



News Sheet – May 2024

Safeguarding Team

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

Diary Dates for May 2024

- 1st Week 1 of Assessment Fortnight
- 2nd Shannaghmore Parents Meeting for Year 7 Parents – 2.30pm
- 6th School Closed – Bank Holiday
- 13th Nursery Induction Meetings for next year – Nursery closes at 12.15pm
- 14th Parents & Friends Group Meeting at 3.10pm
- 17th Last swimming session for Year 7
- 14th Nursery Induction Meetings for next year – Nursery closes at 12.15pm
- 18th Year 7 receive outcome of post primary application process
- 20th Year 7 Transition Workshop
- 21st Year 1 Induction Meeting for September at 2.15pm
- 22nd Year 4 visit to Portadown Library
- 23rd Pupil Council Meeting
- 24th Year 6 start swimming block at South Lakes Leisure Centre
- 27th School Closed - Bank Holiday
- 28th School Closed - Staff Development
- 29th – 31st Year 7 Residential to Shannaghmore
- 29th Year 4 visit to Portadown Library
- 30th Jo Jingles in Nursery
- 31st Nursery Football Coaching Session

School Closures – May 2024

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

- Monday 6th May: Bank Holiday
- Monday 27th & Tuesday 28th May: Bank Holiday & Staff Development Day

Assessment Fortnight

We are now in 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.

Confirmation

On Saturday 13th April, 24 pupils from Ballyoran PS made their Confirmation at St John the Baptist Church. We are very proud of the boys and girls for all their hard work in preparation for the ceremony, including the pupils who read during Confirmation. His Grace, Archbishop Eamon Martin, commented on how pleased he was at the prayerful and respectful atmosphere during the service. A big thank you to Mr Hendron for all his hard work in preparing the pupils for Confirmation.

Nursery News

Football Coaching

The children enjoyed another visit from our Coach. We developed our football skills and enjoyed working together as a team.

KS2 Talk on Staying Safe

Constable Emma and Constable Andy from the PSNI visited school on Monday 22nd April. They talked to KS2 pupils about personal safety and respecting our community.

Here are some tips to help us stay safe and enjoy the summer vibe.

- Let your parents know where you are going and what time you will be home.
- Keep your mobile charged.
- Stay with friends.
- Work out how you are going to get home in advance.
- Be respectful when out and about in the community.

Year 2 Gaelic Blitz

Year 2 pupils walked to Tir Na nOg Gaelic Football Club on Friday 26th April. Pupils took part in a Gaelic Blitz Fun Day hosted by Healthy Kids. The children had so much fun participating in a range of physical activities. Pupils were selected to play in Gaelic matches against children from other local primary schools.

50th Anniversary Celebrations

To celebrate our 50th Birthday, Thursday 13th June will be a Fun Day for all of our pupils with lots of fun activities including Inflatables, Fitness Freddy, Drumming, Dancing, Ice Cream Van, Balloon Modelling and Birthday Cake. More information on this will follow in due course.

Parents and Friends Group

We had a very successful first meeting of our reestablished Parents and Friends Group last week. At this meeting it was decided that our fundraising target would be the opening of a new Sensory Room beside our Senior LSC. This Sensory Room will be available for all of our pupils and the refurbishment will cost approximately £12,000. Our first fundraising event will be a Sponsored Fun Run which every pupil will take part in on **Wednesday 6th June 2024** in the People's Park. More information will follow on this in due course. Another meeting of our Parents and Friends Group to finalise this event will take place in school on Tuesday 14th May 2024 at 3.10pm. All parents are welcome to attend this meeting as we need a lot of help for this event.

First Holy Communion

We wish our Year 4 pupils well for their First Holy Communion on Saturday 1st June at 11am in St John's Church.

Nursery Morning Drop Off

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

Nursery & Year 1 Admissions

A reminder that letters informing parents if they have received a place for their child in Nursery and Year 1 for September, were posted last week. Parents should have also received an email from EA. A reminder that parents need to reply to accept the place by emailing the school and also accepting the place on the email from EA. This must be done by **Thursday 2nd May 2024**.

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 18th May 2024**.

Attendance

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

- Foundation/Key Stage 1: Year 2/3 - 93.9%
- Key Stage 2: Year 5 - 92.4%

Summer Uniform

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.

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

Zero Tolerance of Abuse to Staff Policy

Thankfully the vast majority of interactions between parents and staff are very positive and respectful, however unfortunately there have been a very small number of instances when school staff have been verbally abused by parents. The Board of Governors has a duty of care to staff and as a response to this they have drafted a '*Zero Tolerance of Abuse to Staff*', which is available on the school website at <https://tinyurl.com/56vz39k3>

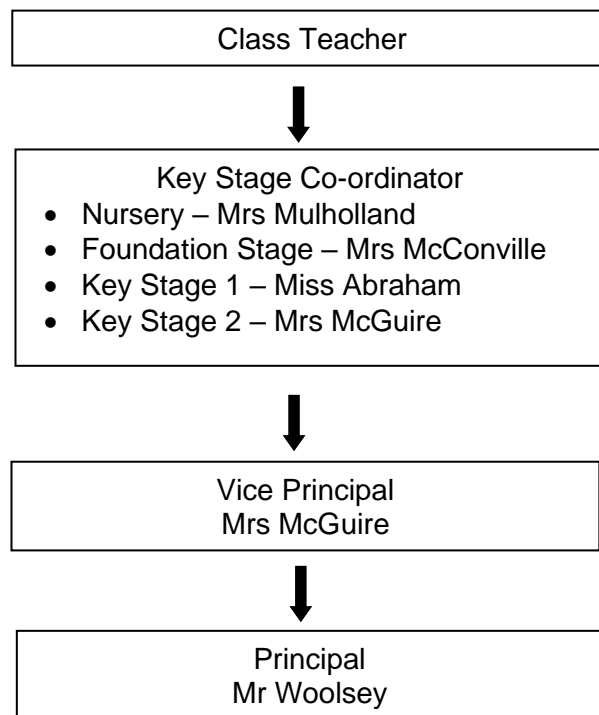
Nuts

As you are aware we endeavour to ensure that no nuts or nut based products are brought into school to protect those pupils and staff 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

Sun Safe

We are all hoping for better weather and more sunshine. If the better weather ever does arrive 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.

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/yx4krfjb>

Richard Woolsey
Principal