



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 – February 2024

Diary Dates for February 2024

2 nd	Portadown Move Sessions for Years 6 & 7
5 th – 9 th	Children’s Mental Health Week
6 th	Safer Internet Day
7 th	Years 6 & 7 ‘Your Life’ Sessions
9 th	Non Uniform Day – Wear Red for Chest, Heart & Stroke - £1 per pupil (payable to teachers) Portadown Move Sessions for Years 6 & 7
12 th – 16 th	School Closed for Half Term
21 st	Years 6 & 7 ‘Your Life’ Sessions
22 nd	Post Primary Admission Application Process closes online at Noon Dentist visit to Nursery
23 rd	Nursery Coaching Session
29 th	PSNI visit to Nursery

Post Primary Admissions

The Post Primary Admission Application Process is now open online and will close on Thursday 22nd February at Noon.

School Closures – February 2024

A reminder that school will be closed for Half Term from Monday 12th to Friday 16th February 2024.

Staffing

At the start of January, we welcomed a new teacher, Mrs McCullough. We wish her all the best teaching in our new Learning Support Class (Junior).

Learning Support Class (Junior)

Our new Learning Support Class (Junior) opened on 8th January 2024. The classroom is equipped with new furniture and equipment including an interactive whiteboard, kitchen, play area, work area and a Sensory Room.

Office Hours Reminder

Please note the office hours are as follows:

Monday: 8.15am – 3.30pm

Tuesday - Friday: 8.15am – 3.45pm

Closed: 10.15am – 10.30am for break and 1.15pm – 1.45pm for lunch

Healthy Eating

As you know Ballyoran Primary School is a Health Promoting School and there are several ways that we ensure this.

Healthy Breaks

Nursery to Year 2 get a healthy snack provided by the school, Year 3 – 7 must bring in their own healthy snack. To help parents we have created a table of suitable and non-suitable healthy break snacks:

Suitable healthy break snacks	Not allowed at break
Pieces of fresh fruit	Any type of confectionery, eg chocolate products and sweets
Fruit pots of sliced or chopped fresh fruit	Crisps and crisp-like products such as tortilla chips, potato sticks, corn chips, prawn crackers, puff crackers;
Canned fruit in natural juice	Cakes, buns or pastries
Salad pots	Cereal or fruit bars
Raw vegetables such as tomatoes, carrots, celery, peppers and cucumber	All biscuits
Bread, pancakes or scones with a thin spread of margarine	Fizzy drinks
Breadsticks or crackers with cheese	Dried fruit that has been sugared or coated in yogurt or chocolate;
Sandwiches, bagels, baguettes, pitta bread, tortilla wraps or rolls	Pretzels
Yogurts	Nuts

Lunch Boxes

We encourage parents who prepare a packed lunch to ensure it is balanced and healthy and includes sandwiches and fruit. No fizzy drinks are allowed in packed lunches. A leaflet giving guidance on packing a Healthy Lunch is available at <https://tinyurl.com/2s4z9cyv>

Applications for Nursery and Year 1 for September 2024

The closing date for these was midday on Friday 26th January 2024. Parents will receive notification of placements on **Thursday 25th April 2024.**

Year 7 Transfer to Post Primary School

Year 7 pupils and their parents are currently considering their options for post primary school. I would encourage all Year 7 parents and pupils to take their time and look closely at all the options before deciding which school best fits. We wish our Year 7 pupils well as they make this very important decision.

A reminder about the Post Primary Admissions process. The Admissions portal opened at **Noon on Tuesday 30th January 2024** and closes at **Noon on Thursday 22nd February 2024.** Parents should log on to the EA website at <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions>

Safer Internet Day

This year we will celebrate Safer Internet Day on **Tuesday 6th February 2024.** Children will be involved in a special assembly and complete various activities throughout the day to help inform them of some of the dangers of being online.

Nursery Soccer Coaching

On Friday 26th January, the children in the Nursery enjoyed another visit from Coach Chris. We developed our football skills and enjoyed working together as a team.

Year 4 Trip

Year 4 enjoyed a trip to The Palace Stables in Armagh to learn all about World War II. During World War II the grounds of the Palace Demesne were the headquarters for the American G.I.s in County Armagh. Through various interactive activities Year 4 were able to explore 'Life during the War' focusing on the Blitz, Evacuees, Rationing and much more. Pupils were also able to meet with an American G.I. and be escorted to an underground evacuation shelter by the Evacuation Officer. Year 4 had lots of fun at the Place Stables and it brought our World Around Us topic to life.

Portadown Move

"Portadown Move" have started a five-week programme for Year 6 and Year 7 pupils. The activities take place on Friday mornings and the theme of the session is Physical Activity and Mental Health and Well-being. It is proposed that at the end of the sessions, a colour run will take place in the People's Park. Our senior pupils have been thoroughly enjoying the sessions so far.

Credit Union Poster Competition

Well done to the following LSC pupils who have been successful in the recent Credit Union Poster Competition, they all received very generous prizes from the Credit Union:

7 years and under category

1st place- Elainy Costa d'Assuncao

2nd Place- Eva Rose Teague

3rd Place- Zach Cherry

8-10 years category

2nd Place- Balthasar Carlson Li

3rd Place- Jakub Czwojdrak

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.

Internet Safety Presentation

On Wednesday 10th January, Constable Emma, Constable David and Constable Mark from PSNI gave a presentation about Staying Safe Online to Key Stage 2 pupils. They gave tips about how we can protect ourselves when using the internet. Some tips included:

- Use safe, unpredictable passwords to provide more security.
- Speak out if you are unsure of anything.
- Do not accept requests from people you do not know.
- Do not share private pictures online.
- If someone passes on an inappropriate picture, block it, report it and tell a trusted adult.
- Be kind to others on group chats.

- Share your devices with your parents.
- The top social media platforms Tik Tok, Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram and Twitter are for 13-year-olds and upwards.

For more information and tips on how we can support our pupils to safely use the internet, please explore: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>

Picking Pupils Up

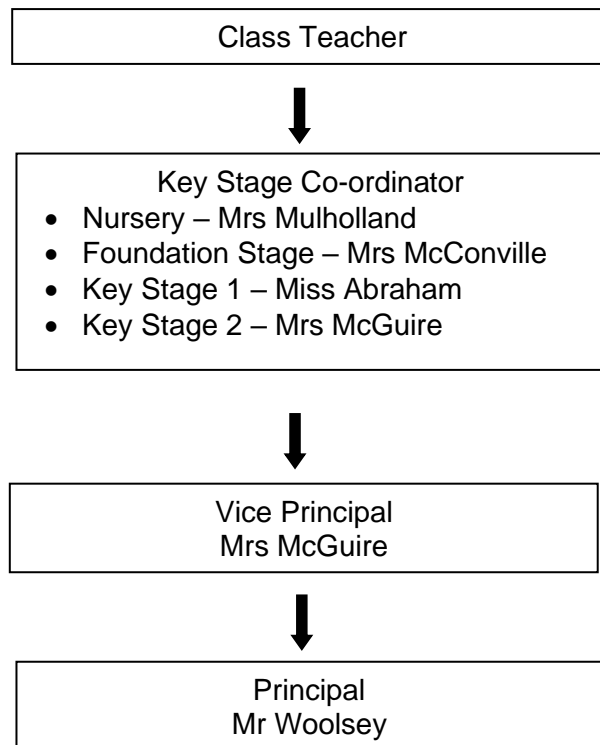
It is vital that parents are punctual when collecting their children otherwise they get anxious. If you are running late, we would ask that you phone the office and inform us of this. If a child is not collected and we are unable to contact parents/carers and have exhausted all listed contacts, we have 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.

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:



Menu for Term 2

Before Half Term <http://tinyurl.com/y9tfbpws>

After Half Term <http://tinyurl.com/45r83fe8>

Enjoy the Half Term break.

Richard Woolsey
Principal