



Safeguarding Team

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

News Sheet – December 2024

Diary Dates – December 2024

- 2nd Daily Mile Santa Run – pupils to bring a Santa hat to school
Coats Rule enforced from today
9.30am: KS2 & S LSC pupils are going to Bocombra PS to watch their Christmas Performance of 'Cinderella and Rockerfella'
- 3rd Magic Show by Magician, Paul Gomac for Yr 1, 2 & JLSC
Yrs 3 – 7 & SLSC Trip to Market Place Theatre to watch Rapunzel (Pantomime)
- 4th - 6th Shannaghmore Trip for Yr 7 pupils
- 5th School Choir at Tesco at The Meadows Shopping Centre
- 6th Christmas Dinner for the Pupils
- 9th Yr 7 Taster Day at St John the Baptist College
- 11th Nursery Christmas Performance '**Whoops a Daisy Angel**' at 10am (ticket only)
- 12th Primary Christmas Performance 1 '**Christmas with the Aliens**' at 10am (ticket only)
Christmas Dinner for Yr 7 pupils who were at Shannaghmore on 6th December
- 13th Primary Christmas Performance 2 '**Christmas with the Aliens**' at 10am (ticket only)
School finishes early for all pupils:
• Nursery: 12.30pm
• Yrs 1 – 4: 12.45pm
• Yrs 5 – 7 & LSC: 1pm
- 19th Christmas Jumper Non-Uniform Day
Christmas Disco & Class Christmas Parties
- 19th Last day of term, no uniform, no dinners, school finishes early, staggered dismissals as follows:
○ 11.45am: Yrs 5 – 7
○ 11.50am: Yrs 3 & 4
○ 11.55am: Yrs 1 & 2
○ Nursery: 12noon

Christmas Holidays

School will be closed from Friday 20th December 2024 to Tuesday 7th January 2025. Term 2 begins on Tuesday 7th January 2025.

Sickness

You will be aware that there is a lot of sickness around at the moment particularly coughs and colds. Parents are reminded to go over the importance of good hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene (Catch It, Bin It, Kill It) with their children. There is also a vomiting bug doing the rounds and a reminder that if your child has this they should remain off school for 48 hours after the last episode of sickness or diarrhoea.

Please see the latest PHA Guidance for infection control in school settings which gives recommended times for pupils to be kept off school for various illnesses:

<https://tinyurl.com/44nrzcty>

Anti-Bullying Week

Throughout the week beginning 11th November, we all enjoyed participating in activities based on this year's theme 'Choose Respect'.

Dog's Trust Visit

On Thursday 21st November, Tuesday 26th November (and another session on Monday 2nd December), we had Julie from Dogs Trust in school to deliver some workshops to children from Nursery to Year 7. The workshops focussed on Safe Behaviour Around Dogs. The workshops aim to harness safe, loving relationships between children and the dogs they share their lives and social settings with. Through discussion, role-play and song, the children were encouraged to adopt safe and kind behaviours towards their canine friends.

Christmas Performances

We are looking forward to Christmas and pupils and staff are working hard, preparing for our Christmas shows. The Nursery will perform 'Whoops A Daisy Angel' on 11th December at 10am and Year 1 & 2 classes will perform 'Christmas with the Aliens' on 12th & 13th December at 10am. **Remember entrance is by ticket only.**

Canteen Christmas Dinner

Our kitchen staff will be serving Christmas Dinner on **Friday 6th December 2024**. This will be available to all pupils, even those who do not normally take dinner and is priced at the normal school dinner cost, £2.60 in Primary or £2.50 in Nursery. Payment via ParentPay as usual. On Thursday 12th December, there will be Christmas Dinner for the Year 7 pupils who missed out on Friday 6th December due to the Shannaghmore Trip.

Christmas Cards designed by pupils

These will be sent home this week, please return with the order form and money in a labelled envelope by Friday 29th November if you wish to order these.

Christmas Gifts

This year we are again asking that instead of buying presents for staff that you consider donating to the St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal at:

<https://www.svp.ie/fundraiser/north-region-gift-of-choice-appeal/>

Coats Rule

As the weather has been turning colder in recent weeks, we have been advising pupils to bring a warm coat to school. From **Monday 2nd December 2024**, any pupils who do not bring a coat to school will have to remain inside at break and lunch time.

Children In Need Non-Uniform Day

On Friday 15th November, we supported BBC Children in Need by having a non-uniform day and a bun sale. Children came to school wearing something spotty or yellow. A big thank you to the children, parents/carers and staff for all of the delicious treats, both home-made and bought. The children had a fantastic day. We really appreciate your support, effort and generosity. A total of **£601.00** was raised for this very worthwhile charity. Thank you.

Admissions for Nursery and Year 1 – September 2025

The admissions process for Nursery and Year 1 is online and administered by the EA. The application process for September 2025 will open at 12 noon on **Friday 10th January 2025** and close at 12 noon on **Friday 24th January 2025**. Parents can apply by clicking on <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions>

Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Appeal

We would like to thank the School Community for your kindness and generosity in helping us to be able contribute 132 Shoeboxes towards the Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Appeal 2024. Shoeboxes filled with items such as shampoo, bars of soap, toothbrushes, gloves and small toys will now be making their journey to lots of little boys and girls. Items we take for granted will seem like luxuries to children living in poverty. Thank you again. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Young Enterprise

Young Enterprise NI recently visited Year 3 and delivered the programme 'Our Families'. Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed participating in the planned activities and were able to learn so much about our families. The activities included learning about different families, the jobs different family members can have, the tools needed for each job and the needs and wants we can have in our families.

Staffing

This month, we welcome two new Classroom Assistants to the staff. Miss Pires is working in Nursery 2 and Miss Cairns in Year 5.

We bid farewell and all the best to Miss Renalda Cinikaite as she leaves Ballyoran Primary School after five years working as a Classroom Assistant in many classes throughout her time in the school.

Picking Pupils Up

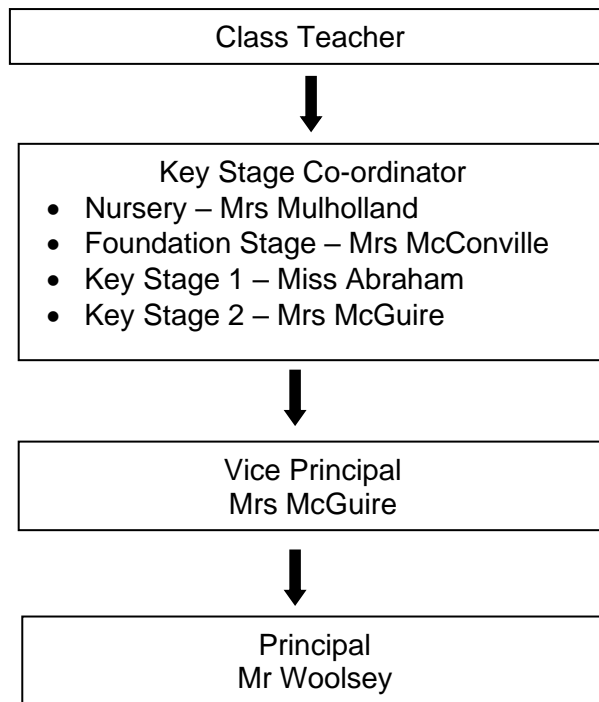
It is vital that parents are punctual when collecting their children otherwise they get anxious. If you are running late we would ask that you phone the office and inform us of this. If a child is not collected and we are unable to contact parents/carers we have no option but to phone Social Services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

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 in the event of an emergency we will have no option but to refer this to Social Services.

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:



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, school app and the school website to inform parents should a closure be necessary.

Menu

As you know a rolling monthly menu is in place for term 1 and is available at <https://tinyurl.com/3cuehy9k>

Thank you for your continued support and co-operation.

Mrs R McGuire
Vice Principal

Do I need to keep my child off school?

Chicken Pox Until all spots have crusted over	Conjunctivitis No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Diarrhoea & Vomiting 48 hours from last episode	Glandular Fever No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Hand, foot & mouth No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Impetigo Until lesions are crusted & healed or 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
Measles or German Measles 4 days from onset of rash	Mumps 5 days from onset of swelling	Scabies Until after first treatment	Scarlet Fever 24 hours after commencing antibiotics	Slapped Cheek No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Whooping Cough 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
Flu Until recovered	Head Lice No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Threadworms No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Tonsillitis No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed		