world a better place.

## Window Art

Seven pupils represented Ballyoran Primary School by painting four windows in St John's Parish Centre. They worked hard and demonstrated their creativity by painting bright and colourful Christmas scenes. They were kindly rewarded with crisps and drinks for refreshments.

The following pupils took part:

Year 4	Niamh Larkin	
Year 5	Evie Judge	Aodhan O'Connor
Year 6	Aidan Kelly	Madison Hall
Year 7	Courtney Sharpe	Nathan Campbell

## Christmas Fair

Our Parents and Friends of Ballyoran Christmas Fair on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2014 was a great success. This event was very well supported by pupils, parents and friends of the school and I would like to thank everyone for helping to make this a success. So many people commented on the atmosphere at the Fair. A total of £1,525 (including the Christmas Draw) was raised. A big thank you to Parents and Friends Members, for their tireless efforts in preparing for the Fair

## Christmas Dinner

Our pupils enjoyed a really tasty Christmas dinner in school on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2014 and the Staff had theirs the following day. A big thank you to Mrs Donna Campbell and her team in the kitchen for providing this.

### **Busy Christmas for Choir and Musical Ensemble**

Once again, it has been a busy time for the Choir/Instrumentalists who performed Christmas Carols at Rushmere, Craigavon on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2014 and Tesco, Meadows on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2014. We wish to thank those parents and friends who came along to these events to support our pupils. They also took part in our School Christmas Celebration on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2014. A big Thank You and well done to all loyal Choir members and Instrumentalists!

### **Around the World**

Thank you to all parents and friends who attended our Christmas Performances on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2014. The Assembly Hall was filled and everyone was treated to a celebration of Christmas through music, drama and dance. All pupils from Nursery to Year 7 got the opportunity to take part and they are to be commended for their efforts. Afterwards parents and friends were invited to stay and join staff for refreshments.

### **Years 1 – 7 Christmas Disco**

Pupils in Years 1 – 7 enjoyed a Christmas Disco paid for by the Parents and Friends of Ballyoran on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

### **South Ulster Community Band visit School**

On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2014, the pupils enjoyed a visit from some of the members of the South Ulster Community Band, including our own teacher Mr Hendron. The group played a number of familiar Christmas Carols which the pupils sang along with enthusiastically. Each member of the band demonstrated their instrument by playing a short piece of music. There was also an opportunity for people to join in by playing a range of percussion instruments and act as guest conductor for some of the songs. Particularly impressive was Miss Colgan who conducted the band through a hearty rendition of Jingle Bells!

### **Nursery Music Workshop**

The children enjoyed the Crotchets and Quavers music workshop on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2014 when they got to play the trombone. They also got to sing, dance and play a selection of percussion instruments.

### **Year 7 Trip to Belfast**

On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2014, 18 year 7 pupils, Mrs Martin, Mrs Walker and Mrs Fusco, went to Belfast on a school trip.

We had an early start, leaving school at 8.30am to walk to the train station. Once we got off the train, after a quick walk around the Christmas Markets, we went inside the City Hall. There we were greeted and taken upstairs to meet the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Maire Hendron. She was very nice and the children chatted easily to her. All the children were given a small stationery set.

We were then taken on a tour with Cindy the tour guide and all enjoyed trying on the Councillor's robes – which cost a princely sum of £4000!! Following that we were taken in to the Council Chambers and got to sit in the Lord Mayor's seat. Onwards from that we got to inspect artefacts from the Victorian era and Titanic memorabilia.

Afterwards we had a Titanic bus tour of Belfast, including the Titanic Centre, the murals and Belfast Castle. Then we had a final longer walk around the Continental Markets, where the children thoroughly enjoyed the sweet stalls!

Along the way we had several comments from passers-by remarking how well behaved the children were.

After a train journey home we were safely back in Portadown by 4.30pm. All enjoyed their trip and behaved very well indeed.

### **Christmas Jumper Day**

Pupils and staff took part in Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2014 raising a total of £198.10. Every pound given will be matched by the UK government to make an even bigger difference for children.

### Nursery and Year 1 Admissions

A reminder that application forms are available from the office. The closing date for all applications is 12 noon on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2015. Please remember a Birth Certificate is required for all applications.

### Year 7 Transfer to Post Primary School

The month of January is very important for our Year 7 pupils as they and their parents make decisions on which Secondary School to transfer to in September 2015. As part of this process, secondary schools visit our Year 7 pupils and give presentations on their schools. Secondary schools will also be having Open Days/Nights in January/February.

### Congratulations

Congratulations to the follow 12 Staff who have recently successfully completed their Food Safety Level 1 Training.

Mrs M Bell	Mrs J Breen	Miss N Calvert	Miss J Carson
Miss A Dixon	Mrs J Donnelly	Mrs N Fusco	Mrs S Glavin
Mrs G Good	Mrs L Molloy	Mrs H Stewart	Mrs R Tedford

### Coats

Thank you to all parents for ensuring that your children are in school every day with a coat. Please ensure this continues throughout the winter. It is also important that your child's name is on all clothing.

### Free Download of Microsoft Office for all Pupils

On the basis of C2k's licence agreement with Microsoft, all pupils can now download, free of charge, full copies of Microsoft Office for PC or Mac for use on up to 5 personal devices.

Pupils can access the download via their **OneDrive icon** in MySchool (via [www.c2kschools.net](http://www.c2kschools.net) from outside school).

Parents where required can download Microsoft Office on behalf of their children once the pupil has logged into [www.c2kschools.net](http://www.c2kschools.net) with their full C2k user and password. The simplified login will not work at home.

Note: when a user is prompted for a username/email address during the download this needs to be in the format <username>@C2ken.net.

For further information parents should contact Mrs Biggerstaff the ICT Co-ordinator.

### School Development Plan

Please read our Overview of the School's priorities for this year on pages 6 – 7.

Ballyoran Primary School has been carrying out a review of Homework over this past year. The main recommendations of this review are as follows:

#### a) Future of Homework

Homework will continue to be set at Ballyoran Primary as this is what the vast majority of pupils, parents and staff want.

#### b) Relevance

Homework is only useful if it is relevant to and used to consolidate the learning that is taking place in class. There is no point in peripheral activities being set for homework. If homework is not relevant, it is a waste of time.

#### c) What is given/frequency

- Year 1 - no change
- Year 2 – no change to reading but only 2 written homeworks per week – 1 Literacy and 1 Numeracy
- Years 3 – 7
  - Reading, Spellings & Maths Facts will continue to be set as before
  - Only 2 written homeworks per week – 1 Literacy and 1 Numeracy
  - No more Maths Challenge

- Guided Reading Book and Library book to be sent home
- No more Home Read (Years 5 – 7)
- LSC – Reading, Spellings & Maths Facts as before but only 2 written homeworks per week – 1 Literacy and 1 Numeracy

**Note: Other non-formal homework may be set on the other two evenings at the teacher's discretion e.g. research**

**d) How it is set**

- There will be no change to how Homework is set. It will continue to be set weekly in Foundation Stage and nightly in Key Stages 1 and 2

**e) Differentiation**

- Homework must be differentiated to meet the needs of all our pupils

**f) Consequences**

- Breaktime Room no longer to be used as a consequence
- Send it home again
- Keep a log
- Contact parents/speak to them at Parent/Teacher Meetings

**g) Suggested Timings**

These have been amended on the policy to reflect what staff suggested. It is important to stress that these are for guidance purposes only.

**The Homework Policy has been amended to reflect these changes.**

**Pupils with Serious Medical Conditions**

We have a pupil at school who currently has a serious medical condition. This condition means that their immune system is very weak and leaves them at more of a risk of infection. With this in mind, I would ask you to ensure that if your child is unwell that they are not sent into school as this may put a vulnerable pupil at risk. Thank you in advance for your co-operation on this matter.

**Menu for January 2015**

See last page

**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

**School Development Plan**  
**Yearly Overview 2014-2015**

	<b>Priorities</b>
<p><b>Child Centred Provision</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Climate of the School</li> <li>* Pastoral Care</li> <li>* Child Protection</li> <li>* SEN Interventions/Support</li> <li>* Inclusion/Diversity</li> <li>* Healthy School</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustain Improvement in Attendance</li> <li>• Review Positive Behaviour Management Policy in the light of Jenny Mosley training</li> <li>• Review policy for the induction of new pupils</li> <li>• Review Child Protection Policy</li> <li>• Review Anti Bullying Policy</li> <li>• Draft LSC Policy</li> <li>• Disseminate Risk Assessments</li> <li>• Draft Food in Schools Policy</li> <li>• Food Safety Training</li> <li>• Review of Pupil Council</li> </ul>
<p><b>High Quality Teaching &amp; Learning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Curriculum Provision</li> <li>* Literacy &amp; Numeracy</li> <li>* Learning &amp; Teaching Strategies</li> <li>* Assessment/Data Analysis</li> <li>* Self Evaluation</li> <li>* Nursery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 2 of NI Signature Project</li> <li>• Whole School Curriculum Audit</li> <li>• Support programme for new teachers</li> <li>• Numeracy – focus on improving standardised test scores in the area of solving routine word problems</li> <li>• Literacy - develop teaching of Comprehension with a focus on using inference in Guided Reading</li> <li>• Embed new procedures for the assessment of the CCS</li> <li>• Effective use of iPads</li> <li>• Develop Internal Standardisation</li> <li>• Activity Based Learning in KS1</li> <li>• Develop Speech &amp; Language Support</li> <li>• WAU Fair Testing</li> <li>• Policies – WAU &amp; PDMU</li> <li>• RE Scheme of Work</li> <li>• Disseminate PE Safety Policy</li> <li>• Review of Data Analysis day</li> <li>• Develop a model for tracking and measuring achievement at whole school level and for individuals particularly low and under achievers</li> <li>• Design new Record Keeping model</li> <li>• Market Yr 1 to Nursery parents</li> <li>• Develop Nursery Outdoor Play Area</li> <li>• Develop Nursery links with Year 1</li> </ul>

<p><b>Effective Leadership</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Effective School Development Plan</li> <li>* Continuing Professional Development</li> <li>* Curriculum Leadership</li> <li>* Financial Management</li> <li>* Accommodation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase enrolment</li> <li>• Time Management Training</li> <li>• New kitchen in staffroom</li> <li>• Improve communal storage</li> <li>• Minor Works Application – Covered Waiting area for parents</li> <li>• Care of refurbished school</li> <li>• Rolling painting programme</li> </ul>
<p><b>School Connected to the Local Community</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review Homework Policy in light of Homework Review</li> <li>• Parents Meeting – Reading &amp; Language</li> <li>• Primary School Prospectus reviewed</li> <li>• Explore development of all-weather pitch in partnership with local community</li> <li>• Eco Schools Green Flag reassessment</li> <li>• Develop Parents &amp; Friends</li> </ul>

## Menu for January 2015

	<b>Week commencing 05.01.15</b>	<b>Week commencing 12.01.15</b>	<b>Week commencing 19.01.15</b>	<b>Week commencing 26.01.15</b>
Mon	School Closed Staff Training	Homemade Pepperoni Pizza or Chicken and Pasta Bake, Peas, Sweet Corn, Salad, Chips or Baked Potatoes  Ice Cream, Fruit and Wafer	Shepherds' Pie or Stuffed Bacon Rolls, Carrots, Broccoli, Gravy, Mashed Potatoes  Chocolate Cracknel and Custard	Fish Fingers or Lasagne, Sweet Corn, Beans, Salad, Coleslaw, Mashed Potatoes  Rice Pudding and Fruit
Tues	School Closed Staff Training	Oven Baked Pork Burgers or Lasagne, Gravy, Turnip, Cabbage, Mashed Potatoes  Biscuit, Fruit and Custard	Fish Fingers or Chicken and Cheese Tagliatelle, Beans, Sweet Corn, Tossed Salad, Mashed Potatoes  Ice Cream and Chocolate Sauce	Chicken Pie with Potato Topping or Vegetable Pasta Bake, Carrots and Parsnips Gravy Mashed Potatoes  Vanilla Sponge and Custard
Wed	Homemade Pizza or Tuna Wrap, Peas, Sweet Corn, Salad, Coleslaw, Chips or Baked Potato  Ice Cream and Chocolate Sauce	Fish Fingers or Savoury Rice, Beans, Salad, Coleslaw, Mashed Potatoes  Lemon Sponge and Custard	Chinese Pork Stir Fry with Noodles or Steak Burgers, Turnip, Broccoli, Gravy, Mashed Potatoes  Chocolate Cake and Custard	Tomato and Cheese Pizza or Tuna Wrap, Peas, Salad, Coleslaw, Chips or Baked Potato  Ice Cream, Fruit and Chocolate Sauce
Thur	Savoury Mince, Mixed Vegetables, Pasta, Mashed Potatoes or Chicken Curry with Rice  Jelly and Fruit Salad	Chicken Crumble Top or Macaroni Cheese, Carrots and Parsnips, Gravy, Mashed Potatoes  Rice Pudding and Fruit	Gammon, Gravy, Cabbage, Peas, Mashed Potatoes or Sweet and Sour Chicken with Boiled Rice  Apple Crumble and Custard	Beef Curry and Boiled Rice or Roast Turkey, Stuffing, Gravy, Turnip, Broccoli, Mashed Potatoes  Jelly and Fruit
Fri	Roast Turkey, Stuffing or Sausage and Bean Pie, Carrots, Broccoli, Gravy, Mashed Potatoes  Apple Crumble and Custard	Homemade Vegetable Soup or Chicken Soup, Hot Dog or Filled Rolls, Sauces  Frozen Mousse or Fruit	Chicken Bites or Tuna Wrap, Peas, Salad, Coleslaw, Sauces, Chips, Baby Boiled Potatoes  Jelly and Fruit Salad	Homemade Vegetable Soup or Chicken Soup Hot Dog or Filled Rolls, Sauces  Biscuit, Fruit, Milk Shake

**Milk and Water Available daily**

**Fruit and Yoghurt available daily**

**Menu subject to deliveries**

**For further information on allergenic ingredients, please contact the school**