



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 – November 2023

Half Term

A reminder that school will be closed for Half Term from **Monday 30th October to Friday 3rd November**. School reopens on **Monday 6th November**.

Staffing

We welcome Mrs Reid to the staff as a Classroom Assistant.

Firework Safety

Pupils are reminded to be safe over the Half Term break particularly in relation to Halloween. The following advice has been given to pupils and parents in the past from the PSNI:

Sparklers

- Never give sparklers to children under the age of five.
- Always wear gloves when holding sparklers, preferably leather gloves.
- Hold a sparkler at arms 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 st – 3 rd	School Closed for Half Term
6 th	School reopens after Half Term
10 th	Yr 6 Swimming block begins
13 th – 17 th	Anti-Bullying Week
17 th	Non Uniform Day – (Wear Something Spotty) & Bun Sale for Children in Need
23 rd	End of Homework for Term 1
29 th – 30 th	Nursery Health Visitor Appraisals

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 those parents who availed of the Parent/Teacher Meetings.

School Photographs

School photographs can still be ordered online using the details sent home. Unfortunately, the deadline for the return of the envelopes has passed. Thank you to those parents who completed our survey on School Photographs.

First Aiders

Congratulations to Miss Bloomer and Miss Goodman who have successfully completed the First Aid at Work Course. This increases our number of First Aiders to 6.

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: Beth Creaney
- Vice Chairperson: Ethan Millar

World Mental Health Day - Wear Yellow for Charity

On Friday 6th October 2023 we had a non-uniform day to recognise World Mental Health Day. Children came to school wearing something yellow and they donated £1.00 for Action Mental Health charity. We raised £218. Thank you for your support. Throughout the day, children engaged in a range of activities that help them to keep a positive mindset. Children were reminded that it is as important to look after their mental health as it is to look after their physical health.

Nursery News

Welly Boot Walk

The children all really enjoyed our Sponsored Welly Boot Walk to raise money to buy an allotment for our outdoor area to benefit all the children. We were overwhelmed by your generosity and have raised an amazing £955!

Thank you so much for all your support.

Football Coaching

Coach Joe visited us on Friday 20th October. This was our first football session. We loved learning new skills and look forward to his next visit.

Peer Paired Reading

Four pupils from Year 7 attended Peer Paired Reading Training at Brownlow Hub recently. This was an exciting opportunity for Beth Creaney, Ola Zaliwska, Ethan Millar and Denas Ciujevas who will participate in the programme for 8 weeks in school. The purpose of Paired Reading is to provide younger pupils with supported exposure to print, in other words, an opportunity to practise the skills of reading in a supportive situation. We wish Beth, Ethan, Ola and Denas all the best as they start the Peer Paired Reading programme.

Book Fair

From Thursday 5th October to Thursday 12th 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 £1300 was spent and a percentage of this 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!

Young Enterprise

Children in our Year 4 – Year 7 classes have thoroughly enjoying taking part in the Young Enterprise NI scheme. Each Young Enterprise programme is tailored to its specific age group.

Year 4	Our Community
Year 5	Our City
Year 6	Our World
Year 7	Business Beginnings

Young Enterprise NI recently visited Year 4 and delivered the programme 'Our Community'. Young Enterprise develops the skills of young people to ensure they leave education prepared for work and life. Year 4 thoroughly enjoyed participating in the planned activities and were able to learn so much about the community we live in.

On Monday 9th October, Nicola from Young Enterprise delivered the 'Our City' workshop to Year 5. The workshop taught the children about the vital features that make up a city. The children were given opportunities to think about money choices people have and how spending impacts on businesses within a city. The steps needed to set up a business was also discussed. It was a brilliant workshop, thoroughly enjoyed by all the children. Thank you to Young Enterprise for working with Year 5.

On Monday 9th October, Year 7 had Cathy from Young Enterprise for a lesson on business and advertising. Pupils learned about buying and selling products, profit and loss and clever marketing. Year 7 designed a juice carton thinking about product design and audience. They enjoyed the interactive activities and gained a valuable insight into marketing and advertising.

On Wednesday 11th October, children in Year 6 took part in the 'Our World' programme, which was delivered by Young Enterprise, NI. During the programme, children learned about which countries rely on each other for resources. They were introduced to the concept of importing and exporting, as well as learning about the steps involved in setting up a business and trading internationally. The programme was fun and interactive. The children in Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed it.

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 1 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.

A reminder of our policy on collecting money

All money coming into school must be in an envelope with the following information clearly written on it: Child's Name, amount and what it is for eg. School Dinners. Also if the money is for dinners, it must clearly state the number of days and which days it is for. This policy ensures that teachers have more time to teach your child/ren as you will appreciate that counting and administering money is very time consuming.

A reminder also that all money coming into school must be sent in with your child and not brought to the office.

We are planning to move to a new Online Cashless Payment System after Christmas and more information will be sent to you on this after Half Term.

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 ustevenson175@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. 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 authenticate the school app as all communication for individual classes will be sent and received through the App. If you are unable to access the school app please contact the office. Guidance on our school app can be found at:

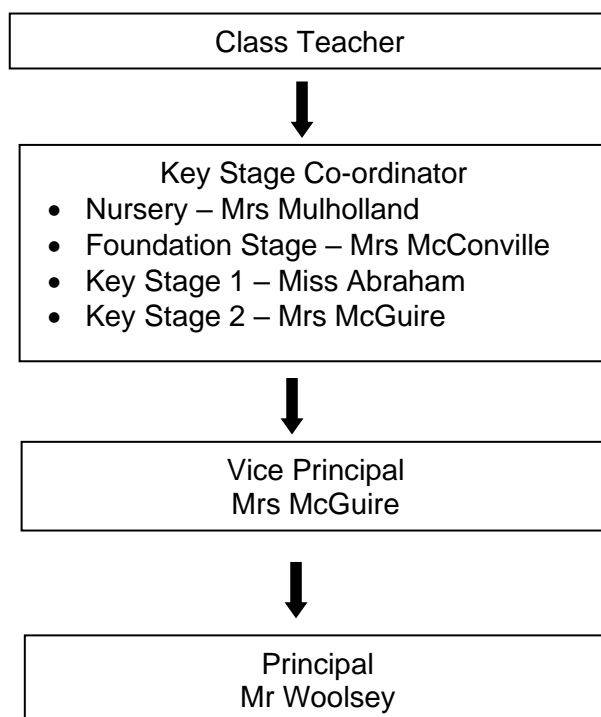
<https://tinyurl.com/2p98mfm2>

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:



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.

Menu for Term 1

<https://tinyurl.com/4jw3brn>

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.

Richard Woolsey
Principal

