



News Sheet End of Term – June 2025

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

End of Term Arrangements

Thursday 26th June will be our Class End of Year Party Day and pupils do not need to wear uniform.

School finishes early on Friday 27th June 2025 for the summer holidays. Please note that this will be a Non-Uniform, an Unhealthy Break Day and **NO DINNERS** will be served. Pupils will have staggered dismissals as follows:

- 11.50am: Years 5 – 6 & Butterfly Room
- 11.55am: Years 3 & 4
- 12noon: Years 1 – 2, Nursery & Caterpillar Room

Staffing

We have a number of staff leaving us this year:

Teachers

Mrs Barkley will be retiring after 33 years teaching at Ballyoran covering Yr 5, Yr 6, Yr 1, the Learning Support Class and more recently small group support classes. We thank Mrs Barkley for all her hard work over the last 3 decades and wish her a long, relaxing and happy retirement. Mrs Martin is leaving us after 11 years, teaching in both Yr 6 and Yr 7, she will be taking up a new post, we thank her for her service to the school over the last decade and we wish her well in her new school.

We have two temporary teachers leaving us as well, Miss Godfrey has been in Year 5 since the start of this year and Miss Harkness has been covering Year 2 since Mrs Muldrew went off on Maternity Leave. We thank them for their service and wish them well for the future.

Cleaners

Mrs Mercer is retiring after 4 years at Ballyoran. We thank her for all her hard work and wish her a long, relaxing and happy retirement. Mrs Murphy is leaving her cleaning post and we thank her for all her hard work and wish her well for the future, although she will still be with us in school as our cook.

Classroom Assistants

We have six Classroom Assistants leaving us:

Miss Duraes, one of our former pupils, who has been with us for 3 years, doing very valuable work with intervention groups across the school as well as covering the office. We thank her for all that she has given to the school and wish her well for the future.

Ms Stuart, Ms McGeown, Miss McAlinden, Miss Hendron and Miss Smyth are also leaving us. All of these Special Educational Needs Assistants have been with us this year and we thank them for all their hard work and wish them well for the future.

2025/2026 School Year

School reopens on **Friday 29th August 2025** for the start of the 2025/2026 school year.

Please note that there will be no school dinners on the first day and all parents must send in a packed lunch.

Classes for 2025/2026 School Year

Pupils will get to spend 30 minutes in their new class for next year on Monday 23rd June. The following are the classes for next year:

Class	Teacher
N1	Mrs Mulholland
N2	Mrs Biggerstaff: Monday - Wednesday Mrs Wells: Thursday & Friday
Yr 1	Mrs Mackle
Yr 1	Miss Bettany (covering Mrs Muldrew's Maternity Leave)
Yr 2	Mrs McConville
Yr 3	Mrs Williamson (covering Mrs Somerville's Maternity Leave)
Yr 4	Miss Abraham
Yr 5	Miss Martin
Yr 6	Miss McKernan
Yr 7	Mrs Brown - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday Mrs Chapman – Wednesday
Caterpillar Room	Miss Irwin (covering Mrs McCullough's Maternity Leave)
Butterfly Room	Mr Hendron

Our Vice Principal, Mrs McGuire will not have a class from September. As well as her many other responsibilities, she will be replacing Mrs Barkley in the support role.

Feedback from School Development Plan Parent Questionnaires

You will recall we asked parents to complete an online questionnaire back in March, as part of our Audit for our new Three Year School Development Plan. A high percentage of parents completed this and we are very grateful for your feedback. This feedback will be shared with all parents in due course.

PE Uniform

Over the years, a small number of parents have asked us to consider making branded school sports wear available for pupils to wear for PE with the school logo on them. We have taken a lot of time to consider this and have decided not to do this. The main reason for this is that we want to keep our school uniform as affordable as possible for families. This is in line with the Department of Education's new Uniform Policy for Schools, part of which is making school uniforms as cost effective as possible for parents. We believe that our current PE uniform of a polo shirt and shorts can be bought at a reasonable price in

most stores eg Asda or Tesco and we want to make sure that our uniform continues to be affordable for all of our families.

Free School Meals

The application process for Free School Meal and Uniform Allowances for next year is now open. Eligible parents must apply online at:

<https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants>

Please note that even if you are in receipt of Free School Meals this year, you must reapply for next year. Parents are asked to ensure that they get the application submitted by **25th July** to ensure that you get the support in time for the start of the new year.

Failure to make an application now will mean that you will have to pay for school dinners from 29th August.

School Meals Price

The price of school meals is currently under review by EA but as yet we have not been notified of any price increase. Currently the prices remain at:

- Nursery £2.50 per day
- Yr 1 – Yr 7 £2.60 per day

If this changes before the start of the new school year, we will let you know.

Summer Reading Challenge

Over the summer months Libraries NI are doing their usual Summer Reading Challenge and we would encourage parents to get their children involved in this.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club continues until the end of term. This Club will start on the first day of term – **Friday 29th August 2025**. The cost remains £1 per day. A reminder that if you wish your child to attend Breakfast Club this must be booked on a weekly basis by 1pm on the Friday of the week before by emailing the secretary at wburrows556@c2ken.net.

After School Clubs

These will continue next year and more information will be sent out at the start of the new term.

Attendance

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

- Foundation/Key Stage 1: Year 3 - 91.6%
- Key Stage 2: Year 5 - 94.5%

Overall attendance this year has continued to improve to pre pandemic levels and we thank all of our parents for the part that you play in ensuring that your children are in school every day.

PSNI Talks

On Friday 31st May, staff and pupils warmly welcomed Constable Emma and Constable Alan from the PSNI Neighbourhood Team to our Key Stage Assemblies. The focus of their visit was on staying safe during the summer months.

Pupils in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 were reminded of important safety strategies, including what to do if approached by a stranger or if they become separated from a family member while shopping or in a crowd. We encourage parents to regularly reinforce these messages at home.

During the Key Stage 2 Assembly, pupils explored topics such as online safety, the consequences of anti-social behaviour and general summer safety tips. Constable Emma also emphasised the importance of keeping in regular contact with parents or guardians when out with friends.

Pupils were informed that e-scooters, e-bikes and scramblers are illegal for children. These vehicles require a driving licence and insurance to be used legally.

The Caterpillar Room especially enjoyed a visit from Constable Emma and Constable Alan. They had the opportunity to chat, try on PSNI gear and learn more about the role of the police in keeping our community safe.

First Holy Communion

Congratulations to our Year 4 pupils who made their First Holy Communion at St. John the Baptist Church on Saturday 31st May. We are incredibly proud of how well each and every child conducted themselves during the service. They were a credit to their families and wonderful ambassadors for our school community. Well done also to the Choir conducted by one of our parents Aine McKee, on how well they led the music. A massive thank you to Mrs McConville for all her hard work in preparing the pupils for this very important event.

Sports Day

Our Sports Day took place on Tuesday 10th June. On a gloriously sunny day, our Nursery, Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils took part to the best of their ability in a wonderfully friendly and positive atmosphere. We are so grateful to the large number of parents who came along to support their children. The atmosphere was added to by the music and we are very grateful to Healthy Kidz who kindly allowed us to borrow their speaker. Thanks also to Mauread McIlkenny and 'The Hatch' who provided some much needed refreshments on the day.

End of Year Trips

Classes very much enjoyed their end of year trips this year to a range of fun venues including Peter Pan's, Airtastc, Craigavon Golf and Ski Centre and the Treehouse Soft Play Area.

Year 7 Bee Safe Event

All Year 7 pupils had the opportunity to attend this event organised by PCSP partnership on Thursday 5th June in Brownstown Community Centre. We attended workshops by Translink, The Fire Service and Community Policing where we learned how to stay safe on

the roads, online, in our homes and kitchens and on buses. It was a very enjoyable and informative event.

Year 6 My Story In Colour Workshop

Our Year 6 pupils recently took part in the 'Reach Mentoring – My Story in Colour' workshop, where they explored their personal stories through creativity and self-expression. Using colour as a powerful symbol of emotion and identity, the pupils engaged in a range of activities including storytelling, reflective writing and collaborative art. They were encouraged to share meaningful moments from their lives as well as to express their hopes and challenges. The workshop not only encouraged artistic exploration but also helped build confidence and empathy.

Schools of Sanctuary Award

We are thrilled to announce that Ballyoran Primary School has been awarded the highly prestigious Schools of Sanctuary Award. This honour is a powerful recognition of our school's unwavering dedication to fostering a learning environment where every pupil feels welcomed, safe, included, and supported. The award is the result of a tremendous amount of hard work throughout the year, culminating in the submission of a comprehensive portfolio of evidence and a successful visit from a team of assessors on Tuesday 3rd June. Mr Woolsey shared his pride in the achievement, saying: "This award reflects the heart of our school community. We are committed to ensuring that every child, regardless of their background or circumstances, feels a true sense of belonging here at Ballyoran. I'm incredibly proud of our pupils, staff, and families who have all played a part in making this vision a reality." We are incredibly proud of this achievement and grateful to everyone who contributed to making our school a true sanctuary for all, especially Mrs Mackle for leading us to this very successful outcome.

Year 7 Transition Workshop

Year 7 recently had a practical and reflective transition workshop to help them begin to think about their move to Year 8. The session was delivered by the EA Education Welfare Service and was designed to support students emotionally and practically as they prepare for the next stage of their school journey. The children discussed helpful strategies to make the transition smoother, including:

*Staying organised with a planner or timetable

*Asking for help when needed

*Keeping a positive mindset

*Building good habits early on

*Students left the session feeling more confident and prepared, with a clearer understanding of what to expect and how to manage the changes ahead.

Lord Mayor Visit

The Lord Mayor of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, Alderman Stephen Moutray, paid a special visit to Ballyoran Primary School on 12th June to celebrate the school's recent achievement of a Schools of Sanctuary Award. Ballyoran is the first school that the new Lord Mayor has visited during his year in office which is a great honour.

The Lord Mayor was warmly welcomed by the Principal, Mr Richard Woolsey, staff, and enthusiastic pupils during a special assembly. The visit marked a proud moment for the school community, which has been recognised for its unwavering dedication to fostering a learning environment where every pupil feels welcomed, safe, included, and supported. During his visit, the Lord Mayor also met with members of the school's Pupil Council who asked him some excellent questions on his new role.

He stated "I am delighted to be with you this morning at Ballyoran Primary School, it gives me an opportunity to congratulate everyone on receiving this very prestigious award. I am delighted that your pupils and their families see this school as a place of protection and safety. It is clear that you care for all of these young people and to have it recognised must give you tremendous satisfaction."

Year 4 & 6 Library Visits

The pupils in Year 4 & 6 have been continuing their visits to Portadown Library as part of 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.

Dairy Council for Northern Ireland

Year 5 and Year 6 pupils enjoyed an informative visit from Dairy Council NI on Friday 13th June. The pupils took part in the Food & Fitness programme and learned about the different food groups and the benefits we receive from consuming dairy products. The pupils were fully engaged and thoroughly enjoyed the range of fun activities provided.

Cycling Proficiency Test

Thirteen Year 7 pupils have completed the training in their Cycling Proficiency. They all were very dedicated and worked hard. Each pupil made progress and listened carefully. We hope they continue to be safe cyclists and remember all that they learned.

Tir na nOg Tournaments

Pupils from Year 3 to Year 7 took part in a series of tournaments/Fun Days at the Tir na nOg club. Thanks to the Tir na nOg club for organising this. All of the pupils had great fun and enjoyed the experience.

Talent Show

We had a very successful whole school Talent Show on Tuesday 17th June 2025 which all of our pupils got the opportunity to audition for. This event really did show case the amazing talent of our pupils.

Nursery Graduation

Our Nursery Graduation took place in the assembly hall on Wednesday 18th June 2025. Well done to all our amazing Nursery pupils for how well they did at their graduation.

RNLI Water Safety Workshop

On Thursday 19th June, all pupils took part in an engaging and informative Water Safety webinar delivered by the RNLI. The session taught pupils how to stay safe in, on and around water, with a focus on recognising hazards, understanding the Water Safety Code and knowing what to do in an emergency. Through interactive videos and activities, pupils learned the importance of floating to live and calling 999 or 112 for help. It was a valuable experience that helped equip our young learners with essential life-saving knowledge just in time for summer.

Prize Day

Friday 20th June was our Annual Prize Day; which is now a very important event in our School Calendar. The Foundation Stage/Key Stage 1 Prize Giving was first at 9.30am, then came the Key Stage 2 Prize Giving. Sisters, Blaithin & Aimee Mackin were our special guests. They both play for Armagh County and are well known for their skill, dedication and contributions to Gaelic and Australian football. Pupils are to be congratulated on their successes and achievements. A list of the main Award Winners has been included in this News Sheet.

Transition Forms for Nursery

These were distributed to parents on Friday 20th June. If you require clarification on any aspect of this Report, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's teacher.

Annual Reports for Year 1 to 7

Annual Reports were distributed to parents on Friday 20th June. If you require clarification on any aspect of this Report, please do not hesitate to request to speak to your child's teacher.

Data Collection Forms

These should already have been returned but if they haven't please ensure these are returned before the end of term to allow us to update our information in preparation for next year.

Unwanted Uniforms for *Share & Spare Uniform*

Could you please send any unwanted school uniforms into school as we keep a selection of Uniform for families who need them in our new ***Share & Spare Uniform*** initiative.

School Watch

We ask that you help us out over the summer by reporting any suspicious activity around the school to the Police.

Farewell to Year 7

Thirty-two Year 7 pupils leave Ballyoran Primary School at the end of June and are transferring to the following Post Primary Schools.

Post-Primary School	Number of Pupils Transferring
Brownlow College	1
Clounagh Junior High School	2
Lismore	2
St Catherine's College	2
St John the Baptist College	25

We thank these pupils for all that they have given to Ballyoran Primary School and wish them well for the future. We hope that they leave Ballyoran Primary School with many happy memories.

Term Dates & Holidays 2025-2026

Please see Holiday List for next year at:

<https://tinyurl.com/2ear2698>

Menu for September 2025

<https://tinyurl.com/yhedrmv8>

Thank You

This has been another busy year. A big thank you to all parents for your support and co-operation this year and to all the Staff for their hard work, commitment and dedication throughout the year and finally, to all our pupils for making this such an enjoyable year.

Wishing the entire school community, a pleasant and relaxing summer break.

Richard Woolsey
Principal

PRIZE DAY 2024/2025
 Friday 20th June 2025
Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1

Caterpillar Room Miss Irwin

Award	Pupil
Calm and Kind	Riquelme De Santa Feg
Curious Explorer	Harry Guterres
Caring Buddy	Sean Og McConaghy
Problem Solver	Paul Petreus
Inquisitive Mind	Martynas Viktus
Curious Learner	DJ Haughian
Super Artist	Zach Cherry
Sunshine Smiles	Elainy Costa D'Assuncao
Social Butterfly	Eva-Rose Teague
Confidence Award	Caiden McCann
Star Pupil	Elainy Costa D'Assuncao

	Year 1 Mrs Biggestaff	Year 2 Mrs McConville	Year 2 Miss Harkness	Year 3 Mrs Williamson	Year 4 Miss Abraham
Literacy	Sarah McClean	Ludwik Gorgol	Sofia Poliakova	Mila McKernan	Enda Creaney
Numeracy	Luca McGuigan	Elisha Buduan	Patrick McDonnell	Dilanas Endrikaitis	Tyler Da Silva

ICT	Erin McLaughlin	Sebi Rosca	Amelia Kazmierska	Faith McConville	Harvey Hempkin
Creativity	Calie McKeever	Hollie Reid	Dominic Antony	Leah Nosal	Elena Peneva
Star Pupil	Milo McConville	David Plastin	Felismino Leong	Haley Corkin	Kaya Kanarkowski
Resilience				April White	Larsson McConville

SPORTS AWARDS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Girls	Charlie McCann	Daniella Vozgirdaite Amara Hanratty	Veronica Da Silva	Livia Varela
Boys	Teddy Dalton	David Plastin	Joel Reid	Natan Michalik

The Hyde Cup for Progress in Reading

Daragh Lucas

Nominations for the Calvert Award	Livia Varela	Natan Michalik	Elena Peneva	Beatriz Lopes	Leon Geary
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The 'Calvert Award' for Contribution to Key Stage 1

Winner

Livia Varela and Natan Michalik

100% Attendance up to 23rd May 2025

Year 1	Year 3	Year 4
Theodore (Teddy) Dalton Sarah McClean Diana Pires Lopes	Eimear Coyle Brayan Gomes Riley Dalton Meabh Larkin	Noah McStravick

PRIZE DAY 2024/2025
Friday 20th June 2025
Key Stage 2

Butterfly Room - Mr Hendron

Being Kind Laurynas Baziulis
Interest in Geography Benner Campos
Cheerful Attitude Salvina Ciuraru
Improvement in Reading Cian Creaney
Positivity Jakub Czwojdrak
Being Kind Alesshandra Da Veiga
Creativity Jason Hall
Interest in World Around Us Lorcain Lennon
Caring Attitude Faustina Mendonca
Star Pupil Jakuk Czwojdrak

AWARDS	Year 5 Miss Godfrey	Year 6 Miss McKernan	Year 7 Mrs Brown/Mrs Martin
Literacy	Maria Fialho	Isaac Sergeant	Sophia Murphy
Numeracy	Niamh Doyle	Varshita Mahesh Babu	Lara Gomes
ICT	Oscar Da Silva	Fionn Larkin	Denis Kozlowski
Creativity	Anabella Molina Pereira	Gracella Soares Vaz	Emilija Abromaviciute
Resilience	Oliwier Rozynek	Betsy Carvill	Miriam De Canha Pires
Star Pupil	Nicole Poliakova	Ryan Magalhaes	Gabrio Soares Vaz

MAIN AWARDS	
The Hillis Prize for Language and Literacy	Brody Winter
The Brown Family Cup for Mathematics and Numeracy	Mason McDonnell
The Wilson Brothers' Cup for Mathematics and Numeracy	Denis Kozlowski
The Governors' Cup for ICT	Sophia Murphy
The Walker Cup for The World Around Us	Mason Wisniewski
The Lynas Award for Art and Design	Gabrio Soares Vaz
The Heaney Cup for Drama	Connie-Maye McCoy
The RE Cup	Lara Gomes
The Gilpin LSC Special Award	Jakub Czwojdrak
The Principal's Cup for PDMU	Katie Hamilton
The CWS Eco Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Eco Club	Sophia Murphy
The Mallon Award for Courage, Patience and Resilience	Caoimhin Hughes
The McCreesh Cup for Music/Instrumentalist	Ruby Hall

100% Attendance up to 23rd May 2025

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7
Emilie Lawless	Leighton Dalton	Ruby Hall Gabrio Soares Vaz Lara Gomes Sophia Murphy

House Competition	Final Results
	1 st Place: Lagan
	2 nd Place: Foyle
	3 rd Place: Bann

SPORTS DAY AWARDS	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7
Overall Winner - Girls	Emilie Lawless	Jeckliny Pires	Miriam Lima da Cunha Pires
Overall Winner - Boys	Aedan Creaney	Ksawery Kazmierski	Jason Vaz

Nominations for The Hagan Award	William De Sousa Ximenes Sophia Murphy Katie Hamilton Lara Gomes Miriam Da Cunha Pires Mason McDonnell Emilija Abromaviciute Caoimhin Hughes
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	Jakub Czwojdrak
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The Hagan Award for Contribution to Ballyoran Primary School	Sophia Murphy and Katie Hamilton
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