



### 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 – November 2022

### Half Term

A reminder that school will be closed for Half Term from **Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November**. School reopens on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November**.

### Firework Safety Talk

On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October, two Community Police Officers talked to Key Stage 2 pupils about staying safe and having a fun Halloween. They gave us great advice.

### 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 <sup>st</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup>	School Closed for Half Term
7 <sup>th</sup>	School reopens after Half Term
8 <sup>th</sup>	Photographer in school: individual pupils and family groups in school After School Gaelic begins
12 <sup>th</sup>	GL Assessment Transfer Test
14 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup>	Anti-Bullying Week
14 <sup>th</sup>	Odd Socks Day for Charity (Full Uniform as normal)
15 <sup>th</sup>	Nursery Football Coaching Session
18 <sup>th</sup>	Non Uniform Day – (Wear Something Spotty & Crazy Hair) & Bun Sale for Children in Need
25 <sup>th</sup>	End of Homework for Term 1

### Sickness

You will be aware that there is a lot of sickness around at the moment including an unpleasant vomiting and diarrhoea bug. A reminder that if pupils have this 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>

### **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 either in person or on the phone.

### **School Photographs**

Photographs of individuals and family groupings within the school, will be taken on **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022**. Individual photographs will be taken of every pupil, to allow us to update our School Information Management System. If you do not wish for your child's photograph to be taken, please let us know by emailing [jsloan341@c2kni.net](mailto:jsloan341@c2kni.net)

### **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: Nuria Encada Pires
- Vice Chairperson: Yuran Mendes

### **NSPCC**

The online Speak Out Stay Safe Assembly has been shared with pupils from Key Stage 1 and 2. The programme helps children to understand that they always have a right to feel safe and that they can speak to a trusted adult or Childline if they ever need help or support

On Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> October, volunteers from NSPCC worked with pupils from Year 6 and 7 explaining what abuse is, how to spot the signs and what to do if they are ever made to feel scared or worried by something.

### **Gaelic Blitz**

The Gaelic team had a great day out at a recent blitz hosted by St Oliver Plunkett's PS Ballyhegan. The team produced an excellent display of football, winning 3 matches and drawing 3 games. Captain for the day was Ollie Byrne who showed nerves of steel to score a magnificent equalizer with the last kick of the game in one match. Player of the tournament for Ballyoran was Year 5 pupil Liam Mulholland.

### **World Mental Health Day - Wear Yellow for Charity**

On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022 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. 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.

Following on from this, Year 6 participated in a 'Healthy Me' workshop. This was delivered on World Mental Health Day (Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022) by volunteers from Action Mental Health.

'Healthy Me' is a vibrant and engaging mental health promotion programme aimed at children, which explores emotional/mental health, healthy lifestyle choices and pathways to effective support through imaginative and interactive play and song. The children in Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed this and all were fully engaged.

### **Nursery Welly Boot Walk**

The children all really enjoyed our Sponsored Welly Boot Walk to raise money to buy a new water wall for our outdoor area. We were overwhelmed by your generosity and have raised an amazing £848. Thank you so much.

### **Year 1 & 2 Autumn Walks**

Years 1 & 2 went on lovely Autumn Walks to the People's Park to look for signs of Autumn. They collected natural materials such as leaves, acorns and sticks to use in their classroom. Before going back to school the children had lots of fun playing in the play park. All the children really enjoyed their trip.

### **PSNI Visit to Year 2**

On Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October, Year 2 had a very exciting visit from the PSNI to end their topic on Emergency Services. They have been learning all about the jobs of fire fighters, paramedics, lifeguards and the police. Emma, the policewoman discussed the roles and responsibilities of a policeman/woman and the children came prepared with a few questions to ask too. The children were very excited to sit inside a police car and listen to the very noisy sirens. Emma has told Year 2 to look out for her around Portadown and give her a wave.

### **Peer Paired Reading**

Four pupils from Year 7 attended Peer Paired Reading Training at Lough Neagh Discovery Centre. This was an exciting opportunity for Aishlinn Hughes, Maisie Millar, Kacper Skwara and Sienna Wright 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 Aishlinn, Maisie, Kacper and Sienna all the best as they start the Peer Paired Reading programme.

### **Eco Schools Energy Saving Challenge**

Energy Saving Week took place from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022. During this week we were promoting energy saving and carbon reduction in school and at home through an energy saving challenge. The challenge involved counting how many energy-saving daily tasks each child was able to complete at home. Our aim was to encourage everyone to take part in the challenge to make some simple changes to help save energy at home. Each class counted how many pupils were able to complete each task on the challenge sheet during the week.

Our results will be submitted and we will go up against lots and lots of schools across Northern Ireland. The school which saved the highest amount of CO<sub>2</sub> will get a prize of £1000 to be spent on a sustainability project to benefit our school. Five runner up schools will be rewarded with large potted willow trees to enhance the school grounds, helping to reduce the carbon footprint in our school and underpin our commitment to being energy heroes!

We wanted to make the challenge even more exciting, so the class which saved the most energy by completing the highest number of energy saving tasks at home will be rewarded with a movie afternoon in the assembly hall. The winning class was Year 4.

### **Year 3 Class Trip to Museum**

In the first half term of school, Year 3 have been learning about 'Houses and Homes'. Throughout this topic we have been able to learn about different types of homes, how homes are made, what different materials can be used to make homes. We have also compared homes in different countries and finally we compared items found in a house from the past and the present. On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September Year 3 visited Armagh County Museum. We took part in a workshop called 'Homes in the Past'. Using objects from the collection we explored how homes have changed as well as contrasted homes and family life in the past with homes today. Themes from our workshop included washing, cleaning, ironing and family activities in the home. We had a great morning and learnt so much.

### **Book Fair**

From Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October to Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> 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, always very popular. A total of £1054 was spent and a percentage of this will be used to buy books for school! We were delighted to have the Book Fair back into school and a huge thank-you must go to all the pupils, parents and friends who supported it – keep reading!

### **Year 7 Reach Workshops**

Mrs Heaney's/Mrs Walker's Year 7 class have been enjoying Personal Development and Self Esteem workshops with Gina Mc Knight, from the Education Authority, for the last 3 weeks. The sessions, which will conclude after Halloween, have encouraged the pupils to share their feelings and thoughts about a range of things including school, family, society and friendships. A big thank you to Gina for her enthusiasm and well done to all the Year 7s who took part energetically. We look forward to inviting Gina back to work with Mrs Brown's/ Mrs Martin's Year 7 class.

### **Young Enterprise**

Children in our Year 2 – Year 7 classes are thoroughly enjoying taking part in the Young Enterprise NI scheme. Young Enterprise develops the skills of young people to ensure they leave education prepared for work and life.

Each Young Enterprise programme is tailored to its specific age group.

<b>Year 2</b>	Ourselves
<b>Year 3</b>	Our Families
<b>Year 4</b>	Our Community
<b>Year 5</b>	Our City
<b>Year 6</b>	Our World
<b>Year 7</b>	Business Beginnings

Young Enterprise will also deliver a programme to our Year 1 pupils later this year.

### **Year 6 & 7 visit to St John The Baptist College for Annie**

Last Tuesday pupils from Year 6 and 7 attended the production 'Annie' at Saint John the Baptist College. The production was absolutely fantastic. It was lovely to see some of our former pupils in the cast, demonstrating their acting and singing talents. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the show and our pupils were great ambassadors for our school with their behaviour. Mr Woolsey was also delighted to receive a phonecall afterwards from Mrs Murray (Principal of SJBC) to praise our pupils on their excellent behaviour. As a reward each class received a Homework Pass.

### **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.

### **Breakfast Club**

Nursery – Year 7 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 [jsloan341@c2kni.net](mailto:jsloan341@c2kni.net). Children who have not been pre-booked should not attend.

### **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.

### **Car Parks**

A reminder that pupils and parents must use the Pedestrian Entrance only in the mornings and afternoons. Car Parks are for staff and visitors only. Please respect this policy by not entering the car parks in vehicles or on foot.

### **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**

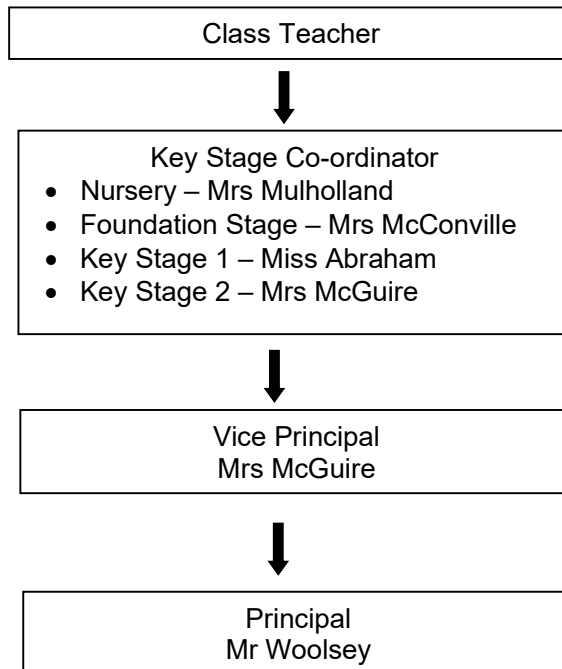
It is important that all parents download and authenticate the school app as all communication is now sent through the App. If you do not have the school app, you will miss vital communications from school.

### **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/2p98m4vh>

### **School Development Plan Priorities for This Year**

See last two pages

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

## School Development Plan Priorities 2022-2023

<p><b>Child Centred Provision</b>          * Climate of the School          * Pastoral Care          * Child Protection          * SEN Interventions/Support          * Inclusion/Diversity          * Healthy School</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Behaviour Management Development</li> <li>• Review Safeguarding &amp; Child Protection Policy</li> <li>• Staff Safeguarding &amp; Child Protection Training</li> <li>• Establish Operation Encompass</li> <li>• Staff Health Awareness Training</li> <li>• Staff Fire Safety Training</li> <li>• Staff Food Hygiene Training</li> <li>• Supporting Physical, Mental &amp; Emotional Health and Well Being of pupils &amp; staff:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Draft a School Well Being Strategy</li> <li>✓ Develop a Pupil Mental Health Ambassadors Programme</li> <li>✓ Develop Staff Well Being</li> <li>✓ Develop Mentoring and Counselling interventions</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Improve attendance</li> <li>• Nurture</li> <li>• Engage Programme – Yr 2</li> <li>• Grow and develop LSC</li> <li>• SEN             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ SEND Implementation – PLPs</li> <li>✓ Whole School Educational Provision and Special Educational Provision</li> <li>✓ Development of Primary Behaviour Support and Provisions</li> <li>✓ Seeking The Views of the Child</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Develop Playgrounds – new equipment, markings and zones</li> <li>• Eco School             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Green Flag Reassessment</li> <li>✓ Promote Wildlife &amp; Biodiversity</li> <li>✓ Development of Outdoor Learning</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Sustrans</li> </ul>
<p><b>High Quality Teaching &amp; Learning</b>          * Curriculum Provision          * Literacy &amp; Numeracy          * Learning &amp; Teaching Strategies          * Assessment/Data Analysis          * Self Evaluation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literacy Development             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Spelling: Phonics</li> <li>✓ Reading: Non-Fiction</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Numeracy Development             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Problem Solving</li> <li>✓ Data Handling</li> <li>✓ Mathematical Language</li> </ul> </li> <li>• ICT Development             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Desirable Feature: Digital Storytelling: Desktop Publishing</li> <li>✓ Review of ICT Skills Checklists</li> <li>✓ Develop use of Staff Surface Pros</li> <li>✓ Just Too Easy</li> </ul> </li> <li>• WAU - Gain Forest Schools Accreditation with Level 3 Award</li> <li>• PDMU             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Develop Mindfulness</li> <li>✓ Relax Kids Programme delivered in Yrs 6 &amp; 7 by school staff</li> <li>✓ Develop Young Enterprise by introducing in Year 1</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Music <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Audit</li> <li>✓ Recorder</li> <li>✓ Choir</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Art Audit</li> <li>• PE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Policy</li> <li>✓ Resources</li> <li>✓ Develop Daily Mile</li> <li>✓ Reintroduce after school clubs</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Develop Outdoor Play in Foundation Stage</li> <li>• Activity Based Learning in Key Stage 1</li> </ul> <p><b>Nursery</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop Talking &amp; Listening</li> <li>• Develop Early Mathematical Experiences</li> <li>• Develop Transitions to Year 1</li> <li>• Develop Progression from Nursery to FS</li> </ul>
<p><b>Effective Leadership</b>  * Effective School Development Plan  * Continuing Professional Development  * Curriculum Leadership  * Financial Management  * Accommodation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Middle Leadership Training</li> <li>• Review Educational Visits Policy</li> <li>• Audit for new School Development Plan</li> <li>• Rolling painting Programme</li> <li>• Minor Works Scheme - Traffic Management</li> </ul>
<p><b>School Connected to the Local Community</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared Education - Reintroduce face to face meetings with link school</li> <li>• New School Website</li> <li>• Introduce Cashless Payments System</li> <li>• Traffic Management Scheme and new Parents Car Park</li> </ul>