



News Sheet – May 2021

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

Welcome Back

We welcome all of our pupils back after the Easter Holidays, we hope that everyone had a pleasant and relaxing Easter Break. We are delighted that all of our pupils are back in school and it is great to see a very pleasing level of attendance.

Diary Dates for May 2021

May

3rd School closed – Bank Holiday
4th-7th Parent/ Teacher Meetings by phone (School closed early each day).
5th Year 4 First Confession 5pm: St John the Baptist Church
18th Photographer in School - Class Photos
22nd First Holy Communion: 1pm St John the Baptist Church
31st School Closed - Bank Holiday

June

1st School Closed - Staff Development Day

School Closures – May 2021

School will be closed as follows in May:

- Monday 3rd May: Bank Holiday
- Monday 31st May: Bank Holiday

First Holy Communion

We wish our Year 4 pupils well for their First Holy Communion on Saturday 22nd May 2021.

Staffing

Building Supervisor

We say Farewell and Thank you to Mr Creaney, who has retired after 30 years as our Building Supervisor. We thank him for his service and wish him a long and happy retirement.

Farewell and Thank you also to Mr Moffett who has been filling in for Mr Creaney over this past year.

Our new Building Supervisor is Mr Glavin and we welcome him to Ballyoran and hope that he settles into the school and his new role very quickly and we wish him well in his new job.

Classroom Assistants

We also want to say Thank you and Farewell to Mrs Thompson, one of our Classroom Assistants who has recently left us. Mrs Thompson was with us for nearly two years and we wish her well in her new school. Mrs Thompson has been replaced on a temporary basis in Year 5 by Miss Johnston who we welcome to Ballyoran.

Covid-19 Reminders

Sickness/ Covid Symptoms

During this time, we would ask that pupils who are in any way unwell are kept at home. A reminder that pupils must not be sent to school if they are anyone in the household is displaying any of the three Covid-19 Symptoms and parents should follow the PHA guidance:

- **High Temperature**
- **New continuous cough** (this means coughing a lot for more than an hour or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hrs.)
- **Loss of or change in sense of smell or taste**

Face Coverings

Following Department of Education guidance, all parents entering the school grounds must now wear a face covering and I want to thank the vast majority of parents who are adhering to this policy. We would also encourage parents waiting to collect pupils outside the school grounds to wear a face covering.

Staggered Arrival Times

These remain unchanged with the morning arrival period of 30 minutes and 3 arrival windows and we would ask parents to stick strictly to these:

- 8.40am – 8.50am: A – G
- 8.50am – 9.00am: H – M
- 9.00am – 9.10am: Mc – Z

Daily Timings & Entrances/Exits

Class	Arrival Entrance	Finish Time	Departure Exit
Nursery	Red Nursery Outdoor Play Area Gate	Staggered Departures 1:00 -1:10pm - A - F 1:10 -1:20pm - G - M 1:20 -1:30pm - N - Z	Red Nursery Outdoor Play Area Gate
Year 1	Red Nursery Outdoor Play Area Gate	Mon – Thurs: 1.45pm Fri: 1.30pm	Red Nursery Outdoor Play Area Gate
Year 2	Red Nursery Outdoor Play Area Gate	Mon – Thurs: 2pm Fri: 1.45pm	Red Nursery Outdoor Play Area Gate
Year 3	Front Door	Mon – Thurs: 2.30pm Fri: 2pm	Mon –Thur: Car Park 2 Gate Fri: Red Nursery Outdoor Play Area Gate
Year 4	Front Door	Mon – Thurs: 2.45pm Fri: 1.45pm	Car Park 2 Gate
Year 5	Back Gate in Car Park 2 beside Caretaker's Residence	Mon – Thurs: 2.50pm Fri: 1.50pm	Car Park 2 Gate
Year 6	Front Door	Mon – Thurs: 2.55pm Fri: 1.55pm	Car Park 2 Gate
Year 7	Back Gate in Car Park 2 beside Caretaker's Residence	Mon – Thurs: 3pm Fri: 2pm	Car Park 2 Gate

Reporting a Positive Covid-19 Case in one of our pupils

We ask that you inform the school immediately if one of our pupils receives a Confirmed Positive Covid-19 Test Result, if this is during office hours (8.15am – 4pm Monday – Thursday & 8.15am – 3.45pm on Fridays) phone the office on 02838352009.

If your child gets the positive test result out of school hours (evenings & weekends) it is important that we know as soon as possible so advice can be taken from PHA and action taken if necessary before schools starts the following day or on the Monday morning.

To allow us to do this we would ask that you please email us at info@ballyoran.portadown.ni.sch.uk giving us the following information:

- Name of child
- Class
- When you received the test result
- The date that the pupil was last in school

Please note that this procedure is strictly only to be used to inform us of a confirmed positive case of Covid-19 in one of our pupils.

All other reporting of absence, for example a pupil displaying symptoms of Covid-19 or other household members displaying symptoms, or positive test results for other members of the household, should be reported during school hours only.

Confirmation

Year 7 pupils made their Confirmation on Thursday 29th April 2021 in St. John the Baptist Church. Everyone looked very smart in their new clothes and enjoyed the celebration.

Year 7 Post Primary Letters to Parents

Year 7 Parents will not find out which School their child has received a post primary place in, until Saturday 19th June.

Attendance

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

Foundation/Key Stage 1: Year 1: 95.9%
Key Stage 2: Year 6 – 91.8%

Summer Uniform

Pupils may come to school wearing the summer uniform as follows:

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

We continue to be very proud of how smart our pupils look in their uniform.

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. Some parents are still not informing us when they change their mobile phone numbers. This is unacceptable and leaves us in a very difficult position if for example we needed to contact you if your child was seriously ill. 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.

Loan Devices and Wi Fi

If any pupils are off self-isolating, pupils work will be provided online using Google Classroom, if your child does not have a device, school can loan you a device for the duration of the absence. Wi Fi Vouchers are also available for anyone who does not have access to Broadband in their house.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

These will take place for Yr 1 – 7 pupils by phone from Monday 4th – Friday 7th May 2021. You will not receive a set time for the call, so if you see the school phone number coming up on your screen please answer the call. If you are unavailable the teacher will leave a message, please call the school back and a more suitable time can then be arranged. To facilitate this, school will close early as follows:

Yr 1: 1.00pm

Yr 2: 1.10pm

Yr 3: 1.20pm

Yr 4: 1.15pm

Yr 5: 1.20pm

Yr 6: 1.25pm

Yr 7: 1.30pm

Please note as Nursery are not involved in these, nursery pupils will finish at their normal times.

Zero Tolerance of Abuse to Staff Policy

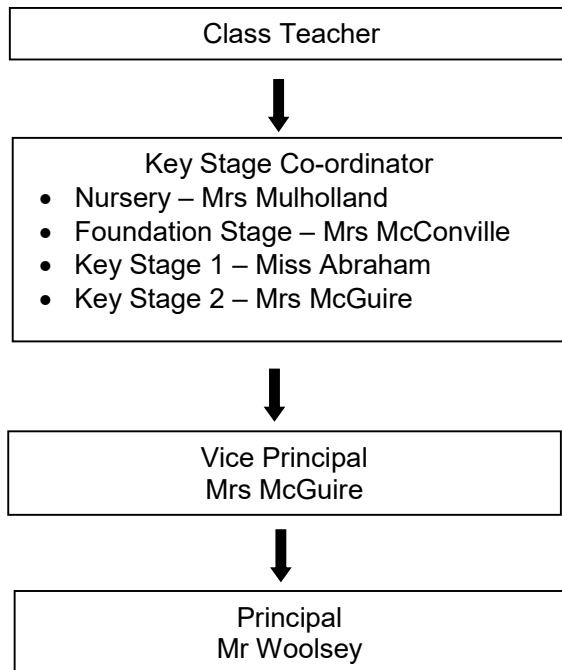
Thankfully the vast majority of interactions between parents and staff are very positive and respectful, however unfortunately there have been a very small number of instances when school staff have been verbally abused by parents. The Board of Governors has a duty of care to staff and as a response to this they have recently adopted a new Policy – '*Zero Tolerance of Abuse to Staff*', which is available on the school website at <https://tinyurl.com/56vz39k3>

Nuts

As you are aware we endeavour to ensure that no nuts or nut based products are brought into school to protect those pupils who have severe nut allergies. At times staff are having to remove products from lunch boxes e.g. Nutella bars. We ask you to please co-operate with our 'No Nuts' policy.

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. DE guidance currently does not permit face to face meetings but staff will be very happy to talk to you on the phone. Please contact the office to arrange a suitable time. We would encourage you to follow the flow chart below when raising general queries / concerns:



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

Sun Safe

As we slowly move from Spring to Summer and hopefully more sunshine, I would remind all of our parents to ensure that children are safe in the sun during the school day. This includes ensuring they have sun cream on in the morning and sending them with water and a sun cap.

Principal Weekly Class Visits

The Principal visits each class formally on a weekly basis, every Wednesday. During this visit, reward stickers are given out to pupils.

Weekly Zoom Assembly

The whole school comes together every Friday morning on zoom for a virtual assembly, which pupils and staff enjoy greatly.

Road Safety Poster Competition

During online learning in March 2021, Road Safe NI invited our school to participate in their upcoming Northern Ireland Regional Road Safety Poster Competition aimed at Year 5 children. The competition was an open theme for example the poster could be based around hi-vis, seatbelts, mobile phones etc. and the poster could be hand drawn or digitally drawn.

Four winning posters were then chosen from each local Council District and prizes issued to winners. The winning posters from each district would then go into a regional final where the top four posters would be nominated for a Regional prize.

We are so ecstatic and proud to be able to say that two Year 5 pupils from our school were selected as winners from the ABC District. These pupils were **Maisie Millar** from Miss Baird's class and **Kacper Skwara** from Mrs McGuire and Mrs McMurray's class.

The posters of both our pupils' were then entered into the regional Northern Ireland final. The standard of posters was so high, the judges at Drive tech found it very difficult to select the top four and decided on the top eight posters. Incredibly, **Maisie Millar** has been placed as a winner in the Regional Final of the Northern Ireland Road Safety Poster Competition.

Miss Baird's class will take part in a virtual prize giving via zoom on Monday 10th May 2021 at 11.15am and during this it will be announced where each winner has been placed. As a school we are so proud of both Kacper and Maisie for the amazing posters they made and the important road safety messages they have delivered through their work.

Dinner Menu

The Menu for May is available at:

<https://tinyurl.com/nc53hxdj>

Richard Woolsey
Principal