



News Sheet – November 2014

Diary Dates – December 2014

- 1st Christmas Post begins
- 2nd Last night of Homework and Homework Club – Term 1
- 3rd Panto – Years 3 – 7: Market Place Theatre
- 4th Nursery – Crotchets and Quavers Music Workshop
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
- 5th Year 7 Trip to Belfast
- 10th Jo Jingles in Nursery
Choir and Instrumentalists to Tesco, Meadows: 9.30 – 10.30am
Canteen Christmas Dinner
- 11th Christmas Treat for pupils with South Ulster Community Band
- 12th ‘Christmas Jumper Day’ for Save the Children (Non Uniform Day)
Swimming ends – Years 4 and 5
Last night of the Friday Night Club, OTT
- 15th No After School Clubs this week
- 16th Christmas Performance – 10.00am
- 17th Christmas Performance – 10.00am
Christmas Disco for pupils
- 18th Christmas class parties
- 19th 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 22nd December 2014 to Tuesday 6th January 2015.
School will re-open for Term 2 on Wednesday 7th January 2015.

Christmas Performance

This year our Christmas Performance is ‘*Christmas Around the World*’. We are delighted that this has been so well attended in recent years but it has got to the point that the Assembly Hall is so overcrowded that it is a Health and Safety Risk. With this in mind, this year we have decided to hold two performances – one on Tuesday 16th December 2014 at 10.00am and one the following day Wednesday 17th December 2014 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 4th December 2014. All ticket stubs, money and unsold tickets must be returned to school by **Wednesday 3rd December 2014**.

Christmas Fair

Our Parents and Friends Christmas Fair will take place in the Assembly Hall and Canteen on Thursday 4th December 2014 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.

Christmas Cards

All pupils have been given the opportunity to design a Christmas Card and have it printed into a pack of cards. The cost for this is £5 for a pack of 10 cards or 3 packs for £10. If you would like to have your child's artwork printed on a card, please send the money and order form in by **Monday 1st December 2014** at the latest.

Coats

As the weather has been turning colder in recent weeks, we have been advising pupils to bring a warm coat to school. From Monday 1st December 2014, any pupils who do not bring a coat to school will have to remain inside at break and lunch time.

Choir and Instrumentalists

Once again the Choir and Instrumentalists have a busy Christmas Programme with a number of engagements. They will be appearing in Tesco, Meadows on 10th December 2014 and I would encourage you to support them by going along to hear them.

CRED – Nursery

This year pupils in our Nursery classes are linking with Hart Memorial Nursery as part of our Community Relations Equality and Diversity programme. 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.

Year 3 Art Workshop

Year 3 took part in an art workshop in Millennium Court Arts Centre. They worked in teams to create large Christmas lanterns which were used in the Portadown Christmas lights switch on. Children had the opportunity to attend the light switch on and carry the lanterns in a parade along with other schools. They had great fun representing Ballyoran Primary School.

Power Down Day

On Wednesday 12th November 2014 we took part in Operation Energy Power Down Day. This involved the whole school taking part. We decided for the day that we

would keep all lights, Interactive Whiteboards and computers off. All pupils were responsible for reminding their teachers to switch everything off! Eco club, along with Mr Creaney took meter readings each day to monitor the electricity we were using as a school. This figure was recorded each day and at the end of the week we forwarded the results to Ruth Van Ry of Eco Council Northern Ireland. Our result from Power Down Day on Wednesday was drastically lower than those of the other days. Everybody in school has done a fantastic job!

Young Enterprise – Year 3 and Year 6

Year 3 took part in a six week Young Enterprise programme delivered by HSBC bank. Each session was enjoyable as they looked closely at the topic of 'My Family'. Children discussed the different types of family and made decisions that will help them in the future.

Year 6 enjoyed a visit from Young Enterprise on Thursday 20th November 2014. They had the opportunity to learn about how a business is run and about supply chains. The session allowed the pupils to become involved in practical activities, including designing and making a product, i.e. an apple juice container. All pupils were thoroughly engaged throughout the session.

Mackey Eye Care Visit to Nursery

On Monday 17th November Michelle and Caroline from Mackey's Eye Care visited the Nursery. They encourage eye tests for all children of Nursery age.

Friendly Soccer Match

On Wednesday 19th November 2014, Ballyoran played Dickson PS in a friendly soccer match at our own pitch. Although Dickson pulled clear in the last few minutes, the result was very much in doubt for most of the game. John Paul Ferreira had a superb match, scoring two goals including a well taken penalty. The game also featured strong performances from Cain Hendron and William Paulino. Well done to the whole squad for representing the school in a positive way

Litter Programme

Pupils from Years 4 to 7 visited the Ashgrove Community Centre on the 19th and 20th November 2014 to take part in a Litter Awareness Programme delivered by Pamela Hanna from Craigavon Borough Council. Pupils were taught about the different types of litter and the consequences of littering for wildlife and for our communities in general.

Nursery/Year 1 Link

Nursery and Year 1 came together on Wednesday 19th November 2014 to establish links. They enjoyed a morning of traditional games and rhymes.

Dental Visit to LSC

On Thursday 20th November 2014, LSC pupils enjoyed one of their regular visits from Dental Nurse Pauline Jackson. Pauline checked our tooth brushing technique and also performed a dye test to see how clean each pupil's teeth were.

Year 4 'Farm to Fork' Tesco Visit

Year 4 visited Tesco for a field trip entitled "Farm To Fork" at the Meadows Centre on Friday 21st November 2014. This was linked to our World Around Us topic about Food. The children got to taste different types of fruit and learned which country they come from e.g. Galia and Cantaloupe melons. They also got to taste Pomegranate and Persimmon.

For their break, the children were treated to toast, juice, chopped bananas and grapes. After break we visited the huge fridge and freezer to see all the foods that are kept there. The children visited the Fish counter to learn about different types of fish. We watched as the lady gutted and filleted a trout. Then we visited the cheese counter and got to sample Mature Cheddar, Five Counties cheese, Gauda cheese and a hot chilli cheese.

Lastly the children visited the bakery and got to sugar their own freshly baked doughnut to take back to school. This was a very exciting way of learning more about food.

Year 4 Enrolment Ceremony

Year 4 children attended Mass on Sunday Morning at 11.30am with their parents, Mrs McCreesh-West and Mrs Mackle. This is the first of a series of Masses the children will attend in preparation for First Penance and First Holy Communion. Fr. O'Dwyer celebrated the Mass and the children participated in the Penitential Rite, Prayers of The Faithful and in the Offertory Procession. The children also received Enrolment Certificates.

Food Allergies

If your child has any food allergies, it is your responsibility to let the school know. This is particularly important for pupils who take school dinners as it is vital that the canteen are informed. New EC Legislation comes into effect in December 2014 requiring School Meals Kitchens to keep a list of pupils who have food allergies. This can only happen if parents keep the school informed about these allergies.

First Aid

Mr Hendron recently successfully completed his First Aid At Work Refresher Training and we congratulate him on this.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

Thank you to all the parents who attended the Parent/Teacher Meeting in October. The overall uptake was 92.5% which is very pleasing indeed.

Punctuality

I have noticed in recent weeks more and more pupils arriving to school late. A reminder that the first bell rings at 8.55am and pupils should be in class ready to start work at 9.00am. Pupils who are late not only disrupt their own education but they also disrupt the learning of other pupils in their class. Thank you to those parents who ensure their children are in school on time every day.

New Staff

We welcome Miss M Carbery to the staff as a Special Needs Classroom Assistant in the Nursery.

Admissions Paperwork

The Admissions paperwork for Nursery and Year 1 applications for September 2015 will shortly be released by the SELB. We will inform you when this happens. The closing date for applications is Wednesday 14th January 2015 at 12 noon.

School Photographs

The proofs for the school photographs have not yet arrived in school. They will be distributed to pupils immediately we receive them.

GAA County Board Draw

The school is delighted that Year 5 pupil Paul Hendron received an award on Wednesday 26th November at the Athletic Grounds in Armagh. In the recently held Grand GAA Draw, Paul was the second best individual seller of tickets in the entire county! He received a sports voucher to the value of £300 and also had the pleasure of meeting and chatting with current Armagh player Aaron Findon and Armagh manager Kieran McGeeney. Well done Paul!

Contingency Planning - Winter

As the winter is fast approaching, the school has been reviewing its contingency plans should the school need to close due to bad weather. Once again, we will be using our Text Alert system, the school website and local media to inform parents should a closure be necessary.

Christmas Card Competition 2014 Winners

Class	Winner	Runner Up
Year 1M	Nadia Knop	Dominykas Matulevicius
Year 1B	Nicola Kanarkowska	Marcelina Gorgol
Year 2	Caoimhe O'Connor	Tiernan Creaney
Year 3C	Mollie Davies	Rodrigo Vidal
Year 3M	Mollie Cullen	Oliwia Rybak
Year 4	Owen Donnelly	Niamh Larkin
Year 5	Aodhan O'Connor	Evie Judge
Year 6	Aidan Kelly	Madison Hall
Year 7	Courtney Sharpe	Nathan Campbell
LSC	Jamie Campbell	Ryan McGeown

Overall Winner of **Ballyoran Competition**: Aidan Kelly

Card chosen for **SELB Competition**: Courtney Sharpe

Card chosen for **NI. Assembly Competition** (Key Stage 2): Olivia Corry

Card chosen for **Lord Mayor's Competition** (Year 7): Nathan Campbell

Menu for December

See last page

Menu for December

	Week commencing: 01.12.14	Week commencing 08.12.14	Week commencing: 15.12.14	Week commencing: 22.12.14
Mon	Fish Fingers or Chicken and Broccoli Bake, Beans, Sweetcorn, Coleslaw, Salad, Mashed Potatoes Rice Pudding and Peaches	Shepherd's Pie or Chicken Tagliatelle, Carrots, Broccoli, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy Ice Cream and Chocolate Sauce	Steak Burgers or Lasagne, Turnip, Broccoli, Gravy, Mashed Potatoes Lemon Sponge and Custard	School Closed – Christmas Holidays
Tues	Chicken Curry and Boiled Rice or Savoury Mince, Carrots, Pasta, Mashed Potatoes Vanilla Sponge and Custard	Oven Baked Sausages or Spaghetti Bolognese, Peas, Sweetcorn, Gravy, Mashed Potatoes Rice Pudding and Oranges	Fish Fingers or Chicken Curry and Boiled Rice, Beans, Sweetcorn, Salad, Mashed Potatoes Jelly and White Sauce	School Closed – Christmas Holidays
Wed	Roast Pork or Vegetable Pasta Bake, Stuffing, Carrots, Broccoli, Gravy, Mashed Potatoes Ice Cream and Chocolate Sauce	Christmas Dinner Roast Turkey, Stuffing, Cocktail Sausages, Carrots, Peas, Brussels Sprouts, Carrots, Potatoes, Gravy Ice Cream and Trifle	Home Made Vegetable Soup or Chicken Soup Hot Dog or Filled Rolls (Chicken, Salad), Potatoes Biscuit and Fruit	School Closed – Christmas Holidays
Thurs	Chicken Nuggets or Tuna Wraps, Chips, Peas, Sauces, Baby Potatoes Jelly and Fruit	Fish Fingers or Chicken Curry and Boiled Rice, Beans, Sweetcorn, Coleslaw, Mashed Potatoes, Salad Jelly and Fruit Salad	Cocktail Sausages or Tuna Wraps, Chips, Sauces Frozen Mousse, Cookie	School Closed – Christmas Holidays
Fri	Home Made Vegetable Soup or Chicken Soup Hot Dog or Filled Rolls (Chicken, Salad), Potatoes Frozen Mousse or Cookie	Homemade Pizza or Tuna Wraps, Sweetcorn, Peas, Tossed Salad, Coleslaw, Chips Apple Crumble and Custard	School closes at 12 noon No Dinners	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