



### **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 – November 2024**

### **Half Term**

A reminder that school will be closed for Half Term from **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November**. School reopens on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November**.

### **Staffing**

We welcome Miss McAlinden to the staff as a Classroom Assistant in Year 1.

### **Firework Safety**

Pupils are reminded to be safe over the Half Term break particularly in relation to Halloween.

#### **Sparklers**

- Never give sparklers to children under the age of five.
- Always wear gloves when holding sparklers, preferably leather gloves.
- Hold a sparkler at arm's length and never wave sparklers at someone else as you could burn them.
- When the sparkler has finished put it into a bucket of cold water immediately.

#### **Fireworks**

- Parents need a licence to buy fireworks in Northern Ireland.
- Only adults should light fireworks and safely dispose of them.
- Children need to be supervised around fireworks.
- Never go near a firework that has been lit. Even if it hasn't gone off, it could still explode.

#### **Tips for Parents and Carers**

- Remind children to be extra careful when crossing any roads.
- Choose a costume and mask that doesn't restrict a child's visibility.
- Provide children with a torch or glow stick as part of their costume.
- Keep pets indoors.

### **Diary Dates – November**

1<sup>st</sup> School Closed for Half Term  
4<sup>th</sup> School reopens after Half Term  
7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> Young Enterprise in Yr 3  
8<sup>th</sup> Yr 6 Swimming block begins  
11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> Anti-Bullying Week  
15<sup>th</sup> Non Uniform Day – (Wear Something Spotty) & Bun Sale for Children in Need  
21<sup>st</sup> End of Homework for Term 1  
22<sup>nd</sup> Taster Day at Lismore Comprehensive School for Year 7 pupils

## **Sam Maguire**

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024 was a memorable day for Ballyoran Primary School. A very special visitor came to the school in the form of the Sam Maguire Cup! As well as the famous trophy, we were very lucky to be joined by Barry Mc Cambridge and Conor Magennis from the Armagh squad. As well as this, several players sent messages of support by video, such as Aidan Forker and Rian O'Neill. The two players were happy to pose for photographs and sign autographs. The atmosphere and colour during the visit were unforgettable, a truly positive experience. Sadly, after an hour and a half, Sam Maguire had to leave to go to another school. For the rest of the morning, the pupils enjoyed a series of fun activities organised by our friends at Healthy Kids. All of us in the Ballyoran PS community will remember this day for a very long time. Click on our Facebook page and watch a clip from the day.

## **Facebook**

Please click the link below to follow the Ballyoran PS Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/5JbmqW83cCAe583N/?mibextid=LQQJ4d>

## **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.

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>

## **Parent/Teacher Meetings**

Communication is an important part of our partnership with parents and I would like to thank the parents who availed of the Parent/Teacher Meetings.

## **School Photographs**

All registered parents will now have received a notification email and the online ordering deadline is Sunday 3rd November.

Any late orders can be taken via the Dandelion Studio by phoning [028 92611612](tel:02892611612), however late orders do incur a £5 admin/postage charge.

## **After School Club – Gaelic**

For the month of November, Gaelic will take place on Wednesdays for Year 3-7 from 3-3.50pm. The cost is £15 for the four Wednesdays in November. You can book via ParentPay.

## **New Pupil Council Chair and Vice Chair Elected**

Congratulations to the following pupils who have been elected to serve as Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Pupil Council for this year:

- Chairperson: Sara Das Neves
- Vice Chairperson: Cian Creaney

## **Nursery News**

### **Welly Boot Walk**

The children all really enjoyed our Sponsored Welly Boot Walk to raise money to create a new construction area for our outdoor area to benefit all the children. We were overwhelmed by your generosity and have raised an amazing £1286!

Thank you so much for all your support.

### **Football Coaching**

Coach Joe visited Nursery us on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October. This was our first football session. We loved learning new skills and look forward to his next visit.

### **Foundation Stage Sponsored Walk**

Year 1 and Year 2 pupils really enjoyed their Sponsored Autumn Walk at The People's Park. On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October, the pupils walked to the park where they took part in some fun warm-up exercises before completing their big walk around the park. Pupils enjoyed a picnic with their friends before collecting leaves. We were overwhelmed by your generosity and have raised an amazing £555. This will be used to purchase a mud kitchen for our outdoor play area. Thank you so much for all your support.

### **Christmas Pantomime – Rapunzel**

A trip to The Market Place Theatre in Armagh has been organised for Years 3-7 pupils on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December to watch the Pantomime, Rapunzel. So far, 132 places have been booked and there are only **15 places left**. If you want to secure a place for your child, please pay the £5 deposit or the total cost £17 on ParentPay.

### **Book Fair**

From Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October to Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October, we held our annual Travelling Book Fair in our Central Library. There were over 300 titles to choose from and book prices started at £2.99. There was also a colourful selection of stationery which proved to be very popular. Over £1400 was spent and a percentage of this (approximately £600) will be used to buy books for school! We were delighted to have the Book Fair in school and a huge thank you must go to all the pupils, parents and friends who supported it – keep reading!

### **PSNI visit Year 2**

On Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October, Year 2 had a very exciting visit from the PSNI to end their topic on Emergency Services. They have been learning all about the jobs of fire fighters, paramedics, lifeguards and the police. PC Emma and PC Stephen discussed the roles and responsibilities of a policeman/woman and told us how to stay safe over Halloween. The children were very excited to sit inside a police car and listen to the very noisy sirens. Emma and Stephen have told Year 2 to look out for them around Portadown and give them a wave.

### **Well done Year 1 & Year 7 for Excellent Attendance**

Every month we have an Attendance Competition recognising the class with the best attendance. The results for September are in and well done to Year 2Mu who won the Foundation/Key Stage 1 Competition and Year 7 who won the Key Stage 2 competition. The winning class received a Cup, Certificate and extra playtime or a night off homework.

### **Breakfast Club**

All pupils are welcome to attend in the Dinner Hall from 8.15 – 8.45am. The cost is £1 per day. Parents must book for Breakfast Club by Midday every Friday for the following week, by emailing [mduraes127@c2kni.net](mailto:mduraes127@c2kni.net)

## Nuts

As you are aware, we endeavour to ensure that no nuts or nut based products are brought into school to protect a number of pupils who have severe nut allergies. Please respect our 'No Nuts' Policy.

## Dogs

A reminder that dogs are not permitted on the school grounds for Health and Safety reasons.

## School Website

Keep up-to-date with school news, information and events by logging on to [www.ballyoranps.com](http://www.ballyoranps.com). Class Pages will be updated regularly giving parents a useful insight into what their children are doing in class.

## School App

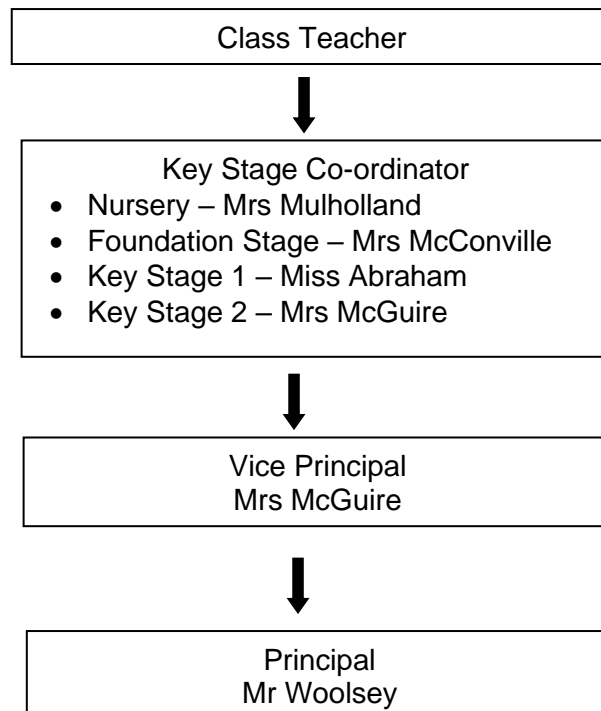
It is important that all parents have access to the school App. If you are unable to access the school app please contact the office. Guidance on our school app can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/2p98mfm2>

## 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:



## **Asda Cashpot**

Thank you for supporting us through the Asda Cashpot. Currently, we have **£183.91** in our cashpot! The campaign will run for another 37 days. If you are not familiar with the Asda Cashpot campaign, please follow these instructions.

Download the Asda Rewards app and register for an account. If you already have an Asda Online shopping account or a George Online account, use those details to sign into Asda Rewards. Once logged in, opt into the Cashpot for Schools campaign and select Ballyoran Primary School BT62 1JY as your chosen school. That's it! Even if you don't go on to use the App, Ballyoran Primary will still get £1 for every person that opts in! Asda will donate 0.5% of your Cashpot rewards to our school – so remember to scan your Asda Rewards app every time you shop! The 0.5% won't be taken from your Cashpot; you earn, we earn!

## **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 with parents/carers we will 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.

## **Menu for Term 1**

<https://ballyoran-primary-school.secure-primariesite.net/school-meals/>

I would like to thank all our parents and staff for their continued support and co-operation during this very busy first half term and wish the entire school community a pleasant, relaxing and safe Half Term break.

Mrs R McGuire  
Vice Principal

