



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 – February 2023

Sickness

You will be aware of the increased levels of sickness this winter. It is our hope that things will start to improve as we move towards Spring.

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>

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>

Diary Dates for February 2023

1 st	Post Primary Admission Application Process opens online at midday
2 nd	Years 6 & 7 'Your Life' Sessions begin
3 rd	Year 4 Mental Health Workshop
4 th	Common Entrance Assessment Results published
6 th – 10 th	Children's Mental Health Week
7 th	Safer Internet Day
9 th	Years 6 & 7 'Your Life' Sessions
10 th	Non Uniform Day – Wear Red for Chest, Heart & Stroke - £1 per pupil
13 th – 17 th	School Closed for Half Term and Staff Training
22 nd	Year 5 Trip to Navan Centre
23 rd	Years 6 & 7 'Your Life' Sessions
	Post Primary Admission Application Process closes online at 4pm
24 th	Year 5 & 6 Swimming block begins Nursery Coaching Session

School Closures – February 2023

A reminder that school will be closed for Half Term from Monday 13th to Friday 17th February 2023.

Staffing

We welcome three new Classroom Assistants to Ballyoran: Miss Burke, Miss McCann and Mrs Black. We hope that you will all settle in very quickly.

We said farewell to Miss Connor recently who has been employed as a Classroom Assistant.

Office Hours Reminder

Please note the office hours are as follows:

Monday – Thursday: 8.15am – 4pm

Friday: 8.15am – 1.30pm

Closed: 11am – 11.15am for break and 1.15pm – 1.45pm for lunch

Nursery Pick Up Reminder

A reminder that all Nursery pupils should now be picked up at home time from the main Nursery entrance beside Reception. Parents should press the buzzer on arrival and your child will be brought to you.

Breakfast Club

A reminder that our Breakfast Club operates in the dinner hall daily from 8.15 - 8.45am. The cost is £1 per day and parents must book in advance by 12noon on the Friday of the week before by emailing jsloan341@c2kni.net

Healthy Eating

As you know Ballyoran Primary School is a Health Promoting School and there are a number of ways that we ensure this.

Healthy Breaks

Nursery to Year 2 get a healthy snack provided by the school, Year 3 – 7 must bring in their own healthy snack. To help parents we have created a table of suitable and non-suitable healthy break snacks:

Suitable healthy break snacks	Not allowed at break
Pieces of fresh fruit	Any type of confectionery, eg chocolate products and sweets
Fruit pots of sliced or chopped fresh fruit	Crisps and crisp-like products such as tortilla chips, potato sticks, corn chips, prawn crackers, puff crackers;
Canned fruit in natural juice	Cakes, buns or pastries
Salad pots	Cereal or fruit bars
Raw vegetables such as tomatoes, carrots, celery, peppers and cucumber	All biscuits
Bread, pancakes or scones with a thin spread of margarine	Fizzy drinks
Breadsticks or crackers with cheese	Dried fruit that has been sugared or coated in yogurt or chocolate;
Sandwiches, bagels, baguettes, pitta bread, tortilla wraps or rolls	Pretzels
Yogurts	Nuts

Lunch Boxes

We encourage parents who prepare a packed lunch to ensure it is balanced and healthy and includes sandwiches and fruit. No fizzy drinks are allowed in packed lunches. A leaflet giving guidance on packing a Healthy Lunch is available at <https://tinyurl.com/2s4z9cyv>

Water

We encourage pupils to drink plenty of water during the day as hydration is very important for children's concentration and learning. To do this pupils must have their own water bottle in school and we ask that you send in one with a non-spill lid.

More information on Healthy Eating can be found on the School Website at <https://ballyoran-primary-school.secure-primariesite.net/school-meals/>

Applications for Nursery and Year 1 for September 2023

The closing date for these was midday on Friday 27th January 2023. Parents will receive notification of placements on **Thursday 27th April 2023.**

Year 7 Transfer to Post Primary School

Year 7 pupils and their parents are currently considering their options for post primary school. I would encourage all Year 7 parents and pupils to take their time and look closely at all the options before deciding which school best fits. We wish our Year 7 pupils well as they make this very important decision.

A reminder about the post primary admissions process. The Admissions portal opens at **12noon on Wednesday 1st February 2023** and closes at **4pm on Thursday 23rd February 2023.**

Parents should log on to the EA website at <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions>

Safer Internet Day

This year we will celebrate Safer Internet Day on **Tuesday 7th February 2023.** Children will be involved in a special assembly and complete various activities throughout the day to help inform them of some of the dangers of being online.

Traffic Management

Unfortunately work on our new Traffic Management Scheme was delayed due to EA budget constraints but I am pleased to be able to inform you that this work will now begin in March. This will include a new entrance to the school off Ashgrove Road, a Parents car park and drop off area and a one way system. This will take up part of our all-weather pitch and greatly reduce the congestion in Ballyoran Park. It will hopefully greatly improve your overall experience when dropping off and picking up pupils.

Nursery Soccer Coaching

On Friday 27th January, the children in the Nursery enjoyed another visit from Coach Chris. We developed our football skills and enjoyed working together as a team.

County Board Gaelic Coaching

We welcome Liam McCorry from the Armagh County Board, back to Ballyoran. Liam is currently doing a six week block of coaching with Year 5 and 6 pupils.

Catholic Schools Week Mass

Year 7 pupils attended the Annual Catholic Schools Week Mass at St John The Baptist Church on Tuesday 24th January. Archbishop Eamonn Martin attended this Mass and pupils from many other local schools attended. This is the first time that the pupils have attended this service since the start of the pandemic.

Credit Union Poster Competition

Well done to the following LSC pupils who have been successful in the recent Credit Union Poster Competition, they all received very generous prizes from the Credit Union :

7 and under

2nd Place- Elainy d'Assuncao

8-10 years

1st Place- Jakub Czwojdrak

2nd Place- Balthasar Carlson Li

3rd Place Joint- Brian Golicki

3rd Place Joint- Tomas Connolly

11-13 years

2nd Place- Baldric Carlson Li

New Governor

Ballyoran Primary School has a new School Governor, Mrs Sharon Douglas has been appointed by the EA as a new Transferor Representative and we welcome her to her new role.

Pupil Attendance

As expected with all the winter illnesses, attendance was low during the month of December. Well done to the classes with the highest attendance for December which were:

Foundation Stage/Key Stage 1: Year 3

Key Stage 2: Year 6

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

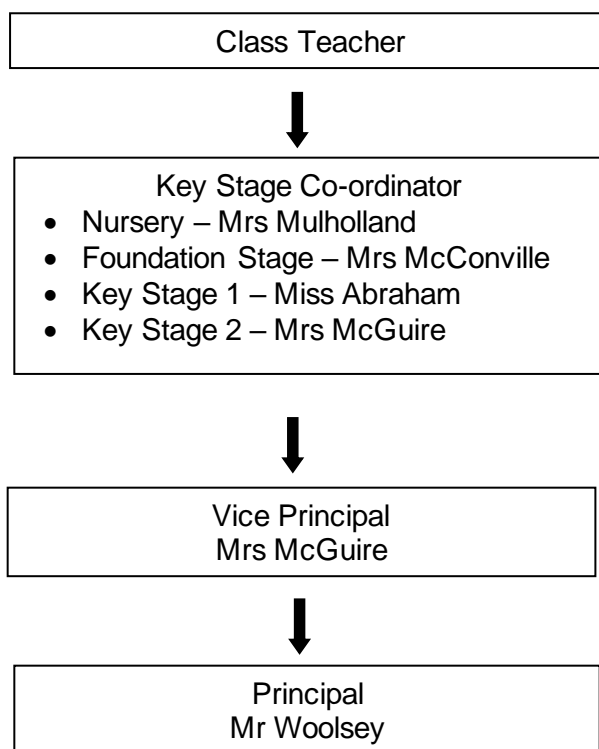
It is vital that parents are punctual when collecting their children otherwise they get anxious. If you are running late we would ask that you phone the office and inform us of this. If a child is not collected and we are unable to make contact with parents/carers and have exhausted all listed contacts,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

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:



Menu

<https://tinyurl.com/78mnp22s>

Enjoy the Half Term break.

Richard Woolsey
Principal