

## News Sheet – May 2023



### Welcome Back

We welcome all of our pupils back after the Easter Holidays, we hope that everyone had a pleasant and relaxing break. It is hard to believe that we are now well into the summer term and the final two months of another school year which are extremely busy and will go very quickly.

**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

### Diary Dates for May 2023

- 1<sup>st</sup> School Closed – Bank Holiday
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Start of Assessment Fortnight  
Year 7 Mental Health Workshop
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Year 1 Health Appraisals
- 4<sup>th</sup> Year 1 Health Appraisals
- 8<sup>th</sup> School Closed - Coronation Bank Holiday
- 9<sup>th</sup> Year 1 Health Appraisals
- 12<sup>th</sup> Nursery Shared Education Visit to Tannaghmore Gardens
- 13<sup>th</sup> Year 4 First Holy Communion: St John's Church at 11am
- 15<sup>th</sup> Yr 1 / 2 & Yr 2 & Yr 6 Shared Education Sessions at Bocombra
- 16<sup>th</sup> Year 6 Moy Park Challenge  
Year 1 & Year 1 / 2 Trip to Armagh Planetarium
- 17<sup>th</sup> Year 5 Shared Education Session at Ballyoran
- 18<sup>th</sup> School Closed – Polling Station use for Assembly Election
- 19<sup>th</sup> Year 1 & Year 1 / 2 Shared Education Session at Ballyoran
- 20<sup>th</sup> Year 7 receive Post Primary Placement Letters
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Year 6 Shared Education Session at Bocombra
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Pupil Council Meeting
- 24<sup>th</sup> Year 7 Shared Education Session at Ballyoran
- 25<sup>th</sup> Year 1 & Year 1 / 2 Shared Education visit to People's Park  
Colour Run & Picnic for Charity: People's Park (more information will follow)
- 26<sup>th</sup> Nursery Football Coaching Session  
Last day of Year 7 Swimming block
- 29<sup>th</sup> School Closed - Bank Holiday
- 30<sup>th</sup> School Closed - Staff Development

### School Closures – May 2023

School will be closed for 5 days as follows in May:

- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May: Bank Holiday
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May: Coronation Bank Holiday
- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May: School used as Polling Station for Council Elections
- Monday 29<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May: Bank Holiday & Staff Development Day

## **Staffing**

Mrs Sloan, our secretary will be leaving us this term. We want to thank her for all her hard work, commitment and dedication to the school over the last two and a half years and also for the very pleasant and welcoming way that she ran the office. We wish her well in her new job.

We welcome Miss Montgomery to Ballyoran, she has joined our staff team as a Classroom Assistant in Key Stage 2.

## **Sustrans Big Walk & Wheel**

During the last two weeks of March the children took part in the 'Big Walk and Wheel Challenge' ran by Sustrans. Children walked, scooted and cycled to school each morning and competed against other schools across Northern Ireland to make the most active travels.

The results are in, and we have landed in 24<sup>th</sup> place out of 80 schools in Northern Ireland which is an amazing achievement. We also had a competitive in-school competition running to find out which class in each Key Stage travelled the most actively to school. The winning classes were:

- FS – Year 2 (Mrs Muldrew)
- KS1 – Year 4 (Miss Abraham)
- KS2 – Year 7 (Mrs Heaney/Walker)

Well done to each class who have won a trip to the People's Park as their reward for their active travel efforts. Keep being active on your journey to school as we approach the summer season as it is an excellent form of exercise, helps children do better in the classroom, and is great fun!

Thank you to everyone who supported this initiative.

## **Nursery News**

### **Shared Education**

The children enjoyed their visit to Bocombra Nursery. They got to travel on a bus and meet their friends. They participated in stories, songs and outdoor play.

### **Football Coaching**

The children enjoyed another visit from Coach Louie. We developed our football skills and enjoyed working together as a team.

## **Pupil Council Meet The Lord Mayor**

On Tuesday 4th April, the Pupil Council visited the Craigavon Civic Centre to meet the Lord Mayor, Cllr Paul Greenfield. We were greeted at the door by the Lord Mayor who led us to the Council Chamber. The Lord Mayor explained how a Council meeting runs and answered a number of questions from various 'councillors' on the floor. Pupil Council members asked various questions including what his first goal was when he was elected as Lord Mayor and how he feels about climate change. The Lord Mayor asked the Pupil Council members about the ideas they bring to their monthly meetings. Following a very informative question and answer session, the Lord Mayor allowed the Pupil Council

members to try on his very expensive Chain and the robes worn by councillors. The Pupil Council were even invited into the Lord Mayor's Parlour.

To finish our visit, members were treated to some juice, crisps and chocolate bars in the mezzanine. The Lord Mayor moved around talking to us as we ate before showing us various memorabilia that was on display. All Pupil Council members thoroughly enjoyed their trip and were very grateful to the Lord Mayor for his time and hospitality.

### **Year 7 Transition Workshops**

Year 7 have had 6 sessions with Gina McKnight (EA REACH worker) in preparation for moving on to Year 8. They have been very practical sessions and have focused on things such as setting realistic targets, positive friendships and effective communication. Gina has given the pupils an insight into what Year 8 will look like and the support available. All pupils have thoroughly enjoyed the activities and developed a new skillset to help them settle into their new school. Gina has encouraged the pupils to focus on the positives in any situation and the things they can do, rather than what they haven't yet achieved. She has encouraged the pupils to fully engage in all activities next year to foster new friendships and experiences and to make the most of their new opportunities.

### **Year 7 Trip to the Place Stables**

On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April, Year 7 pupils had the opportunity to visit the Palace Stables to participate in the Victorian programme, 'Boxes in the Attic'. We had a fantastic time seeing round the Palace Stables, visiting the Archbishop's Chapel, the old food stores and we even had an opportunity to visit a Victorian classroom! We also enjoyed meeting a butler and acting out a day in the life of a Victorian household. It was a great learning experience and a lot of fun.

### **Year 2 Wee Critters Visit**

Year 2 have been learning about 'Jungle Animals' in World Around Us. To end the topic, Allan the explorer brought several 'Wee Critters' from the rainforest to school. The children were very excited to see, feel and learn interesting facts about many wee critters. The children especially enjoyed holding a real-life snake and meeting an armadillo. Thank you to Allan for bringing 'Wee Critters' to our school.

### **Charity Event – Colour Run & Picnic**

We are holding our first major Sponsored Event for Charity since Covid on **Thursday 25th May**. All pupils will be taking part in a Colour Run and having a picnic in the People's Park. More information will follow in due course but we would encourage everyone to support this event. Our school has always been well known for its generosity towards good causes.

### **First Holy Communion**

We wish our Year 4 pupils well for their First Holy Communion on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 11am in St John's Church.

### **Morning Drop Off**

A reminder that all Nursery pupils must be accompanied by an adult to the Nursery Outdoor Covered Play Area every morning.

### **Nursery & Year 1 Admissions**

A reminder that letters informing parents if they have received a place for their child in Nursery and Year 1 for September, were posted this week. Parents should have also received an email from EA. A reminder that parents need to reply to accept the place by emailing the school and also accepting the place on the email from EA. This must be done by **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023**.

### **Year 7 Post Primary Letters to Parents**

Year 7 Parents will find out which School their child has received a post primary place in, on **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May**.

### **Attendance**

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

- Foundation/Key Stage 1: Years 2 & 3 - 91.4%
- Key Stage 2: Year 7H/W - 91.9%

### **Summer Uniform**

Pupils may come to school wearing the summer uniform as follows:

- Boys may wear grey shorts
- Girls may wear a blue checked dress and white socks

A reminder that the only jewellery that pupils are permitted to wear in school is a pair of stud ear rings and a watch.

We continue to be very proud of how smart our pupils look in their uniform.

### **Traffic Management Scheme**

Work on our new Traffic Management Scheme is approaching completion and I hope soon to be in a position to give you a date when it will become operational as well as outline how it is going to work. As with anything new it will take some time for everyone to become familiar with the new scheme but it will greatly enhance everyone's experience at drop off and pick up and I would ask for everyone's patience, co-operation and support in making this a success.

### **Zero Tolerance of Abuse to Staff Policy**

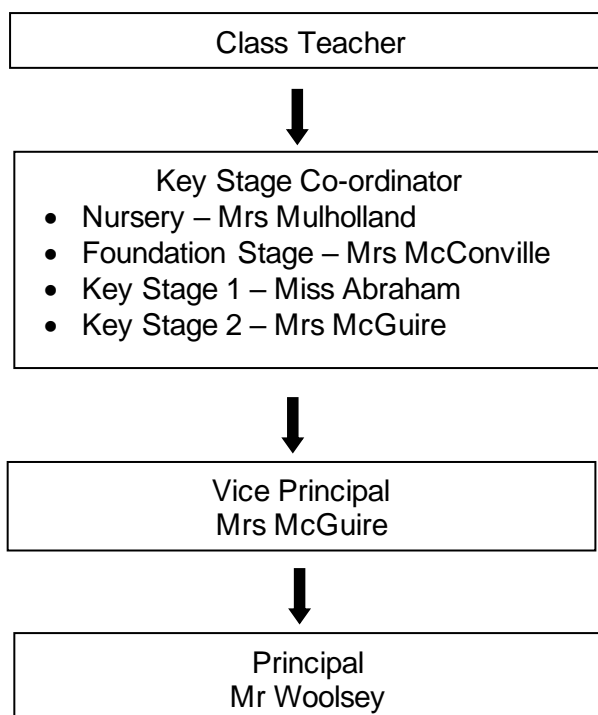
Thankfully the vast majority of interactions between parents and staff are very positive and respectful, however unfortunately there have been a very small number of instances when school staff have been verbally abused by parents. The Board of Governors has a duty of care to staff and as a response to this they have drafted a '*Zero Tolerance of Abuse to Staff*', which is available on the school website at <https://tinyurl.com/56vz39k3>

## Nuts

As you are aware we endeavour to ensure that no nuts or nut based products are brought into school to protect those pupils and staff who have severe nut allergies. We ask you to please co-operate with our 'No Nuts' policy.

## 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:



## 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](http://www.ballyoranps.com)

## Sun Safe

As we slowly move from Spring to Summer and hopefully more sunshine, I would remind all of our parents to ensure that children are safe in the sun during the school day. This includes ensuring they have sun cream on in the morning and sending them with water and a sun cap.

### **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.

### **Dinner Menu**

<https://tinyurl.com/ykattjyr>

Richard Woolsey  
Principal