



Safeguarding Team

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

News Sheet – June 2025

Diary Dates for June 2025

- 2nd Nursery End of Yr Trip to Peter Pan's
 Yr 4 visit to Portadown Library
 Yr 3 Shared Education visit to Lurgan Park
 Data Collection Forms for next year out to Yrs 1 - 6
- 3rd Nursery Shared Education Session at Ballyoran
 Yr 5 End of Yr Trip to Craigavon Golf & Ski Centre & Airtastic
 Yr 6 Reach 'My Story in Colour' Workshop
 School finishes at 2pm for all pupils
- 4th Yr 4 End of Yr Trip to Craigavon Golf & Ski Centre & Airtastic
 Yr 6 Shared Education visit to Gosford Forest Park
 Yr 7 Shared Education visit to Peatland's Park
- 5th Yr 2 End of Yr Trip to Treehouse Soft Play, Lurgan
 Yr 7 Bee Safe event at Brownstown Community Centre
- 6th Yr 7 End of Yr Trip to Craigavon Golf & Ski Centre & Airtastic
 Nursery Football Coaching Session
- 9th Yr 4 Shared Education visit to Bocombra PS
 School Nurse visiting Yr 1
 Last day of After School Clubs for this year
- 10th Sports Day – school finishes at 1pm for all pupils, see separate article
 - 12.45pm: Nursery
 - 12.50pm: Years 1 & 2 & Caterpillar Room
 - 12.55pm: Yrs 3 & 4
 - 1pm: Yrs 5 – 7 & Butterfly Room
- 11th Yr 6 & Butterfly Room End of Yr Trip to Craigavon Golf & Ski Centre & Airtastic
 Caterpillar Room End of Yr Trip to Treehouse Soft Play, Lurgan
 Yr 4 Shared Education visit to Peatland's Park
 Yr 7 Cycling Proficiency
- 12th Yr 3 End of Yr Trip to Craigavon Golf & Ski Centre & Airtastic
 Yr 4 Shared Education visit to Gosford Forest Park
 Dairy Council Food & Fitness Workshop – Yrs 5 & 6
 Yr 7 Cycling Proficiency
- 13 School Nurse visiting Yr 1
 Yr 2 Shared Education visit to Gosford Forest Park
 Yr 4 Shared Education visit to People's Park
 Deadline for Data Collection Forms to be returned to school
- 16th Nursery finishes at 12.15pm to facilitate Induction Meetings at 1pm
- 17th Talent Show – pupils only
- 18th Yr 1 End of Year Trip to Treehouse Soft Play, Lurgan
 Nursery Graduation: 10am

- 20th Yr 6 visit to Portadown Library
Prize Day
Nursery Transition Forms & Annual Reports issued to parents
Last day for Year 7 pupils
School finishes early for all pupils:
- 12.45pm: Nursery
 - 12.50pm: Years 1 & 2 & Caterpillar Room
 - 12.55pm: Yrs 3 & 4
 - 1pm: Yrs 5 – 7 & Butterfly Room
- 23rd 11am: Class Changes
- 24th Yr 6 visit to Portadown Library
- 26th End of Year Class Parties
- 27th Last day of term – no uniform, no dinners, school finishes early for all pupils:
- 11.45am: Yrs 6 – 7 & Butterfly Room
 - 11.50am: Yrs 3 & 4
 - 11.55pm: Yrs 1 & 2 & Caterpillar Room
 - 12noon: Nursery

School Closures: June 2025

School will finish early on the following dates:

Whole School:

- Tuesday 3rd June to facilitate Staff Training: 2pm
- Tuesday 10th June after Sports Day at 1pm
- Friday 20th June after Prize Day at 1pm

Nursery Only:

Monday 16th June to facilitate Induction Meetings at 12.15pm

Staffing

Mrs Muldrew is now off on Maternity Leave and Miss Harkness is covering her Year 2 class until the end of term.

Homework

Homework has now finished for this year and we would encourage pupils to take the opportunity of having no homework to get outside in the month of June and enjoy the longer lighter evenings and hopefully some better weather soon.

Data Collection Forms

On **Monday 2nd June**, Yr 1 – 6 parents will receive a blank Data Collection Form to be completed for each of your children at the school, in preparation for next year. It is essential that we have up to date information and consent for all pupils. Please ensure that these forms are **fully completed and signed** before returning them as in previous years we have had to send many back home again as parts were left out. Completed forms must be returned to school in the envelopes **by Friday 13th June 2025**

Sports Day

This will take place on **Tuesday 10th June at 9.30am.**

The events will take place as follows:

- Nursery: Nursery Outdoor Play Area
- Years 1 & 2 & Caterpillar Room: Senior Playground
- Years 3 & 4: All Weather Pitch
- Years 5 – 7 & Butterfly Room: All Weather Pitch

We ask that children come to school in their PE kit that day, they should also bring a cap, water bottle and sunscreen already applied.

This year we will be having a Coffee Trailer in the school grounds, where parents will be able to buy refreshments during Sports Day.

School will finish early for all pupils when they have had their lunch, with the following dismissal times:

- 12.45pm: Nursery
- 12.50pm: Years 1 & 2 & Caterpillar Room
- 12.55pm: Yrs 3 & 4
- 1pm: Yrs 5 – 7 & Butterfly Room

Please note, in the event that it is wet, Sports Day will be rescheduled for the next available dry day. **Pupils will still finish school early on Tuesday 10th June even if Sports Day is cancelled because of the weather.**

Attendance

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

- Foundation/Key Stage 1: Year 3 - 93.7%
- Key Stage 2: Year 6 - 92.1%

The whole school attendance for April was 91.3%

New Board of Governors

Ballyoran Primary School has a newly reconstituted Board of Governors which met for the first time in early May.

Our new Chairperson is Mrs Loney, who has been the Vice Chairperson for the last 11 years. She replaces Mr Fleming who has retired from the Board of Governors after 18 years, 11 of those years as Chairperson. As a school we say thank you to Mr Fleming for all his hard work and support over the last nearly two decades and wish him well for the future.

Our new Parent Representatives are Mr McConville and Mrs Sergeant.

New School Vision

As you are aware, we have been reviewing our school vision in recent months. As part of this process we consulted parents and 100% of those who responded were happy with the proposed vision. The new vision has now been adopted by the Board of Governors and is:

To create a welcoming, inclusive school community, where all pupils can flourish and reach their full potential academically, socially and emotionally within a happy, safe and nurturing environment, preparing them to be responsible citizens of the future.

Shared Education

Pupils continue to enjoy their Shared Education sessions with their friends from Bocombra Primary School. Nursery pupils enjoyed a bus journey to Bocombra Primary School where they visited their Nursery Unit and made lots of new friends. Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 5, Year 6 and Year 7 pupils have been visiting shared spaces with their friends from Bocombra Primary School including The People's Park, Peatlands Park, Lurgan Park, Bachelors Walk and Gosford Forest Park. Year 4 are looking forward to their Shared Education sessions which will take place in June.

Year 6 Multi Cultural Day at St John The Baptist's College

On Thursday 1st May, our Year 6 pupils thoroughly enjoyed a trip to St. John the Baptist's College for Multicultural Celebration Day. The pupils were fully engaged and took part in a vibrant mix of workshops, including Bollywood and Mexican dance, African drumming and Chinese fan dancing, Henna art, Irish dancing and Irish traditional music sessions as well as delicious global food tasting. It was a fantastic day and was a great celebration of the many cultures that make up our community.

Nursery News

Dentist Visit

Nursery welcomed two dentists from William Street Dental who came to speak to the children about keeping their teeth clean and their gums healthy. All the boys and girls were lucky to take home a bag with a toothbrushing chart, a new toothbrush, toothpaste and stickers.

Jo Jingles

The children loved their Jo Jingles session. They were introduced to a new Jo Jingles Jungle Theme, with songs and rhymes about the different animals living in the jungle. The children were also given the opportunity to learn about the different sounds that can be played on the tambourine.

Football Coaching

Coach Joe came to teach the Nursery children soccer skills during their Friday session. They practised how to run with the ball and stop it, without using their hands.

Gaelic Blitz

On Tuesday 20th May, our school gaelic team took part in a blitz involving 4 other local primary schools. The blitz took place at the Tir na nOg club. The boys and girls had a great day, playing loads of games in glorious sunshine. Well done for representing your school so well. We would like to sincerely thank the Tir na nOg club for allowing us to use their facilities and would also like to thank Healthy Kidz who helped with setting up and running the tournament.

Year 6 Orienteering

On Wednesday 21st May, our Year 6 pupils enjoyed a trip to Palace Stables, Armagh, where they learned about the navigational sport of orienteering. The pupils learned map reading skills and navigated their way around the grounds of Palace Stables using their newly acquired knowledge. They demonstrated excellent teamworking and leadership skills, as well as the ability to use their initiative. All pupils were extremely well-behaved and showed impeccable manners throughout the day. They were great ambassadors for our school.

Colour Run

A big well done to all pupils from Nursery to Year 7 for completing our Colour Run on Thursday 22nd May. The Colour Run took place at The People's Park and was led by Healthy Kidz. The children and staff had great fun from start to finish. The Colour Run started with workout stations and some dances. After the Colour Run, we all came together to enjoy a whole school picnic in the sunshine. We would like to thank you all for your support. There was a lovely atmosphere throughout the event, the children had so much fun and it was great to see so many parents/carers at the event. As a result of your kindness and generosity, an amazing £4152.00 was raised! This will go towards buying new laptops for our school. A big thank you to Miss McKernan for organising the event. Overall, it was a fantastic day filled with fun, fitness and LOTS of colour! Thank you again.

NI Chest, Heart and Stroke - Heartley's Heroes

Each year, we support the charity NI Chest, Heart and Stroke by having a 'Wear Red' non-uniform day in order to raise funds. On Friday 23rd May, we had a visit from some NI Chest, Heart and Stroke volunteers. They delivered their Heartley's Heroes programme to our Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils. The Heartley's Heroes programme aims to help young people stay healthy and active. Heartley's Heroes is an interactive primary school talk which is designed to educate pupils about the importance of maintaining a healthy heart through simple lifestyle choices. The programme covered topics such as healthy eating, staying active and the significance of a good night's sleep. The pupils were fully engaged and shared excellent answers with the volunteers.

Yr 6 Visit to Library

The pupils in Year 6 are currently taking part in the Libraries NI Class Visits programme. The programme aims to introduce pupils to library services and encourage them to become members. It also supports reading for pleasure, language development and lifelong learning skills. During the three visits, the pupils will take part in a range of activities, including a tour of the library and an introduction to library resources, book exchange and storytelling sessions, literacy-focused activities as well as learning about the different uses of computers in the library.

Caterpillar Room Trip to Tannaghmore Gardens

In the Caterpillar Room, we have been learning all about life on the farm. On Wednesday 28th May, we went on a trip to the animal farm at Tannaghmore Gardens. The children loved seeing the farm animals they had been learning about and enjoyed sharing interesting facts they knew. After visiting the animals, we had a lovely picnic for snack time and finished our trip with lots of fun in the park. We are so proud of the children for their excellent behaviour throughout the day. Everyone had a wonderful time!

PSNI Stranger Danger Talks

The PSNI were in school today (Friday) doing Stranger Danger and Online Safety Talks with our pupils.

Traffic on Ballyoran Park

Thank you to the majority of parents who use our amazing new car park and drop off/pick up area on a daily basis. In recent weeks there has unfortunately been an increase in the number of parents using Ballyoran Park for drop off and pick up. This has caused congestion for other parents and local residents. We would also ask that parents respect the disabled parking spot on Ballyoran Park and do not park on this. We have worked very hard for many years to get EA to fund the new car park, so we would ask that all parents use it and the one way system to ensure the free flow of traffic and the health and safety of our school community. Many thanks for your support and co-operation on this matter.

Induction Meetings

Thank you to the majority of parents who attended our Nursery and Year 1 Induction Meetings. A reminder that if you were unable to make it that you need to collect the Induction Pack from school.

Year 7 Post Primary Choices

These were communicated to parents on Saturday 10th May and we are delighted that nearly all of our Yr 7 pupils were successful in getting a place at their first preference post primary school.

Assessment Fortnight

Thank you for ensuring that your child/children were in school every day during Assessment Fortnight.

Annual Reports for Year 1 to 7 and Nursery Transition Forms

Annual Reports and Nursery Transition Forms will be sent home with pupils on **Friday 20th June**. You will receive one copy which does not need signed and returned. If you have any queries about anything written in the Report, please do not hesitate to contact the Class Teacher.

After School Clubs

It has been great to have a full programme of After School Clubs up and running again this year, for the first time since the pandemic, and we are delighted that so many of our pupils have availed of these. The last After School Club of the year will be on **Monday 9th June 2025**.

Facebook

Keep up to date with all our major school events and activities by following us on Facebook.

Sun Safety in School

In anticipation of better weather, it is incredibly important that children bring a cap and sun glasses to school if it is sunny. We also ask that all children wear sun cream to school which is applied before they arrive in the morning as this offers protection during the school day. Finally, pupils should have water with them in non-spill bottles.

Stay Safe and Stay Out Campaign

As we approach the summer we have again been asked by the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland to bring to your attention the dangers of children going near quarries.

The potential hazards that people expose themselves to are:

- Swimming in quarry lakes that can have very cold water even on a hot day in the middle of summer. Strong swimmers have drowned in quarries due to the unexpected impact that the extreme cold has had on their bodies.
- The water in quarry lakes can be very deep and shelving, exit from the water may only be possible in a few places, there may be pumps working or currents that can drag you under the water.
- There can be concealed underwater obstructions and other hazards that can seriously injure swimmers or individuals jumping into the water – tombstoning into quarry lakes is not safe.
- Tunnelling into piles of sand or playing on stockpiles exposes you to the risk of sudden collapses or movements that can easily bury you.
- Walking near the edge of quarry faces exposes you to the risk of serious falls as the edges can be unstable and collapse unexpectedly or sheer faces be obstructed by vegetation.
- Climbing or walking near rock faces can expose you to the risk of rock falls.
- Surfaces in quarries that may look solid, such as the surface of a silt pond, can suddenly break and act like quick sand sucking you down.
- Trail and quad biking in a quarry exposes riders to risks from unstable terrain, unexpected obstructions and being hit by moving plant.
- Young people on bikes or on foot may not be visible to operators of large machinery, they may not appreciate that the driver cannot see them.
- Quarries can often be located in remote sites where mobile reception is poor and there is no one on hand to help in the event of an accident.

Further information is available at:

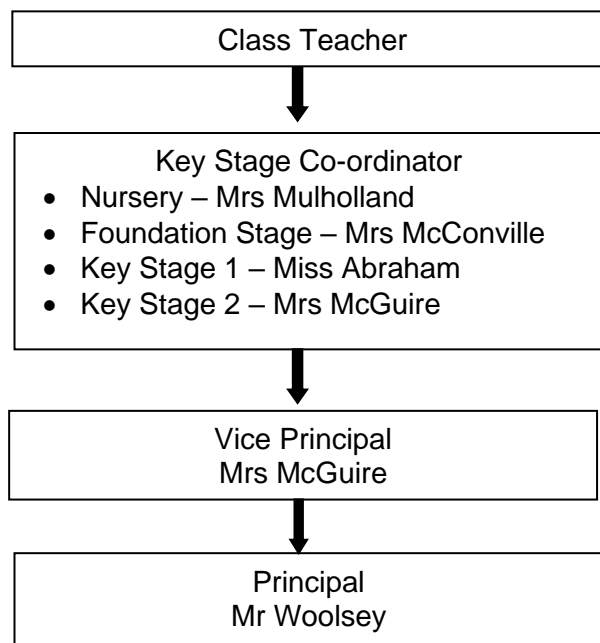
<https://mineralproducts.org/Campaigns/Stay-Safe.aspx>

<https://tinyurl.com/36f3929z>

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.

School Uniform

Thank you to the majority of parents who ensure that pupils are wearing school uniform every day. We are very proud of how smart our pupils look in their uniforms. However, as we approach the end of term a significant number of pupils are not wearing proper uniform. A reminder that footwear should be black. Please ensure that standards do not slip.

School Dinner Menu

<https://tinyurl.com/yx4krfjb>

School is very busy at the moment and I continue to be very grateful for your support and co-operation.

Richard Woolsey
Principal