



Safeguarding Team

Principal: Mr Woolsey
Designated Teacher: Mrs McGuire
Deputy Designated Teacher: Mrs Somerville
Nursery Deputy Designated Teacher: Mrs Mulholland
Designated Governor: Mrs Sergeant
Chairperson: Mrs Loney

News Sheet – May 2026

Diary Dates for May 2026

3 rd	Staff taking part in Belfast Marathon Relay in aid of NSPCC
4 th	School closed for Bank Holiday
5 th	Assessment Fortnight begins
9 th	Yr 7 parents receive outcome of Post Primary Applications
14 th	Dreamspace Ambassador Graduation – W5
15 th	Final Yr 7 Swimming Session
19 th	Parents receive outcome of Nursery Stage 2 Applications Yr 5 to Bocombra PS for Summer Concert
21 st	Nursery Shared Education Trip to Tannaghmore Gardens with Bocombra PS Dairy Council Food & Fitness Session – Yrs 5 & 6 End of Homework for this year
22 nd	Yr 6 start swimming block
25 th	School Closed for Bank Holiday
26 th	School Closed for Staff Training
27 th	Jo Jingles in Nursery & Yr 1
27 th	Nursery finishes at 12.15pm to facilitate Nursery Induction Meetings
28 th	Nursery finishes at 12.15pm to facilitate Nursery Induction Meetings
30 th	First Holy Communion – 11am at St Johns

School Closures May 2026

4 th May	Bank Holiday
26 th & 27 th May	Bank Holiday & Staff Training

Staffing

- Miss Bettany leaves us on 1st May after covering Mrs Muldrew's Year 1 Class this year, we thank her for her service and wish her well for the future.
- We welcome Mrs Muldrew back from Maternity Leave on 6th May. Going forward Mrs Muldrew will be working 4 days each week: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday. Mrs McMurray will cover Tuesdays until the end of June.
- Mrs Smyth, one of our Nursery SEN Assistants left us recently to take up a new post and we thank her for her service and wish her well in this.
- We welcome Miss Cairns back to Ballyoran as a SEN Classroom Assistant in the Caterpillar Room and Butterfly Room until the end of term.
- We welcome Mrs Bell back from her Career Break as Nursery 2 Assistant in early May.

Summer Uniform

A reminder that 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

A reminder that the only jewellery that pupils are permitted to wear in school is a pair of stud ear rings and a watch. A reminder that all footwear must be black.

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

Smoking Policy

A reminder that smoking cigarettes, e-cigarettes or vaping is not permitted on the school grounds and I would ask that everyone adheres to this policy.

Young Enterprise

Yr 7 have been again taking part in the Business Beginnings Programme as part of Young Enterprise.

Congratulations to Strings Group

A big well done and congratulations to our Yr 6 & 7 Strings Group who came third at the Portadown Music Festival in the Town Hall on 16th April. We are so proud of all of you. Thanks also to our EA Music Tutor Mrs Hutchinson for all her hard work in preparing the pupils for this event.

Year 7 Multi Cultural Workshop

Year 7 had a great day completing a multicultural music and dance workshop organised by ABC Council on 17th April. They learned about other cultures and tried out different types of dance - Chinese fan dancing, Indian dancing, Irish dancing, Ceili dancing and Scottish circle dancing. They learned about the history of musical instruments (bagpipes, guitar and tin whistle).

Confirmation

Congratulations and well done to our wonderful Year 7 pupils who made their Confirmation on Saturday 18th April at St John the Baptist Church. This is a very important milestone and as a school we are incredibly proud of them all. A big thank you to our RE Co-ordinator, Mr Hendron for preparing the pupils for this.

Maths Is Fun Day

On Friday 24th April everyone had a great day celebrating 'Maths is Fun' by completing maths activities from Times Tables Snakes and Ladders, shape hunts, estimating and measuring, angle hunt, sorting sets and even maths in PE. What a day!

Grandparents Morning

Thank you to all the grandparents who attended our Grandparents' Morning on Tuesday 28th April. This event was planned during Global Intergenerational Week and the children loved completing activities and spending time with you all. It was a very special morning!

Gaelic Blitz

Our Gaelic team played a series of Go Games against other local primary schools on 29th April. Many thanks to St Peters Collegeland for hosting. Well done boys and girls. You did the school proud!

Year 5 Schools Singing Programme

Wednesday 29th April saw Year 5 pupils take part in a special 'Faith' Liturgy, marking the finale of the Schools Singing Programme. Alongside children from across the Portadown and Lurgan area, they proudly showcased the wonderful work they have done over the past 12 weeks. The event was coordinated by our fantastic singing tutors, Sarah-Jane and Orla, and the ceremony was led by Archbishop Eamon Martin, who made it a truly memorable and meaningful occasion for all involved. We are incredibly proud of the children for their enthusiasm, dedication, and commitment throughout the programme. We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to all the parents and families who came along to support and share in this special event.

Ballyoran Sponsored Marathon Relay

The whole school took part in our Ballyoran Marathon Relay on Friday 1st May, this sponsored event was to raise money for NSPCC. All our pupils and staff entered into the spirit of this fun day and there was a healthy amount of competition between our three Houses who the pupils were competing for. We will announce the winning house next Friday in Assembly. Thank you also for the generosity of those parents and families who sponsored pupils for this event, we will announce the total raised next week. In the meantime, if there is any more sponsor money to be returned please do this next week.

We also wish our 3 staff teams well for the Belfast Marathon Relay on Sunday 3rd May.

Attendance

Well done to the classes with the highest attendance for March:

- Foundation/Key Stage 1: Year 4 – 95.8%
- Key Stage 2: Caterpillar Room – 94.9%

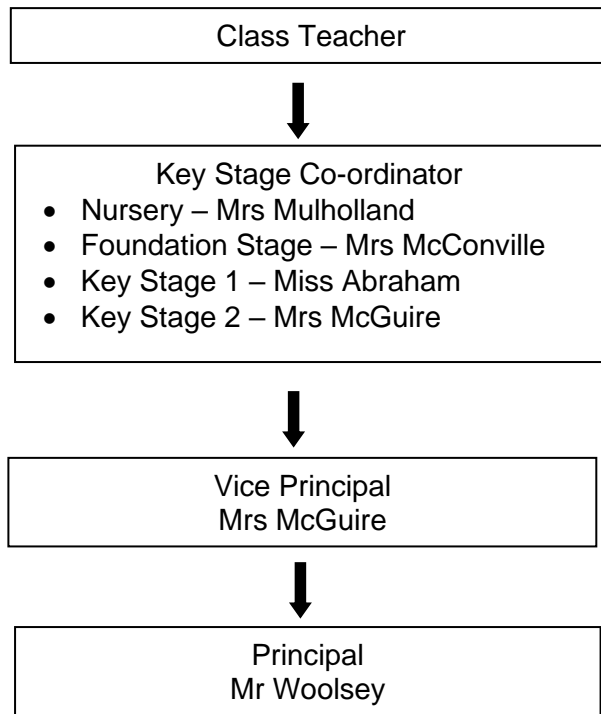
These classes received the Attendance Cup and a Certificate and every pupil got a voucher entitling them to one night off homework or extra playtime.

The whole school attendance percentage for March was 91.1%.

Twenty pupils also got awards for 100% attendance.

General Queries / Concerns

At Ballyoran Primary School we believe in a strong partnership with parents and communication between home and school is a vital part of this. If you need to speak to your child's teacher, you should contact the office in the first instance and a suitable time will be arranged. Unfortunately, it will not be possible for parents to speak to teachers in the morning as they are busy preparing for the day and supervising pupils. If you do need to pass an urgent message to the teacher in the morning, please either send an email, note or speak to the secretary who will pass the message on. Meetings can be arranged with staff at a mutually convenient time through the office and we would encourage you to follow the flow chart below when raising general queries / concerns:



Pupils Leaving School Early

We discourage pupils being removed from school early as this means they will miss out on valuable learning. If a child, however, needs to leave school early for any reason, a reminder that they **must** be collected from Reception by an **adult**. We are unable to allow pupils to walk home on their own and this policy will be strictly enforced.

Picking Pupils Up

It is vital that parents are punctual when collecting their children otherwise they get anxious. If you are running late we would ask that you phone the office and inform us of this. If a child is not collected and we are unable to make contact with parents/carers and have exhausted all listed contacts, we have no option but to phone Social Services.

Emergency Contact Details

It is vitally important that we hold up to date emergency contact details for our pupils. I cannot stress the importance of this enough, please keep us up to date. Again as with late pick up, if we are unable to contact a parent/carer and have exhausted all listed contacts, in the event of an emergency we will have no option but to refer this to Social Services.

Menu

<https://tinyurl.com/yknvuksm>

School Website

Remember to keep up-to-date with everything that is going on in school by logging on to our website www.ballyoranps.com

Richard Woolsey
Principal