



News Sheet – May 2025

Safeguarding Team

Principal: Mr Woolsey

Designated Teacher: Mrs McGuire

Deputy Designated Teacher: Miss McKernan

Nursery Deputy Designated

Teacher: Mrs Mulholland

Designated Governor: Mrs Loney

Chairperson: Mr Fleming

Diary Dates for May 2025

- 1st Year 6 at Multi Cultural Day at St John The Baptist's College
- 2nd Year 7 Swimming block begins at South Lakes Leisure Centre
- 5th School Closed – Bank Holiday
- 6th Week 1 of Assessment Fortnight
- 10th Year 7 receive outcome of post primary application process
- 12th Week 2 of Assessment Fortnight
Nursery Induction Meetings for next year – Nursery closes at 12.15pm
- 13th Nursery Induction Meetings for next year – Nursery closes at 12.15pm
- 20th Year 1 Induction Meeting for September at 2.15pm
- 21st Year 6 Orienteering at Palace Stables, Armagh
Year 7 Cycling Proficiency Scheme
- 22nd Colour Run at People's Park – school finishes early for all pupils
- 23rd Workshop from NI Chest, Heart & Stroke Association
- 26th School Closed - Bank Holiday
- 27th School Closed - Staff Development
- 28th Year 7 Cycling Proficiency Scheme
- 29th Last night of Homework
- 30th PSNI Stranger Danger Talks
- 31st Year 4 First Holy Communion at St John's Church: 11am

School Closures – May 2025

School will be closed for 3 days as follows in May:

- Monday 5th May: Bank Holiday
- Monday 26th & Tuesday 27th May: Bank Holiday & Staff Development Day

The Nursery will close at 12.15pm on Monday 12th and Tuesday 13th May to facilitate the Induction Meetings for next year.

Advance Notice

School will close at 2pm for all pupils on Tuesday 3rd June 2025.

Staffing

Mrs Somerville is now off on Maternity Leave and we congratulate her on the birth of her new baby daughter. Mrs Williamson will be covering Year 3 during the Maternity Leave and we welcome her to Ballyoran Primary School.

Mrs Muldrew will be going off on Maternity Leave this week and we wish her well for that. Miss Harkness will be covering Mrs Muldrew's Year 2 class until the end of June and we welcome her to Ballyoran Primary School.

Miss McKernan has taken on the role of Deputy Designated Teacher during Mrs Somerville's absence.

We welcome Mrs Corkin to Ballyoran, she has taken on the role of SEN Classroom Classroom Assistant in Years 5 & 6.

Review of School Vision

We are currently reviewing our school vision and a consultation on this will be sent out to parents very shortly on the school app. We would ask all parents to please complete this.

Sun Safe

With the better weather this week, I would remind all of our parents to ensure that children are safe in the sun during the school day. This includes ensuring they have sun cream on in the morning and sending them with water and a sun cap.

Easter Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who supported our Guess The Name of the Bunny Easter Competition, which raised £177. The winner was Aedan Creaney from Year 5 and the name of the bunny was Flopsy.

Fundraising for New Sensory Room

As you know we have been fundraising for the past year for a new Sensory Room in school, the most recent event was a Welly Boot Walk on Monday 14th April, which pupils in The Caterpillar Room and Butterfly Room took part in. The amount raised was approximately £250 and we thank everyone who supported this. Thanks to an extremely generous donation from one of our parents who runs their own business, Cherry Pipes we have now reached our target of £12,000. We are very grateful to the Cherry family for their amazing support. This is fabulous news and will allow us to complete the design of our new Sensory Room and hopefully have it in place for the start of the new school year in September. This has been a very exciting and ambitious project and I am very grateful to our entire school community who have worked together to raise the money for this.

Assessment Fortnight

We are now moving into our Annual Assessment Fortnight where pupils complete tests to monitor their progress in school. This is a vital part of what we do in school and informs future learning and teaching, so it is important that all of our pupils complete the tests. With this in mind please ensure that your child is in school every day over the next couple of weeks, unless they are sick.

Shared Education

Shared Education sessions are now in full swing and all classes will be completing these, joining together with our friends from Bocombra Primary School, before the end of June.

Year 7 Love for Life Conference

On Tuesday 1st April, Year 7 pupils met with our Year 7 friends from Bocombra PS to take part in a 'Love for Life' Conference. They learned about being special, making decisions, friendships, peer pressure, growing up and being assertive. The learning was very interactive and fun, giving the pupils a chance to think about moving on as they start a new adventure in their next school.

Year 5 Gaelic Blitz

Year 5 pupils took part in a Gaelic Blitz at Ballyhegan primary School on Wednesday 9th April. The children had so much fun playing against Year 5 pupils from other local schools and all received medals for their participation.

Young Enterprise

Years 5 & 6 recently took part in half day workshops organised by Young Enterprise.

Choir Reward

The Choir had a Pizza and Ice Cream Party as a reward for how well that they did at the recent Confirmation. They are now practising hard for First Holy Communion where they will again be leading the music.

First Holy Communion

We wish our Year 4 pupils well for their First Holy Communion on Saturday 31st May at 11am in St John's Church.

Sponsored Colour Run

All of our pupils will be taking part in a Colour Run at the People's Park, hosted by Healthy Kidz, on Thursday 22nd May 2025. The fundraising from this will go towards school funds to allow us to buy new ICT devices for pupils to use which will greatly enhance their learning. Information and sponsor forms will be going home next week. It is two year's since we did our last Colour Run and all of the pupils greatly enjoyed this, so we look forward to another great day's fun.

First Aid

Congratulations to Mr Hendron and Mrs Bell who have recently successfully completed their First Aid at Work Course.

Nursery Morning Drop Off

A reminder that all Nursery pupils must be accompanied by an adult to the Nursery Outdoor Play Area Classroom Door, every morning.

Year 7 Post Primary Letters to Parents

Year 7 Parents will find out which School their child has received a post primary place in, on **Saturday 10th May 2025**.

Attendance

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

- Foundation/Key Stage 1: Year 4 – 95.2%
- Key Stage 2: Year 6 - 95.8%

The whole school attendance for March was 93.3%. This was an increase of 0.3% on the previous month, so well done to everyone for this.

Summer Uniform

A reminder that pupils may come to school wearing the summer uniform as follows:

- Boys may wear grey shorts with grey socks
- Girls may wear a blue checked dress and white socks
- Pupils must still wear black shoes

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

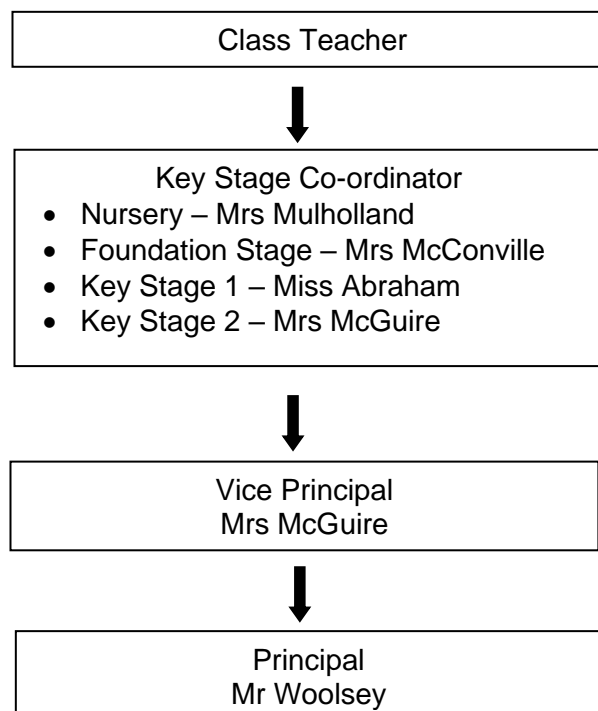
We continue to be very proud of how smart our pupils look in their uniform.

Nuts

As you are aware we endeavour to ensure that no nuts or nut based products are brought into school to protect those pupils who have severe nut allergies. We ask you to please co-operate with our 'No Nuts' policy.

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:



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

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.

Dinner Menu

<https://tinyurl.com/2vdeub3u>

Term Dates & Holidays: 2025/2026

Please see final page

Thank you for your continued co-operation and support.

Richard Woolsey
Principal



Term Dates & Holidays 2025/2026 Year

All dates are inclusive

Term 1

Term Dates

Thursday 28th August – Friday 19th December 2025

Holidays

- Monday 29th September 2025 – Staff Training
- Monday 27th – Friday 31st October 2025 – Half Term

Christmas Holiday: Monday 22nd December 2025 – Monday 5th January 2026

Term 2

Term Dates

Tuesday 6th January – Wednesday 1st April 2026

Holidays

- Monday 9th – Friday 13th February 2026 – Half Term
- Monday 16th & Tuesday 17th March 2026 - St. Patrick's Day Holiday

Easter Holiday: Thursday 2nd – Monday 13th April 2026

Term 3

Term Dates

Tuesday 14th April – Tuesday 30th June 2026

Holidays

- Monday 4th May 2026 – May Bank Holiday
- Monday 25th & Tuesday 26th May 2026 – May Bank Holiday & Staff Training

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 EA when a child is removed from school for a holiday. This information is recorded and may be used by the EA in appropriate situations, i.e. Special Educational Needs Assessments or Child Protection issues.