



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

News Sheet – December 2023

Diary Dates – December 2023

- 1st Daily Mile Santa Run – pupils to bring a Santa Hat to school
- 4th Coats Rule enforced from today
Yrs 5 – 7 to Christmas Panto at Market Place Theatre
- 5th Yrs 3 & 4 to Christmas Panto at Market Place Theatre
PSNI Internet Safety Talk: Yrs 5 – 7 & LSC
- 6th LSC to Christmas Panto at Market Place Theatre
Dairy Council Food & Fitness Workshop: Yrs 5 & 6
- 7th Yr 7 Taster Day at St John The Baptist College
- 8th Christmas Dinner – pupils
- 12th Nursery Christmas Performance – ‘Whoops A Daisy Angel’ at 10am (ticket only)
- 13th Primary Christmas Performance 1 – ‘It’s Chr-i-i-stmas!’ at 10am (ticket only)
- 14th Primary Christmas Performance 2 – ‘It’s Chr-i-i-stmas!’ at 10am (ticket only)
School finishes early for all pupils:
- Nursery: 12.30pm
 - Yrs 1 – 4: 12.45pm
 - Yrs 5 – 7 & LSC: 1pm
- 18th Christmas Jumper Non Uniform Day for Charity: £1
Christmas Disco & Class Christmas Parties
- 19th Last day of term, no uniform, no dinners, school finishes early, staggered dismissals as follows:
- 11.45am: Yrs 5 – 7
 - 11.50am: Yrs 3 & 4
 - 11.55am: Yrs 1 & 2
 - Nursery: 12noon

Christmas Holidays

School will be closed from Wednesday 20th December 2023 to Wednesday 3rd January 2024.
Term 2 begins on Thursday 4th January 2024.

New Online Cashless Payment System with Parent Pay

As previously communicated, our new online Cashless Payment System – Parent Pay, will be in operation from the start of term 2 when we will no longer be accepting cash payments in school. Letters with your logon details and guidance will be sent home next week and we would ask you to logon and set up your account before Christmas **but do not attempt to make any payments at this stage**. If you need any assistance with this, please contact Mrs Stevenson in the office.

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. There is also a vomiting bug doing the rounds and a reminder that if your child has this they should remain off school for 48 hours after the last episode of sickness or diarrhoea.

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>

There is also a simplified version of this on the last page.

Anti-Bullying Week

Throughout the week beginning 13th November, we have all enjoyed participating in activities based on this year's theme 'Make a Noise about Bullying'. Year 5 led an Assembly for Key Stage 2 pupils on the difference between bullying and banter. They talked about what bullying means to us, how banter can turn into something more hurtful and what we can do to stop bullying.

Dog's Trust Visit

The Dog's Trust visited school on 14th and 15th November and delivered workshops to all classes which pupils very much enjoyed.

New Junior LSC

The EA have asked us to open a second Specialist Provision class (LSC) in school for pupils who have statements of special educational needs. This Junior LSC will be for pupils in Years 1 – 4 and will open after Christmas. A new teacher, Mrs McCullough has been appointed for this class and the Classroom Assistant will be Mrs Stewart who will move from the Senior LSC.

Christmas Performances

We are looking forward to Christmas and pupils and staff are working hard, preparing for our Christmas shows. The Nursery will perform 'Whoops A Daisy Angel' on 12th December at 10am and the Primary School will perform 'It's Chr-i-i-i -stmas!' on 13th and 14th December at 10am. Wednesday 13th December is now SOLD OUT but there are still a small number of tickets left for the Nursery on Tuesday and Primary School on Thursday so if you still haven't ordered your tickets, please complete the order form and return to school with the money, in the envelope provided, as soon as possible, to avoid disappointment. **Remember entrance is by ticket only.**

Canteen Christmas Dinner

Our kitchen staff will be serving Christmas Dinner on **Friday 8th December 2023**. This will be available to all pupils, even those who do not normally take dinner and is priced at the normal school dinner cost.

Christmas Cards designed by pupils

These will be sent home this week, please return with the order form and money in a labelled envelope by **Wednesday 6th December 2023** if you wish to order these.

Christmas Gifts

This year we are again asking that instead of buying presents for staff that you consider donating to the St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal at:

<https://www.svp.ie/fundraiser/north-region-gift-of-choice-appeal/>

Coats Rule

As the weather has been turning colder in recent weeks, we have been advising pupils to bring a warm coat to school. From **Monday 4th December 2023**, any pupils who do not bring a coat to school will have to remain inside at break and lunch time.

Pupil Attendance

Well done to the classes with the highest attendance for November which were:

Foundation/Key Stage 1: Yr 4 (95.8%)

Key Stage 2: Yr 6 (97.1%)

Children In Need Non-Uniform Day

On Friday 17th November, we held a Bun Sale and Non Uniform Day for Children In Need. It was a huge success and raised £472! This is our highest total ever. Thank you to everyone who supported this.

Admissions for Nursery and Year 1 – September 2024

The admissions process for Nursery and Year 1 is online and administered by the EA. The application process for September 2024 will open at 12 noon on **Tuesday 9th January 2024** and close at 12 noon on **Thursday 26th January 2024**. Parents can apply by clicking on <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions>

Picking Pupils Up

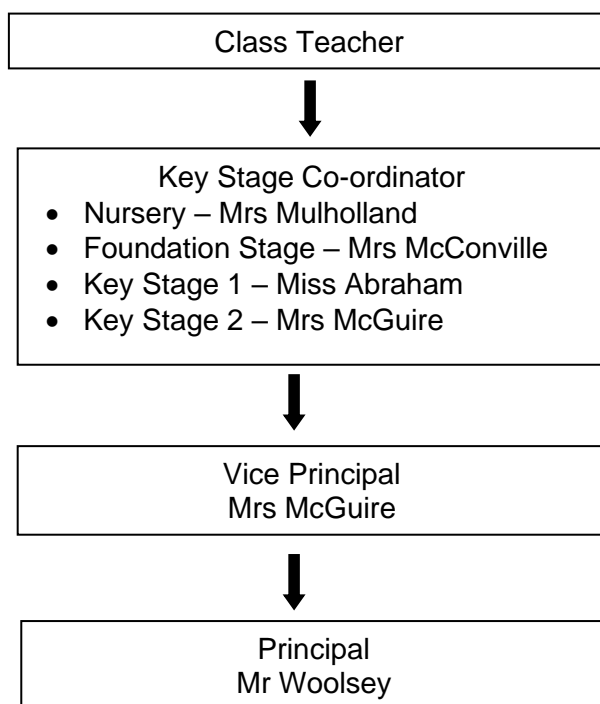
It is vital that parents are punctual when collecting their children otherwise they get anxious. If you are running late we would ask that you phone the office and inform us of this. If a child is not collected and we are unable to make contact with parents/carers we have no option but to phone Social 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.

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:



Contingency Planning - Winter

As the winter is fast approaching, the school has been reviewing its contingency plans should the school need to close due to bad weather. Once again, we will be using our Text Alert system, school app and the school website to inform parents should a closure be necessary.

Menu

As you know a rolling monthly menu is in place for term 1 and is available at <https://tinyurl.com/4jvw3brn>

Thank you for your continued support and co-operation

Richard Woolsey
Principal

Do I need to keep my child off school?

Chicken Pox Until all spots have crusted over	Conjunctivitis No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Diarrhoea & Vomiting 48 hours from last episode	Glandular Fever No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Hand, foot & mouth No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Impetigo Until lesions are crusted & healed or 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
Measles or German Measles 4 days from onset of rash	Mumps 5 days from onset of swelling	Scabies Until after first treatment	Scarlet Fever 24 hours after commencing antibiotics	Slapped Cheek No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Whooping Cough 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
	Flu Until recovered	Head Lice No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Threadworms No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Tonsillitis No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	