



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 – April 2024

Diary Dates for April 2023

8 th	Term 3 begins
12 th	Year 7 Swimming block begins
13 th	Confirmation: St John's Church at 3pm
25 th	Pupil Council Meeting
	Nursery & Year 1 Admission Application outcomes received by parents
26 th	Football Coach in Nursery
29 th	Assessment Fortnight begins

End of Term Arrangements

Wednesday 27th March is the last day of term. There will be no uniform, no dinners and school will finish early. Pupils may bring an unhealthy break. The following Staggered Dismissals will apply:

- 11.45am: Yrs 5 – 7 & Senior LSC
- 11.50am: Yrs 3 & 4
- 11.55am: Yrs 1 – 2 & Junior LSC
- 12noon: Nursery

Easter Holidays

Please note that school will be closed from **Thursday 28th March to Friday 5th April 2024** for the Easter Holidays. School reopens for the Summer Term on **Monday 8th April 2024**.

Staffing

Miss Sanlisoy, who has been teaching in Nursery 2, will be leaving us at Easter, we thank her for her service to the school this year and wish her well for the future. Mrs Mackle will be replacing Miss Sanlisoy from 8th April and we hope that she settles into the school very quickly.

Funky Hair Friday – The Little Princess Trust

On Friday 22nd March, we had a fundraising event in aid of The Little Princess Trust in order to support a Year 6 pupil, Emilija Abromaviciute, who donated over 12 inches of her hair to the charity. The Little Princess Trust provides free real hair wigs to children and young people, up to 24 years, who have lost their own hair through cancer treatment or other conditions. They also fund childhood cancer research searching to find kinder and more effective treatments. The whole school, from Nursery to Year 7, supported the event by raising money through sponsorship for 'Funky Hair Friday'. It was a very special, heartwarming day. We had a local hairdresser who is the mother of a pupil in school, Mrs Bernadine McCoy, come into our Friday Assembly to cut Emilija's hair in front of the whole school. The children raised an amazing £3766.84 for this very worthy charity. Thank you for your support and generosity. We would also like to thank some local businesses for donating prizes for the highest collectors in each class.

A range of prizes were very kindly donated by Wilson's Supervalu, O'Neills Sports, Craigavon Omnplex Cinema, Toymaster Portadown, C&J Farms, Healthy Kidz and Peter Pans.

The highest collector in each class:

Class	Name
Nursery 1	Mairead Fearon
Nursery 2	Hunter McGeown
Year 1	Elsie Neill
Year 1/2	Jack McGeown
Year 2/3	Connie O'Hehir
Junior LSC	Zach Cherry
Year 3	Junior McGeown
Year 4	Cerys Eadie
Year 5	Betsy Carvill
Year 6	Max Karnarkowski
Year 7	Jamie McNeice
Senior LSC	Jason Hall

Nursery News

Blackberry Farm

On Thursday 14th March the children enjoyed a visit from Blackberry Farm. The pupils got to meet and pet many animals including a goat, lambs, chicks, hens and rabbits. The children also got to feed the animals. Claire read us a story and we sang lots of farm songs. It was a very enjoyable morning.

Football Coaching

On Friday 22nd March the children enjoyed their visit from Coach Joe. We were practising new football skills and enjoyed playing games. We look forward to his next visit.

World Book Day

Pupils and staff at Ballyoran PS enjoyed participating in World Book Day 2024. The day was filled with lots of exciting, celebratory ways to promote reading. Staff and pupils dressed up as their favourite book character, we participated in a shared reading event and we had lots of fun guessing which book characters staff members were dressed up as. It was a fantastic day enjoyed by all and we thank parents/guardians for supporting this day and making it such a huge success.

Pupil Council Visit Civic Centre

Our Pupil Council visited Craigavon Civic Centre on Wednesday 6th March 2024 and met Deputy Lord Mayor of ABC Council Sorcha McGeown. Pupils were made very welcome and were given a tour of the Council Chamber and the Mayor's Parlour during the visit which ended with some refreshments and an official photograph. Local Councillor Paul Duffy was also present and our Pupils learnt a lot about the working of the Council and asked many very interesting questions. They had a great morning and were excellent Ambassadors for the School.

Year 5 Fire Service Talk

On the afternoon of Thursday 21st of March, the Fire Service came to Ballyoran to give a talk on fire safety to Year 5. The pupils engaged fully with the two fire fighters who delivered the talk and were able to ask many sensible questions about how we can keep ourselves and our

families safe from the danger of fires starting in our homes. Each pupil received a Safety Team Pack and they were encouraged to share what they had learned with the adults in their homes.

Half Time Game

On Saturday 16th March pupils from Ballyoran PS took part in the Allianz half time games during the Armagh v Cavan National League match at the Athletic Grounds in Armagh. The pupils showed great determination and skill during the game which was played in front of a crowd of about 8000 people. It was a tremendous occasion for the players and their families. Well done boys and girls. You did your school proud.

Forest School Tree Planting

In 2023 Ballyoran Primary School gained Forest School accreditation but our nearest forest area is The People's Park. Miss Baird and the Eco Committee decided that we needed to improve our biodiversity in the school grounds so we applied for a grant to get free trees in the school to create our own forest school area and we are delighted to say that we were successful! We have got an amazing opportunity to plant 300 trees on our school grounds. This will not only create areas around our school to improve our biodiversity and create opportunities for more wildlife to live and grow, but it will also mean our classes can go outside to extend their learning outdoors.

Year 3 Trip to Ulster Museum

In March, Year 3 had a class trip to the Ulster Museum in Belfast as part of our 'Daring Dinosaurs' topic. We started our session by looking at a triceratops dinosaur skeleton which we all loved - it was just so big. We started our lesson by finding out how fossils are formed. We then got to investigate some real life fossils. We had to decide if it was a fossil from the dinosaur era or from an animal that is alive today. We finished our trip by looking around the museum at the other artifacts, fossils and animal skeletons. What a super trip!

Ceremony of Light

On Thursday 14th March pupils from Year 7 and LSC took part in the Ceremony of Light at St John the Baptist Church. This is an important step as the pupils prepare for the Confirmation. Father Sheehan commented on how prayerful and respectful the pupils were during the ceremony.

First Confession

The Ceremony of First Confession took place in St John the Baptist Church on Monday 25th March. This is an important part of the preparation for the service of First Holy Communion which will be taking place in Saturday 1st June.

Parent/Teacher Consultations

Thank you to everyone who took the time to speak to staff about your child's education at the recent Parent/Teacher Consultations. The uptake rate was 89%.

Healthy Me Workshops

Our Year 2 and Year 3 children participated in a 'Little Healthy Me' programme. This was delivered by a volunteer from Action Mental Health over a course of 3 sessions. Little Healthy Me positively promotes mental health and social and emotional well-being in children and has a strong focus on prevention and self-help. It is a vibrant and engaging trauma informed, mental

health promotion programme aimed at younger children which explores healthy lifestyle choices and pathways to effective support through imaginative and interactive play and song. The children in Year 2 and Year 3 really enjoyed the sessions.

On Tuesday 12th March, Year 6 participated in a 'Healthy Me' workshop. This was delivered by a volunteer from Action Mental Health. 'Healthy Me' is a vibrant and engaging mental health promotion programme aimed at children, which explores emotional/mental health, healthy lifestyle choices and pathways to effective support through imaginative and interactive play and song. The children in Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed this and all were fully engaged.

Attendance

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

- Foundation/Key Stage 1: Year 4 – 94.6%
- Key Stage 2: Year 6 – 94.3%

These classes received the Attendance Cup and a Certificate and every pupil got a voucher entitling them to one night off homework.

The whole school attendance percentage for February was 91.1%.

Special Diets

Special diets can be required for a wide variety of medical conditions including food allergies, food intolerance, diabetes and coeliac disease. Other children follow special diets for religious or cultural reasons or because they are vegetarian or vegan. If your child requires a special diet, please contact the office as you will need to complete a Special Diet Application Form and Special Diet Medical Form. These forms are also available on the website at

<https://www.ballyoranps.com/school-meals/>

Diabetes

An increasing number of children and young people are being diagnosed with diabetes. Parents are reminded about the possible signs of diabetes to watch out for in their children –

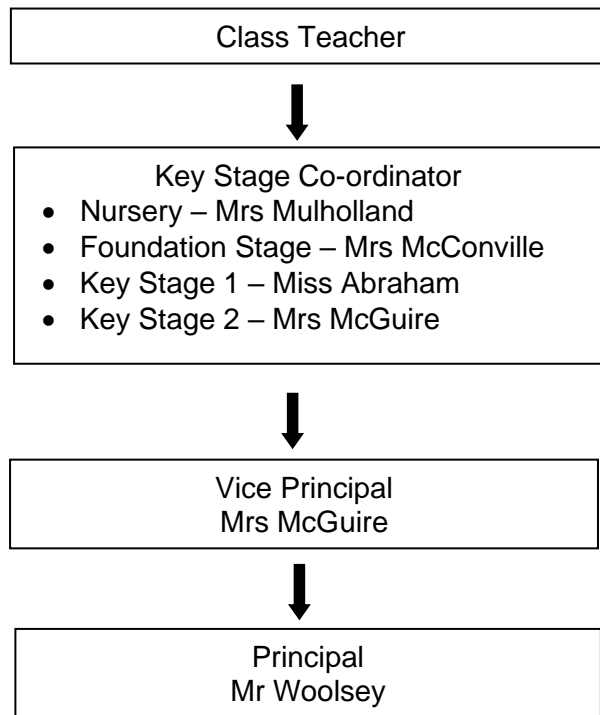
The 4 Ts:

- Toilet
- Tired
- Thirsty
- Thinner

If your child is experiencing any of the 4Ts, visit your doctor immediately. Don't delay as Type 1 diabetes can be fatal.

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

<https://tinyurl.com/5n8rwek9>

Coats

As we have moved into Spring and the weather is a bit milder, a reminder that we are no longer enforcing the coats rule at break and lunch. We would, however encourage you to ensure your child/children come to school with a coat on a wet or cold day.

Menu

We have a new Menu for the rest of this school year:

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

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

Finally, I would like to thank all members of the school community for their support during another very busy term and wish everyone a happy and relaxing Easter Break

Richard Woolsey
Principal