



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 – March 2024

Diary Dates for March 2024

1 st	Yrs 6 & 7 Smokebusters Workshop
4 th	Coats Rule relaxed Action Mental Health Workshops: Yrs 2 & 3
6 th	Pupil Council visiting Civic Centre
7 th	World Book Day
7 – 8 th	Annual Reviews
11 th – 15 th	Parent/Teacher Consultation Week - school finishes early for all pupils
14 th	Action Mental Health Workshops: Yrs 2 & 3 11am: Yr 7 Ceremony of Light: St John's Church
16 th	Gaelic Team playing at Half Time at match at the Athletic Grounds in Armagh
18 th	School Closed St Patrick's Day Holiday
21 st	Whole School 50 th Anniversary Photograph Action Mental Health Workshops: Yrs 2 & 3 Last night of Homework for Term 2
22 nd	Swimming block ends for Years 5
25 th	1.30pm: Yr 4 First Confession at St Johns
27 th	Last day of term, no uniform and no dinners, half day for all pupils
28 th	Easter Holidays begin

School Closures – March/April 2024

Ballyoran Primary School will be closed as follows during March and April:

Monday 18th March: St. Patrick's Day

Thursday 28th March - Friday 5th April: Easter holidays

Staffing

We said farewell to Miss McDonnell who has been working as a Classroom Assistant, in February, we thank her for her service to the school and wish her well in her new job.

We welcome Mrs Judge to her new role as a Classroom Assistant in the school, replacing Miss McDonnell and hope that she settles into the school very quickly.

Children's Mental Health Week

We marked Children's Mental Health Week from 5th to 9th February in school.

Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday 6th February we celebrated Safer Internet Day with a whole school assembly. The theme this year was 'Inspiring change? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online.' Foundation Stage pupils took part in a colouring competition. Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils designed their own Internet safety posters. The competition winners from each class were announced during our celebration assembly.

Wear Red Day

On Friday 9th February, staff and children had a non-uniform 'Wear Red' day to raise money for The Northern Ireland Chest, Heart and Stroke Association. Thank you all for your support. It is greatly appreciated.

Year 4/5 Coaching Sessions

We are grateful to the Tir na nOg club who are providing coaching sessions for Year 4 and Year 5 pupils every Tuesday. The sessions are a great way of maintaining links between the club and the school. We would encourage all of our pupils to consider joining their local club to develop their skills.

Nursery News

Our topic this month was People Who Help Us. We had a visit from the dentists Jordan and Laura. They showed us how to clean our teeth and look after them. Michelle from Portadown Library came into Nursery for a Rhythm and Rhyme session. We all got to sing songs, play the musical instruments and listen to a story. The PSNI visited the Nursery. They told us how to keep safe crossing the road and about stranger danger. We also had our third football coaching session with Coach Joe. We learned new football skills and games. We have had a very busy and enjoyable month.

Your Life Sessions

Our Year 6 and Year 7 pupils have taken part in the 5-week 'Your Life' programme, which was delivered by Jeanie Graham. The programme aims to raise awareness amongst young people about the dangers surrounding vaping, smoking, alcohol and drugs. Jeanie also gave the children advice on how to deal with negative peer pressure and presented them with a variety of potential scenarios. The children responded to this through drama and role play. All children were fully engaged and found the sessions fun and very informative.

Class & Group Photos

These were taken on Tuesday by our new Photographer Dandelion Studio and all codes will be issued shortly to allow you to order these online. Please note photos cannot be ordered through the school, all orders must be placed online.

Parent/Teacher Telephone Consultations

A reminder that Parent / Teacher Consultations will take place during the week Monday 11th March – Friday 15th March 2024. You will have received your date and time and we would encourage you to attend as this is a vital part of partnership with parents. To facilitate these, school will finish early all week as follows:

- Nursery: 12.30pm
- Yrs 1 – 4 & Junior LSC: 12.45pm
- Yrs 5 – 7 & Senior LSC: 1pm

Reading Week

We have been thoroughly enjoying our Reading Week Competition. Children in Years 4, 5, 6 and 7 have been trying to read lots of words in Accelerated Reader. The class with the highest number of words read in Accelerated Reader at the end of the week will win a prize. Children in Years 1, 2 and 3 have been reading books at home and receiving stamps in school. The class with the most stamps on their stamp sheet at the end of the week will also win a prize. Prizes include a hot chocolate party, a trip to the park or a popcorn and movie afternoon. Let's keep reading!

World Book Day

World Book Day is on Thursday 7th March. It will be filled with lots of exciting, celebratory ways to promote reading for pleasure on World Book Day and all-year round. Children will be encouraged to come to school dressed as their favourite book character. Your child has already received their World Book Day Token and these can be spent in the following retailers: Asda, Sainsburys, Tesco, The Works, Waterstones or WHSmith.

Half Time Game

It is a great honour that Ballyoran PS has been selected to participate in one of the half time games during the Armagh senior team's National League games at the Athletic Grounds in Armagh. Our pupils will be playing at half time during the Armagh v Cavan game on Saturday 16th March. The team will be a mixture of boys and girls and there is expected to be a crowd of over 10,000 at the match! We are grateful to Cumann na Bunscoil for organising the games.

School 50th Birthday

The school celebrates its 50th Anniversary this year and a number of events have been planned for later in the year to celebrate this. More information will follow on this in due course.

First Aid Cover

Well done to Miss Wilson who has successfully completed her First Aid at Work Training. This brings our number of Designated First Aiders to 8.

Attendance

A reminder that pupils should be in school every day, unless they are sick or have a medical appointment. Educational attainment is closely linked to attendance and your child will only reach their full potential if they are in school every day.

Well done to the following classes who had the highest attendance for the month of January:

- Foundation/Key Stage 1: Year 2/3 with 94.6%
- Key Stage 2: Year 5 with 93.2%

A reminder that when a pupil is absent you must let the school know and provide us with a reason for absence, this can be done in a number of ways:

1. Phone call to the school and leave a message at Option 1 – remember you do not need to speak to the secretary
2. Email the secretary ustevenson175@c2kni.net
3. Send in an absence note

This is vitally important because if we do not get a reason for absence then it is recorded as 'No Reason' and will mean that you will receive phone calls and letters about attendance and you may even be referred to the EA Education Welfare Service.

Parent Pay Bookings

Parents can now make bookings on Parent Pay up to 9am every morning. Thank you to all those who parents continue to book their children's school meals on ParentPay on a weekly basis. Please note that ParentPay is used to book the days which your child will take a school meal. If your child is on packed lunches or is off school, they should not be booked on for a school meal.

Coats Rule

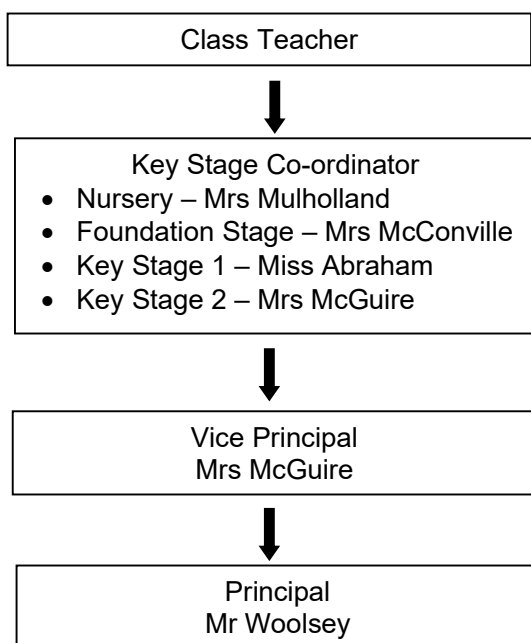
From Monday 4th March the coats rule will be relaxed as we move into Spring. We would however encourage you to ensure that your child has a coat with them on cold or wet days.

Names on Clothing

Pupils frequently lose items of clothing in school and it is very difficult for staff to reunite lost items with pupils if there are no names on the item. With this in mind, I would ask that parents ensure that all items of school uniform and PE uniform have your child's name on them.

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:



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.

Term Dates & Holidays 2024/2025

See page 6

Menu

<http://tinyurl.com/45r83fe8>

Richard Woolsey
Principal

Term Dates & Holidays 2024/2025 Year

All dates are inclusive

Term 1

Term Dates

Thursday 29th August – Friday 20th December 2024

Holidays

- Monday 30th September 2024: Staff Training
- Monday 28th October – Friday 1st November 2024 – Half Term

Christmas Holiday: Monday 23rd December 2024 – Monday 6th January 2025

Term 2

Term Dates

Tuesday 7th January – Wednesday 16th April 2025

Holidays

- Monday 10th – Friday 14th February 2025 – Half Term
- Monday 17th March 2025 - St. Patrick's Day Holiday

Easter Holiday: Thursday 17th – Friday 25th April 2025

Term 3

Term Dates

Monday 28th April – Friday 27th June 2025

Holidays

- Monday 5th May 2025 – May Bank Holiday
- Monday 26th & Tuesday 27th May 2025 – May Bank Holiday & Staff Training

School will finish at midday on the last day of each term.

Note: Removing pupils during term time is not recommended; please try not to book holidays or other trips during the school term. Staff cannot prepare work in advance for children who are on holidays and very often these children miss vital work during their absence. The school is also required to inform the EA when a child is removed from school for a holiday. This information is recorded and may be used by the EA in appropriate situations, i.e. Special Educational Needs Assessments or Child Protection issues.

