



Safeguarding Team

Principal: Mr Woolsey
Designated Teacher: Mrs McGuire
Deputy Designated Teacher: Mrs Heaney
Nursery Deputy Designated Teacher: Mrs Mulholland
Designated Governor: Mrs Loney
Chairperson: Mr Fleming

News Sheet – April 2023

Diary Dates for April 2023

5 th	Last day of term, no uniform, no dinner, unhealthy break
6 th – 14 th	Easter Holidays
17 th	Summer Term begins
21 st	Year 7 Swimming block begins Year 2 'Wee Critters' Visit
24 th	Year 1 Health Appraisals
25 th	Photographer in School: Class & Group Photos Pupil Council Meeting
26 th	Nursery & Year 1 Admissions Letters posted to parents Year 1 Health Appraisals
27 th	Year 1 Health Appraisals World Daily Mile Day Year 7 Transition Talk Year 4 First Confession: 5pm
28 th	Nursery Football Coaching Session

End of Term Arrangements

Wednesday 5th April 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: Nursery
- 11.50am: Yrs 1 & 2
- 11.55am: Yrs 3 & 4
- 12noon: Yrs 5 - 7

Easter Holidays

Please note that school will be closed from **Thursday 6th April to Friday 14th April 2023** for the Easter Holidays. School reopens for the Summer Term on **Monday 17th April 2023**.

Staffing

Miss Wilson, one of our Classroom Assistants is now on Maternity Leave and we congratulate her on the birth of her new baby.

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.

Nursery News

We have had a very busy month in the Nursery. On Wednesday 1st March the children enjoyed a visit from the dentist. The children all received a pack that included a free toothbrush. On Friday 24th March, Bocombra Nursery pupils came to our Nursery to play and take part in friendship building activities. We look forward to visiting their Nursery next month. On Thursday 30th March the children enjoyed a visit from Blackberry Farm. The pupils got to meet and pet many animals including a goat, lambs, chicks and a rabbit. Finally on Friday 31st March the children enjoyed their visit from Coach Louie. We have developed our football skills and look forward to his next visit.

World Book Day

Pupils and staff at Ballyoran PS enjoyed participating in World Book Day 2023. The day was filled with lots of exciting, celebratory ways to promote reading for pleasure. Staff and pupils dressed up as their favourite book character, we participated in a 'Stop, Drop and Read' event and we had lots of fun guessing the members of staff hiding behind their favourite book. It was a fantastic day enjoyed by all and we thank parents/guardians for supporting this day and making it such a huge success.

Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel Challenge

Well done to all the pupils who have been working hard on this. The results will be published after Easter.

Confirmation

We are very proud of our Year 7 pupils who made their Confirmation at St John the Baptist Church on Saturday 4th March. All of the pupils and their families contributed to a prayerful and respectful service. Fr Sheehan was very pleased with how well prepared the pupils were for this important Sacrament. We would also like to say a big well done to all of our Confirmandi for the hard work they did in preparation for Confirmation.

Shared Education – Years 3 & 4

During the month of March, Year 3 had four Shared Education days with the Year 3 children from Bocombra Primary School. For our first day, the children from Bocombra came to our school. We got to know each other and we learnt about things which make us the same and things which make us different- we learnt that we are all unique and special. Our Shared Education learning days were based around forest school lessons. For our first trip away, we went to the People's Park and carried out a Spring scavenger hunt. On our second trip away, we went to Peatland's Park. When we were there, we went into the woodland area and collected lots of things to make a nature collage. On our third day we visited Batchelor's Walk. We walked to the secret garden to create stick portraits and we also carried out a litter pick. Our favourite part of each trip was playing with our new friends in the parks at the end. It was an amazing month going on exciting adventures and making new friends. We can't wait for our final day together at Gosford Forest Park in the summer.

Year 4 enjoyed participating in our Shared Education programme with our partner school Bocombra PS. On our first day we enjoyed a 'Getting to Know You' session. Our next session involved creating a story board on the book 'The Mindful Sloth' by an author from Portadown. We had lots of fun and look forward to the rest of our Shared Education sessions in June.

Young Enterprise

Year 1/2 and Year 2 are taking part in five-week Young Enterprise programme. The theme is Ourselves with a focus on individuals in our community and the role they play in the economy as workers and consumers. Through storybook characters the children are able to recognise the importance of working together, saving, earning and making personal choices. Through experiencing

the programme children should be able to value education and recognise the importance of it for life at school and beyond in the world of work.

Dance Workshops

On 14th March Years 3 - 7 enjoyed dance workshops, in school, facilitated by DU Dance. DU Dance working in partnership with Barnardos organised the workshops to raise awareness among our young people about the idea of caring and some of the challenges young carers face. The classes thoroughly enjoyed the workshops and gleaned an insight into the job of a young carer which can often be very overwhelming.

Well Being Ambassadors

Congratulations to the following pupils who have been selected as our new Well Being Ambassadors:

Year Group	Pupils
Nursery (N1 and N2)	Ola Zaliwski Beth Creaney (Year 6)
Year 1	Jose Silva Mia McKee (Year 6)
Year 1/2	Ismaela Gomes Ethan Millar (Year 6)
Year 2	Yuran Mendes (Year 7 H/W) Aishlinn Hughes (Year 7 B/M)
Year 3	Isabella Pereira Maura Das Neves (Year 7 B/M)
Year 4	Gracella Vas Soares Emily Linguar
Year 5	Emilija Abromaviciute Lara Gomes
Year 6	Aoibhinn Connolly Ola Zaliwska
Year 7 H/W	Sienna Wright Aogan McAlinden
Year 7 B/M	Maisie Millar Lexi Carroll

Attendance

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

Foundation/Key Stage 1: Year 3 – 91.4%

Key Stage 2: Year 6 – 92.3%

These classes will receive the Attendance Cup and a Certificate and every pupil gets a voucher entitling them to one night off homework.

The whole school attendance percentage for February was 88.4%.

Update on New Traffic Management Scheme

You will have noticed that our new Traffic Management Scheme is making very good progress. More information on the completion date and how it will operate will be forwarded to you in due course.

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 in 'Parents' and '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 –

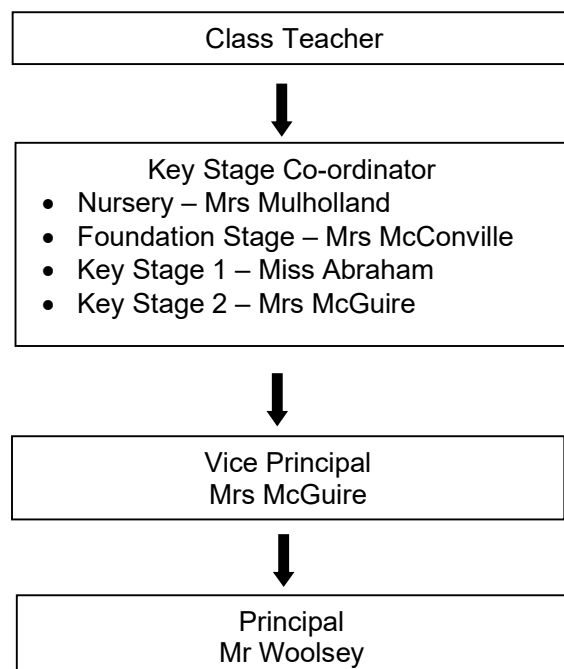
The 4 Ts:

- 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.

Menu

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

<https://tinyurl.com/ykattjyr>

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