



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 – March 2022

Diary Dates for March 2022

3 rd	World Book Day (See Article)
7 th – 11 th	Parent/Teacher Consultation Week - school finishes early – staggered dismissals
7 th	Yr 6 & 7 Your Life Workshop
14 th	Nursery Football Coaching Session Yr 6 & 7 Your Life Workshop
17 th	School Closed St Patrick's Day Holiday
21 st	Sustrans Big Walk & Wheel Challenge begins Yr 6 & 7 Your Life Workshop

School Closures – March 2020

Ballyoran Primary School will be closed as follows during March:
Thursday 17th March – St. Patrick's Day

Covid-19 Update

You will be aware that the Health Minister removed the final Covid-19 restrictions from law into guidance recently. This however has had no impact in schools, where all DE Covid guidance remains unchanged and in place until we are advised otherwise. Therefore, I must ask you to continue to strictly adhere to the following:

1. If your child has any symptoms of Covid-19 please do not send them to school, or if they are unwell in any way please do not send them to school. Unfortunately, pupils who are unwell are being sent to school on a daily basis which is putting other pupils and staff at risk.
2. Although there is currently no advice from PHA to test primary school pupils regularly like post primary school pupils, I would ask you to consider doing LFD tests regularly with your child/children.
3. If your child tests positive for Covid-19 on a LFD Test, please do not send them to school, follow the PHA guidance on self-isolation and **please inform the school immediately.**
4. If anyone in your household tests positive for Covid-19, please do not send other pupils to school. This is to protect our school community as much as possible as we have seen in many cases that when one person gets Covid-19 in a household the other children eventually get it as well.
5. If another pupil in your child's class tests positive for Covid-19 we will inform you by text, please then carry out a LFD test on your child when they get home.
6. If there are a cluster of positive cases in a class, currently defined as 20% of the class at any one time, again you will be informed by text. **PHA guidance states that all pupils in that class must have a LFD Test before returning to school.**
7. Please encourage your children to adhere to the mitigations of good hand hygiene, good respiratory hygiene, staying in their bubbles, social distancing etc and please

continue to wear a face covering and social distance when coming into the school grounds yourself.

The most up to date PHA guidance can be found at:

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-self-isolating-and-close-contacts>

It is my hope that things will start to return to normal in school very soon but until then I would ask you to adhere to the guidance.

Safer Internet Day

This year Safer Internet Day took place on Tuesday 8th February and we celebrated with the theme 'All fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online'. Safer Internet Day celebrates young people's role in creating a safer internet, whether that is whilst gaming and creating content, or interacting with their friends and peers. To promote this in school, Mrs Biggerstaff spoke to Years 1-7 through a Zoom assembly about how they use the internet and how they can create a better internet for themselves and others. Through various classroom activities we discussed the positive things we use and need the internet for and also the dangers of the internet and Social Networking and how to keep safe online. We continue to encourage you as parents to closely monitor your child's online activity and have open discussions about this at home.

Safer Schools App

A letter will be going out to all parents on our School App this week about our new Safer Schools NI App. I would strongly encourage you download this app as this will help you keep your children safe online.

Nursery Football Coaching

Coach Chris visited us on Monday 7th February and all the children had a super time learning new skills.

Wear Red Day

On Friday 11th February, staff and children had a non-uniform 'Wear Red' day to raise money for The Northern Ireland Chest, Heart and Stroke Association. A total of £212.45 was raised. Thank you all for your support. It is greatly appreciated.

Year 5 Egyptian Trip to Navan Centre

On Wednesday 23rd February Year 5 travelled to the Navan Centre for an Egyptian themed trip. The day began with interactive activities based upon the origins and timeline of the ancient Egyptians. Then followed location activities and Year 6 were able to utilise their knowledge of the world to locate Egypt on a world map. The children enjoyed learning about the location of the River Nile and its importance. Following this the children participated in a workshop about the various Egyptian gods. The highlight of the trip was the exploration of the mummification process using a specially designed "mummy organs" costume, appropriate tools and Canopic jars. The children enjoyed further interaction with an Egyptian farmer and two of his slaves. They gained knowledge of an Egyptian house and the farming seasons. The children were very interested in certain items of furniture

within the house – including an oddly shaped pillow! They learned about how papyrus paper was made, the importance of cats and before ending our trip the children enjoyed making an Egyptian crown.

Parent/Teacher Telephone Consultations

A reminder that Parent / Teacher Consultations will take place by telephone during the week Monday 7th March – Friday 11th March 2022. You will shortly receive your date and time and we would encourage you to attend as this is a vital part of partnership with parents. School will finish at lunchtime during this week for all pupils. Dismissal times will be as follows:

- Nursery & Year 1: 1pm
- Year 2: 1.05pm
- Year 3: 1.10pm
- Year 4: 1.15pm
- Year 5: 1.20pm
- Year 6: 1.25pm
- Year 7: 1.30pm

World Book Day

World Book Day is on Thursday 3rd March. This year we are celebrating the 25th anniversary of World Book Day – with the message for all children *'you are a reader'*! It will be filled with lots of exciting, celebratory ways to promote reading for pleasure on World Book Day, and all-year round. On World Book Day children should come to school dressed as their favourite, well known book character. Please click the following link for more information on World Book Day in Ballyoran Primary School:

<https://www.ballyoranps.com/world-book-day/>

Sustrans Big Walk & Wheel Challenge

We are encouraging children to stay active on the journey to school this Spring with our **Big Walk and Wheel Challenge!** The challenge will begin on **Monday 21st March** and finishes on **Friday 1st April**.

The challenge is to walk, scoot, wheel or cycle to school each morning for 10 days. Each day the Eco Committee will be collecting in the active travel totals of each class. Our school will be competing against other schools to be in with the chance of winning some fantastic prizes!

Throughout the 10-day challenge we will be running an in school Art Competition. A winner will be chosen from each class for the most creative poster to promote active travel.

Cycling, scooting or walking to school is an excellent form of exercise, helps children do better in the classroom, and is great fun!

Thanking you in advance for your support with this initiative.



Red Nose Day

We are supporting Comic Relief - Red Nose Day this year. Comic Relief is a major charity based in the UK which strives to create a just world, free from poverty. Their mission is to

drive positive change through the power of entertainment. Red Nose Day 2022 is on Friday 18th March. In the run up to this day, we will be giving all children from Year 1 – Year 7 the opportunity to buy a red nose. Red noses will cost £1.50 each. There are eight different red nose characters. All the noses are 100% plastic-free, including the packaging, making them green as well as red. All money raised helps fight issues like homelessness, domestic abuse, poverty and mental health problems that have been severely impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

Coats Rule

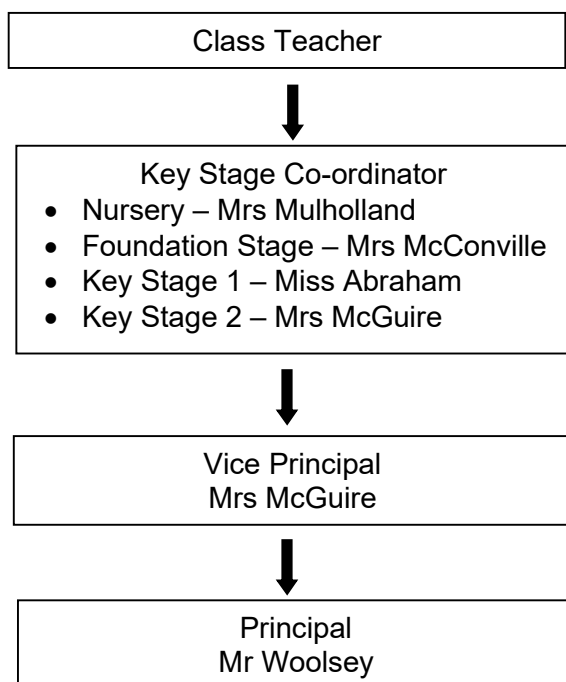
From Monday 7th March the coats rule will be relaxed as we move into Spring. We would however encourage you to ensure that your child has a coat with them on cold or wet days.

Names on Clothing

Pupils frequently lose items of clothing in school and it is very difficult for staff to reunite lost items with pupils if there are no names on the item. With this in mind, I would ask that parents ensure that all items of school uniform and PE uniform have your child's name on them.

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.

Term Dates & Holidays 2022/2023

<https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/ballyoran-primary-school/UploadedDocument/935ff698-ef71-42ad-8b4a-487ab5f039fc/term-dates-and-holidays-2022-2023.pdf>

Menu for Term 2

[menu-term-2.pdf \(primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com\)](https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/menu-term-2.pdf)

Richard Woolsey
Principal