



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 – April 2022

Diary Dates for April 2022

4 th	Nursery Football Coaching Session
7 th	Year 4 First Confession: St John's Church at 5pm
13 th	Last day of term, no uniform, no dinner, unhealthy break
14 th – 22 nd	Easter Holidays
25 th	Summer Term begins
28 th	Nursery & Year 1 Admissions Letters to arrive with parents

End of Term Arrangements

Wednesday 13th April is the last day of term. There will be no uniform, no dinners and school will finish early. Pupils may bring an unhealthy break. The following Staggered Dismissals will apply:

- 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

Easter Holidays

Please note that school will be closed from **Thursday 14th April to Friday 22nd April 2022** for the Easter Holidays. School reopens for the Summer Term on **Monday 25th April 2022**.

Staffing

We say farewell to Mrs O'Connor at the end of March who has retired as a cleaner after 10 years' service at the school. We thank her for her hard work, commitment and dedication over the years and wish her well for the future.

We also said goodbye to Mrs McCartan who was with us for a short time as a Year 1 SEN Classroom Assistant. We wish her well in her new post.

We welcome Miss Connor and Miss Warnock who have joined the staff as Classroom Assistants in Yr 4 and Yr 1 and LSC.

Covid-19

The Department of Education is in the process of reviewing Covid Guidance for schools with changes expected for Term 3. I will update you on this when I receive it. In the meantime I would encourage all parents to continue to follow the current PHA guidance.

Parent/Teacher Consultations

A big thank you to parents for taking part in the Parent/Teacher Consultations at the beginning of March. These are a vital part of our home-school partnership and we are delighted with the very pleasing overall take up rate of 86%.

Summer Uniform

After the Easter Holidays, pupils may come to school wearing the summer uniform as follows:

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

We continue to be very proud of how smart our pupils look in their uniform and encourage parents to ensure that pupils wear full school uniform until the end of June

A reminder also that the only jewellery permitted in school is a pair of stud ear rings and a watch.

Coats

As we have moved into Spring and the weather is a bit milder, a reminder that we are no longer enforcing the coats rule at break and lunch. We would, however encourage you to ensure your child/children come to school with a coat on a wet or cold day.

Coach Chris in Nursery

On Monday 14th March, the children in the Nursery enjoyed their visit from Coach Chris. We developed our football skills and look forward to his next visit.

World Book Day 2022

Pupils and staff at Ballyoran PS enjoyed participating in World Book Day 2022. The message to celebrate the 25th anniversary for World Book Day was 'you are a reader'! The day was filled with lots of exciting, celebratory ways to promote reading for pleasure. Staff and pupils dressed up as their favourite book character, we participated in a 'Stop, Drop and Read' event and we had lots of fun guessing the members of staff behind 'The Masked Reader'. It was a fantastic day enjoyed by all and we thank Miss Abraham, our Literacy Co-ordinator for organising the day and all our parents/guardians for supporting it and making it such a huge success.

Comic Relief - Red Nose Day

Thank you all for your support in helping to raise money for Comic Relief - Red Nose Day on Friday 18th March 2022. Our Pupil Council members did a great job of visiting classes from Year 1 to Year 7 to sell the Red Noses. The Red Noses proved to be extremely popular and sold out fast. A total of £300 was raised for the charity.

Sustrans Big Walk and 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 has been running from 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 have been collecting in the active travel totals of each class. Our school is competing against other schools to be in with the chance of winning some fantastic prizes!

Throughout the 10-day challenge we have also been 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 for your support with this initiative.



Your Life Programme

Our Year 6 and Year 7 pupils have taken part in the 6-week 'Your Life' programme, which was delivered by Jeanie Graham. The programme aims to raise awareness amongst young people about the dangers of smoking, alcohol and drugs. Jeanie also gave the children advice on how to deal with negative peer pressure. All children were fully engaged and found it very informative.

Attendance

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

Foundation/Key Stage 1: Year 3 – 92.3%
Key Stage 2: Year 5 – 91.7%

These classes received the Attendance Cup and a Certificate and every pupil got a voucher entitling them to one night off homework.

The whole school attendance percentage for February was 92.8%.

Demolition of Building Supervisor's House

You will have noticed a lot of work going on around the school in recent weeks, this was the demolition of the old Building Supervisor's House.

Ukraine Appeal

A big thankyou again to everyone who so generously supported our Ukraine Appeal recently which raised an amazing £1000. This money is now on its way to help those most in need through the Disasters Emergency Committee's (DEC) Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.

Special Diets

Special diets can be required for a wide variety of medical conditions including food allergies, food intolerance, diabetes and coeliac disease. Other children follow special diets for religious or cultural reasons or because they are vegetarian or vegan. If your child requires a special diet, please contact the office as you will need to complete a Special Diet Application Form and Special Diet Medical Form. These forms are also available on the website in 'Parents' and 'School Meals'.

Diabetes

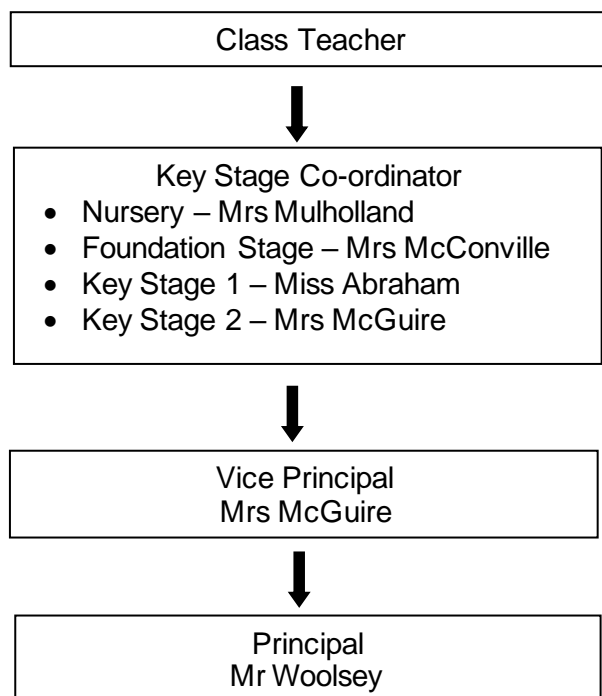
An increasing number of children and young people are being diagnosed with diabetes. Parents are reminded about the possible signs of diabetes to watch out for in their children – The 4 Ts:

- Toilet
- Tired
- Thirsty
- Thinner

If your child is experiencing any of the 4Ts, visit your doctor immediately. Don't delay as Type 1 diabetes can be fatal.

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.

Menu

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

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

Finally, I would like to thank all members of the school community for their support during another very busy and challenging term and wish everyone a happy and relaxing Easter Break

Richard Woolsey
Principal