

**News Sheet –  
January 2023**



**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

*Merry Christmas*



Winning Design for School Christmas Card Competition  
by  
Alicia Kelly (Year 6)

## Scarlet Fever & Strep A

You will be aware of an increased number of cases of Scarlet Fever and Strep A this winter. Please see up to date guidance on this from PHA:

PHA Fact Sheet on Strep A  
<https://tinyurl.com/4nhpprkn>

PHA Information on Scarlet Fever  
<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/scarlet-fever>

## General Sickness

As well as Scarlet Fever and Strep A there remains a lot of general sickness around at the moment. A reminder that if pupils have a vomiting or diarrhoea bug they should not be sent to school and should not return to school until 48 hours after their last vomiting or diarrhoea episode. This is to protect the school community as these bugs can very quickly travel around the school. Parents are also reminded to go over the importance of good hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene (Catch It, Bin It, Kill It) with their children. Finally, 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>

Keep up to date with the latest guidance on Covid-19 at:  
<https://tinyurl.com/36fsy9xt>

## End of Term Arrangements

School will finish on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022 which will have an early finish time. Pupils do not need to wear uniform on this day and there will be no dinners served.

Staggered Early Dismissal Arrangements are as follows:

- 11.30am: Yr 7
- 11.35am: Yr 6 & LSC
- 11.40am: Yr 5
- 11.45am: Yr 4
- 11.50am: Yr 3
- 11.55am: Yr 2
- 12noon: Yr 1 & Nursery

## Start of New Term

Ballyoran Primary School will re-open for pupils on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023.**

## Diary Dates for January 2023

5<sup>th</sup> Term 2 Begins

6<sup>th</sup> Year 7 begin 6 week swimming block at South Lake Leisure Centre

9<sup>th</sup> Sensory Motor Group restarts

10<sup>th</sup> Nursery and P1 Online Applications opens at 12 noon

27<sup>th</sup> Nursery & P1 Online Applications closes at 12 noon

31<sup>st</sup> Deadline for Admissions Supporting documents to be uploaded to EA portal

### **Staffing**

Mrs Baxter will be leaving the Nursery at Christmas to take up a new full time post in another Nursery. She has been with us in Nursery for 7 years and we thank her for all her hard work, commitment and dedication during those years and wish her well in her new post.

Mrs McMurray will be replacing Mrs Baxter in Nursery after Christmas and as a result will no longer be teaching Yr 1 on Fridays. A new teacher Miss Carson will be joining the school after Christmas and replacing Mrs McMurray in Yr 1 on Fridays.

We welcome Miss Hall who joined the staff as an SEN Classroom Assistant recently.

### **Christmas Card Competition**

Congratulations to the following pupils who were successful in our Annual Christmas Card Competition:

	Winner	Runner-up
Yr 1	Leah Nosal	Jana Cowes
Yr 1/2	Mila McKernan	Haley Corkin
Yr 2	Natan Michalik	Dylan Mulholland
Yr 3	Oscar Da Silva	Maisie Hackett
Yr 4	Varshita Mahesh Babu	Aixa Mendes
Yr 5	Brody Winter	Emilija Abromaviciute
Yr 6	Alicia Kelly	Mia Liggett
Yr 7B/M	Isabella Pereira	Luana Vidal
Yr 7H/W	Mairtin Moylan	Emilia Sukalenkova-McCann
LSC	Balthasar Carlson Li	Emma McGeown

Well done to Alicia Kelly (Yr 6) who was the overall winner for the entire school. Her design has been made into our official school Christmas Card for this year and features on the front page of this News Sheet.

### **Christmas Purse Shoe Box Appeal**

We would like to thank the School Community for your kindness and generosity in helping us to be able contribute 122 Shoeboxes towards the Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Appeal 2022. Shoeboxes filled with items such as shampoo, bars of soap, toothbrushes, gloves and small toys will now be making their journey to lots of little boys and girls. Items we take for granted will seem like luxuries to children living in poverty. Thank you again. Your support is greatly appreciated.

### **Christmas Dinner**

Our pupils enjoyed a really tasty Christmas dinner in school on Friday 2nd December. A big thank you to Mrs Donna Campbell and her team in the kitchen for providing this

### **Daily Mile Santa Run**

Pupils took part in this on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

### **Christmas Shows**

A big well done to all our pupils for how well they performed during our Christmas Shows, every pupil in the school got the opportunity to be on stage and they were absolutely fabulous, and we are very proud of them all. We had our Nursery Nativity on 7<sup>th</sup> December and the Primary School presented 'Lights Camel Action' on 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> December. Tickets were sold out for these events and it was great to welcome parents and friends back into school for our first normal Christmas since the pandemic started. A big thank you to all of the staff also who worked so hard as a team to prepare for our Christmas Shows.

### **Cinderella Panto**

On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December, pupils from Year 3 - 7 including LSC enjoyed a trip to see 'Cinderella' at the Market Place Theatre in Armagh. It was a fantastic pantomime packed with magic, music, colourful characters, laugh-out-loud humour and a glittering set!

### **Choir at Rushmere**

The Choir visited Rushmere Shopping Centre on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December to sing Christmas Carols to the shoppers. A big well done to all our Choir members who performed so well and thanks to Muldrew who worked hard preparing them for this. Thank you also to the parents who went to Rushmere to support the pupils.

### **Year 2 Walk to Postbox**

On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December Year 2 walked to the Postbox to post their handmade Christmas cards to their family. They learned all about the journey of a letter. Before walking back to school, the children were very excited to choose a bun from The Home Bakery! The children really enjoyed their trip and especially their special treat!

### **Year 1 Christmas Trip to Navan Centre**

Year 1 and Year 2 pupils went to The Navan Centre in Armagh for an enchanting Christmas experience where they watched a live stage show called The Little Lost Reindeer. The pupils took part in a Christmas craft making activity, a Christmas singalong and visited Santa's house where they all received a gift. The boys and girls really enjoyed their Christmas trip.

### **Nursery Christmas Visit to Peter Pan's**

The Nursery really enjoyed our trip to Peter Pan's. We went on the bus and had great fun on the climbing frames, slides and trampoline.

### **Journey to Santa**

#### **Class Parties and Gifts**

All our classes will have their Christmas parties on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December, our Christmas Jumper Day. Every pupil will receive a selection box from the school.

## **Christmas Gifts**

This year we are again asking that instead of buying presents for staff that you consider donating to the St Vincent De Paul/Salvation Army Christmas Family Appeal. This year they are again asking you to donate money online at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/familyappeal-tsasvp>

## **Admissions for Nursery and Year 1 – September 2023**

The admissions process for Nursery and Year 1 will again be online and administered by the EA as usual. The application process for September 2023 will open at 12noon on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023** and close at 12 noon on **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023**. Parents can apply by clicking on <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions>

## **Year 7 Transfer to Post Primary School**

The post primary admissions process will be online for the second year. The Admissions portal opens at **12noon on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023** and closes at **4pm on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023**. Parents should apply on the EA website at <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions>

## **Coats**

Thank you to all parents for ensuring that your children are in school every day with a coat. Please ensure this continues throughout the winter. It is also important that your child's name is on all clothing.

## **After School Clubs**

You may be aware that teachers in Northern Ireland are currently involved in Industrial Action due to a pay dispute with the employers. As a result of this we will be unable to offer any after schools clubs until further notice.

## **Contingency Planning - Winter**

As we are now in Winter, the school has been reviewing its contingency plans, should the school need to close due to bad weather. Once again, we will be using our Text Alert system, school app and the school website to inform parents should a closure be necessary.

## **PSNI Online Safety Warning for Children receiving electronic Christmas Gifts**

Many children and young people will receive new devices and computer games for Christmas, but we're asking parents, do you know what your child is doing online or most importantly, who they are talking to?

For some children, it will be the first time they've owned a device that connects them to the online world. Even for older children, a new device means new corners of the digital landscape to explore – and unfortunately, new risks to be aware of.

Along with our partners at the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland, we have put together some key tips on how to make sure children enjoy the internet safely.

These tips include; checking the privacy, location and parental controls on devices that the child uses, checking the direct messages and chat functions on apps, using parental controls and having open conversations with their child about what they are doing online.

Parents and carers can access the Safeguarding Board NI App for online safety information and advice.

Practical tips and advice have been published on the Police Service's website here:  
<https://tinyurl.com/3ean6kbk>

### Office 365

We know that many pupils may get new computers/laptops over Christmas. Please do not buy Microsoft Office for these. Office 365 which includes Word, PowerPoint and Excel is available free of charge to all pupils. It can be downloaded following the guidance at the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/ycyd9f4b>

### Picking Pupils Up

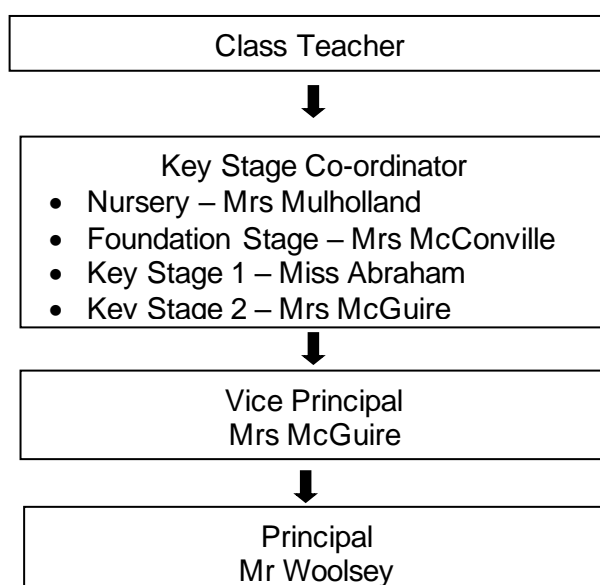
It is vital that parents are punctual when collecting their children otherwise they get anxious. If you are running late we would ask that you phone the office and inform us of this. If a child is not collected and we are unable to make contact with parents/carers and have exhausted all listed contacts, 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.

### 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 Dinner Menu**

<https://tinyurl.com/2p98m4vh>

**School Website**

Keep up to date with school news, information and events by logging on to [www.ballyoranps.com](http://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 download and authenticate the school app as all communication is now sent through the App. If you do not have the school app, you will miss vital communications from school.

**Thanks and Happy Christmas**

A big thank you to all my Staff for all their hard work this term, thank you also to parents for your continued support and finally, thank you to all of our amazing pupils, who we are so proud of, for making Ballyoran Primary School such a special place.

Wishing you all a Happy and Safe Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Richard Woolsey  
Principal