



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 – January 2022

Merry Christmas



Winning Design for School Christmas Card Competition
by
Jackson Pereira (Year 1)

Covid-19

You will be aware from the media that the new Omicron variant of Covid-19 has now been detected in Northern Ireland, obviously this is causing anxiety and poses a challenge for everyone. In the new year I would again appeal for your support and co-operation with the following:

- 1.If your child is unwell in any way please keep them at home until they are better.
Children should not be in school if they are not well enough to be here, this is not fair on the child and it puts the health of other pupils and staff at risk. I would remind parents that if a child has vomiting or diarrhoea, they should be kept at home and not return to school for 48 hours after their last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea. Please see more detailed guidance on how long you need keep pupils at home, when they are sick at:
<https://tinyurl.com/yrypxhhi>
<https://tinyurl.com/2ftth5j5>
- 2.If your child is displaying any of the three main Covid-19 symptoms, please keep them at home and book a PCR Test.
- 3.If your child receives a positive PCR test result please inform the school immediately and ensure they self isolate.
- 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.Please encourage your children to adhere to the mitigations of good hand hygiene, good respiratory hygiene, staying in their bubbles, social distancing and not sharing things.
- 6.Please ensure that you wear a face covering when coming into the school grounds and keep a social distance from other parents.

End of Term Arrangements

School will finish on Friday 17th December 2020 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 to aid social distancing:

- 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 6th January 2022.

Diary Dates for January 2022

6th Term 2 Begins

10th Nursery and P1 Online Applications opens at 12 noon

28th Nursery & P1 Online Applications closes at 12 noon

Staffing

As you know our secretary Mrs Sloan is on Maternity Leave. Mrs Harbinson has been covering in the office this term but unfortunately will be leaving us at Christmas. We say a big thank you to her for all her hard work this term and wish her well in her new job. Mrs Durand will be taking over from her.

We welcome Miss Conlon to Ballyoran as a Classroom Assistant in Year 4.

Mrs Brown will return to work in the new year.

Christmas Card Competition

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

Class	Winner	Runner Up
Year 1Bi	Jackson Pereira	Enda Creaney
Year 1Ba	Dylan Mulholland	Joel Ximenes
Year 2	Maria Fialho	Sadie Hall
Year 3	Caitlin Corrigan	Logan Neill
Year 4	Brodie Winter	Sophie McCann
Year 5	Connor McGeown	Caelan Corkin
Year 6B/M	Kacper Skwara	Alannah Donlon
Year 6M	Aishlinn Hughes	Courtney McGeown
Year 7	Michael Martins	Jaciara Mendes Da Silva
LSC	Baldric Carlson Li	Tomas Connolly

Well done to Jackson Pereira (Yr 1) who was the overall winner for the entire school. His design has been made into our official school Christmas Card for this year and features on the front page of this News Sheet.

Ditch The Dark Day

On Thursday 2nd December pupils took part in 'Ditch the Dark Day' by wearing bright colours to school. The children looked fantastic. A special thank you to Mr Dave Wiggins from Sustrans who brought us the message 'Be Bright and Be Seen' in Assembly. We hope this will encourage all our pupils to stay bright and seen, encourage more to walk to school and keep active and healthy.

Year 1 Christmas Trip to Navan Centre

On Wednesday 1st December, both Year 1 classes visited the Navan Centre for 'A Christmas Experience'. We enjoyed a Christmas show about an Elf before visiting Santa to tell him what we would like for Christmas. Each child also got given a selection box as of course all the Year 1 children made it on to Santa's 'Nice list'. We then made a lovely Christmas decoration

and had some festive treats. We all had a fantastic day and the staff commented on the brilliant behaviour of all our boys and girls. Well done Year 1!

Journey to Santa

Over a 4-week period (Monday 15th November to Friday 10th December) the children have been actively taking part in the Sustrans Programme – Journey to Santa. As a whole school we completed the challenge by travelling over 2500 miles to reach the North Pole. Children took part by walking, scooting or cycling to and from school, exercising at home and in school.

Well done to **Year 5** who were the winning class. They travelled a grand total of 1426 miles over the 4 weeks. Each Year 5 pupil received a prize and one lucky pupil received a £10 Halfords voucher in the class raffle.

Well done to Year 7 for winning 2nd place and to Year 2 for winning 3rd place in the race.

Thank you to everyone who supported this initiative.

Year 7 Business Beginnings

Over the last eight weeks, Year 7 pupils have been learning about roles within a business and putting their learning into practice by producing merchandise to sell in school. They were guided and encouraged by Mary from Moy Park who said she had never encountered such enthusiasm. The pupils worked in three companies – 1. Sweet Treats 2. Imagine Pets 3. Choc Box, and were sold out of their Christmas-themed merchandise in just under two days! A few natural entrepreneurs were definitely spotted! Well done to all the Year 7s who worked hard and earned a profit for each pupil – spend it wisely.

Credit Union Poster Competition

Well done to the following pupils from our LSC who have been successful in the Annual Credit Union Art Competition:

Age 7 and Under

2nd- Elainy Costa D'Assuncao

Age 8 - 10

1st- Tomas Connolly

2nd- Brian Golicki

3rd Joint- Balthasar Carlson Li

3rd Joint- Baldrick Carlson Li

All of the pupils received very generous monetary prizes.

Class Christmas Performances

These went live on our website on Friday 10th December and a big well done to all our pupils for their efforts in bringing us some much needed Christmas Cheer – we are so proud of all of you. Thanks also to all the staff for planning and putting these together. If you have not had a chance to watch these yet, please do so, you are in for a real treat.

Class Christmas Squares Draw

Thank you all for supporting our Christmas Draw. The winners were:

Nursery 1	Hayley Byrne
Nursery 2	Meabh Larkin
Year 1Bi	Carlos Da Veiga
Year 1Ba	Leon Geary
Year 2	Graciette Fore
Year 3	Reyna Kaplan
Year 4	Leanna McGeown
Year 5	Jamie McNeice
Year 6M	Maisie Millar
Year 6B/M	Thomas Wisniewski
Year 7	Nicolas Magalhaes
LSC	Tomas Connolly

Christmas Dinner

Our pupils enjoyed a really tasty Christmas dinner in school on Friday 3rd December. A big thank you to Mrs Donna Campbell and her team in the kitchen for providing this.

Class Parties and Gifts

All our classes will have their Christmas parties on Thursday 16th December, our Christmas Jumper Day. **Pupils should not bring food into school, this will be provided by the staff.** 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/education-authority1>

Admissions for Nursery and Year 1 – September 2021

The admissions process for Nursery and Year 1 will again be online and administered by the EA. The application process for September 2021 will open at 12 noon on **Thursday 7th January 2021** and close at 12 noon on **Friday 29th January 2021**. 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 go online this year, similar to Nursery and P1. The Admissions portal opens at **12noon on Tuesday 1st February 2022** and closes at **4pm on Wednesday 23rd February 2022**. Parents should log on to 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.

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.

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://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/ballyoran-primary-school/UploadedDocument/d5bbddf2cd414c87817fc7bb68ca8e5e/downloading-microsoft-office-for-pupils.pdf>

Picking Pupils Up

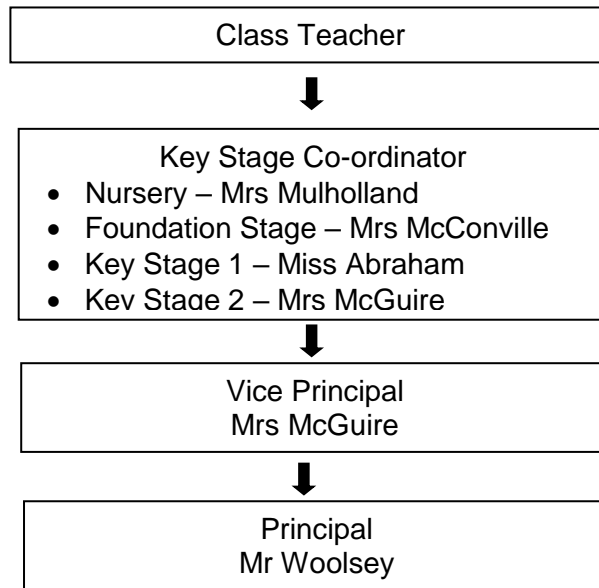
It is vital that parents are punctual when collecting their children otherwise they get anxious. If you are running late we would ask that you phone the office and inform us of this. If a child is not collected and we are unable to make contact with parents/carers and have exhausted all listed contacts, 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 for January 2022

There is a new menu for Term which can be found at:

<https://ballyoran-primary-school.secure-primariesite.net/menus-2020-2021/>

Thanks and Happy Christmas

A big thank you to all my Staff for all their hard work in keeping our pupils safe and ensuring that high quality learning and teaching has continued during this very challenging time.

Thank you also to parents for your continued support, co-operation and patience in these challenging days.

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 and hopefully more positive New Year.

Richard Woolsey
Principal

