



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 – October 2020

It is very hard to believe that the children have now been back in school for nearly six weeks. All of our pupils have settled back into school and have adapted really well to the new routines and procedures and we are very proud of all of them. Staff have worked tirelessly to ensure the return to school has been smooth and have also adapted very well to the new situation and I am very proud of all of them also. Finally I want to again thank all our parents for your support, patience and co-operation over these last six weeks, in ensuring a very successful start to the new year.

Covid-19

Thank you to all of our parents for the part that you are playing in keeping our school safe during the current pandemic. Please see important reminders on pages 7 and 8. You can also find up to date information on the school website at <https://www.ballyoranps.com/coronavirus-guidance/>

Diary Dates – October 2020

14 th	Nursery Welly Boot Walk
19 th	Parent/Teacher Meetings – School Closed for Pupils
26 th – 30 th	School Closed for Half Term

Advance Dates

We aim to work in partnership with parents and, with this in mind; we have arranged as many dates as possible for the school year to give parents as much notice as possible. These can be found on the Calendar on our website www.ballyoranps.com.

School Closure: October 2020

Please note that school will be closed as follows:

Monday 19th October for Parent/Teacher Meetings

Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October for Half Term

Book Fair

Unfortunately, due to the current restrictions, we are unable to have our Book Fair in school, which usually happens during October.

First Aid

Our 4 First Aiders are:

- Mr Hendron (Co-ordinator)
- Mrs Glavin
- Mrs Baxter
- Mrs Bell

Fizzy Drinks

A reminder that as part of our Healthy Schools Policy, we do not permit pupils to bring fizzy drinks into school.

Healthy Breaks

Nursery to Year 2 get a healthy snack provided by the school, Year 3 – 7 must bring in their own healthy snack. To help parents we have created a table of suitable and non-suitable healthy break snacks:

Suitable healthy break snacks	Not allowed at break
Pieces of fresh fruit	Any type of confectionery, eg chocolate products and sweets
Fruit pots of sliced or chopped fresh fruit	Crisps and crisp-like products such as tortilla chips, potato sticks, corn chips, prawn crackers, puff crackers
Canned fruit in natural juice	Cakes, buns or pastries
Salad pots	Cereal or fruit bars
Raw vegetables such as tomatoes, carrots, celery, peppers and cucumber	All biscuits
Bread, pancakes or scones with a thin spread of margarine	Fizzy drinks
Breadsticks or crackers with cheese	Dried fruit that has been sugared or coated in yogurt or chocolate
Sandwiches, bagels, baguettes, pitta bread, tortilla wraps or rolls	Pretzels
Yogurts	Nuts

Nut Allergy Advice

A number of our pupils have a very serious nut allergy. These children can become very ill if exposed to nuts in any form. Even touching anyone/anything that has been in contact with nuts or nut products can cause a severe reaction. In order to protect these pupils, we will be attempting to make the school a NUT FREE environment. We would therefore be grateful if all parents could ensure that their children do not come to school with nuts or any items containing nuts, e.g. snickers, peanut butter or nutella sandwiches, cashew/brazil/hazel nuts etc. We ask all parents to be particularly careful when preparing children's lunches. Thank you for your cooperation.

Food Allergies

Legislation means that the school kitchen must be aware of any pupils with food allergies. Whilst most special dietary requirements and food allergies should have been made known to the school already through the Medical Register forms, it is of vital importance to inform us if you have not done so already or if your child becomes allergic to something during the school year. Our school kitchen will in turn make appropriate adjustments to their menus.

Lunchbox Leaflet

We encourage parents of pupils who take a Packed Lunch, to ensure it is healthy. Leaflets will be made available to all parents.

Free School Meals

Are you aware that many people in Northern Ireland who are entitled to Free School Meals are not claiming them?

If you can answer 'Yes' to any of the following questions, you **may** be entitled to Free School Meals:

Are you in receipt of:

- Income Support?
- Income-Based Jobseeker's Allowance?
- Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance?
- Guarantee Element of Pension Credit?

If you are **not** receiving one of the above benefits

- Are you in receipt of **Child Tax Credit** and/or **Working Tax Credit** and have an annual taxable income of £16,190 or less?
- Are you in receipt of **Universal Credits** and have net household earnings not exceeding £14,000 per year?
- Are you an Asylum Seeker supported by the Home Office Asylum Support Assessment Team (ASAT)?

If you have answered 'Yes' to any of these questions and are not in receipt of Free School Meals, please contact Mrs Mayers in the office or visit the school website 'Parents' and 'Apply for free School Meals/Uniform Allowance'.

School Uniform

I want to say a big thank you to all our parents for ensuring that your children are in full school uniform every day. Our pupils look so smart in the uniform and we ask that you ensure that these high standards are maintained all year. A reminder that replacement ties and PE bags can be purchased from the office for £3 each.

Please note that hooded tops (hoodies) are not permitted in school.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

These will take place on Monday 19th October and information has been sent to you about this.

House System

The school continues to operate the House Competition. All pupils have been placed into one of three houses:

Bann, Lagan and Foyle

Points are awarded to pupils for a range of things, (e.g. good manners) and the points are displayed in the Assembly Hall each week with a monthly House Cup presented to the House with the most points.

Congratulations to the following Yr 6 and 7 pupils who have been elected as Captain and Vice Captains this year.

House	Captain	Vice-Captain
Bann	Nayara Mendes Sanches	Heidi Campbell
Foyle	Jade McGeown	Molly Mulligan
Lagan	Razvan Rosca	Jude Hall

Car Parks/Parking

A reminder that the car parks must not be used for dropping off or collecting pupils. Parents and pupils are asked to refrain from entering the car park for Health and Safety reasons. Again, thank you to the vast majority of parents who respect this. Traffic congestion continues to be a problem in Ballyoran Park and we would ask that you respect local residents by parking sensibly. Please also respect other drivers and pupils. No-one should park on the yellow hazard lines or block the gates. **Unfortunately, I have had a number of complaints in recent weeks from local residents about the traffic situation.**

European Day of Languages

On Thursday 24th September we celebrated European Day of Languages. Children spoke in lots of different languages and had fun learning new songs and games.

School Attendance – Every School Day Counts

Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning. Sometimes attendance percentages can be misleading – as a whole school in 2018/19 we had an average attendance of 90.8%. From the Department of Education guidance detailed below you can see that this falls into the 'Poor' category. As a whole school we would like your cooperation in improving our rate of attendance and in turn reducing the days of lost learning. From your child's summer report you will find the rate of attendance for 2018/19 and make comparisons with the table below. Please note that rates of attendance are reviewed monthly with the Educational Welfare Office (EWO) and those children falling below 85% are automatically referred to the EWO for intervention. Thank you for your help in this matter. The Department of Education booklet '**School Attendance Matters - A Parent's Guide**' is available on the school website and from the Office.

100% Attendance	0 Days Missed	Excellent
95% Attendance	9 Days of Absence 1 Week and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Satisfactory
90% Attendance	19 Days of Absence 3 Weeks and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Poor

85% Attendance	28 Days Absence 5 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	Very Poor
80% Attendance	38 Days of Absence 7 Weeks and 3 days of Learning Missed	Unacceptable
75% Attendance	46 Days of Absence 9 Weeks and 1 Day of Learning Missed	Unacceptable

Due to Department of Education Guidelines, a present mark can only be given if a pupil is in school.

Just as Attendance is important, Punctuality is also very important.

School Website

Please keep up to date with what is going on in school by visiting our website on

www.ballyoranps.com

Money Reminder

Thank you to everyone who sends all money into school in an envelope. Parents are reminded that teachers will no longer be accepting loose coins. All money coming into school must be the correct amount, in an envelope labelled with the child's name, the amount and what it is for. Also where there are more than one pupil in the school, a separate envelope should be sent for each item and each child. This will ensure that teachers have more time for teaching. Thank you for your co-operation on this matter.

Daily Mile

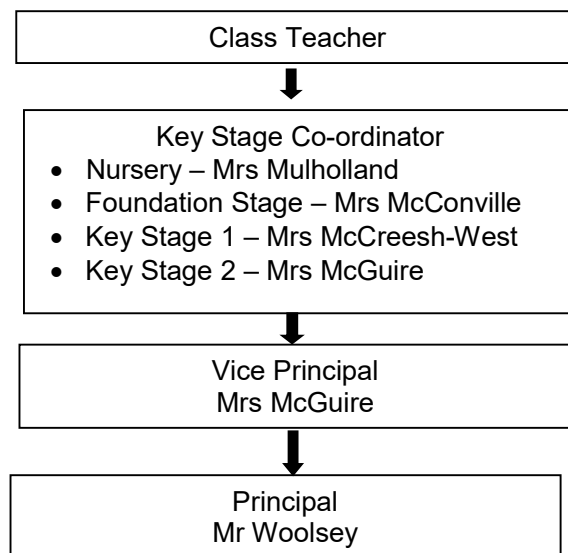
As you have previously been notified all our pupils take part in the 'Daily Mile' initiative in conjunction with the Southern Health Trust. This includes 15 minutes of walking or running each day, over and above normal PE lessons. Further information is available on the school website.

Gum Shields

Please note that it is school policy and GAA policy that everyone involved in Gaelic Football must wear a gum shield to protect their teeth and gums. All pupils attending after school Gaelic on Mondays and playing in matches and blitzes must wear a gum shield or they will not be able to take part.

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. Meetings can be arranged with staff at any time and we would encourage you to follow the flow chart below when raising general queries / concerns:



Obviously parents are free to make an appointment to speak to the Principal at any time.

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 October

Has already been sent to you.

Richard Woolsey
Principal



Couch to 5k

Portadown People's Park
5 October - 25 November 2020
Every Monday & Wednesday at 7.15pm
£10 per participant

Book online at
getactiveabc.com/hw_programs/couch-to-5k



Armagh City
Banbridge
& Craigavon
Borough Council



Sport
Northern Ireland
LOTTERY FUNDED

Every Body Active 2020 is supported by Sport NI



Members only -
New members welcome

Starting: **Wednesday 30th September**
for **5 weeks** - **book your space today**

Gaelic Football Afterschool Club

@ Tír na nÓg GFC



Wednesday - £1 per child per session (part funded by club)

BOYS & GIRLS - P1, P2 & P3 @ 2.15pm-3.45pm

BOYS & GIRLS - P4, P5, P6 & P7 @ 3.15-4.45pm



£5
for
5 weeks

● After Schools ●

Due to current restrictions, our local primary schools are not able to facilitate after schools at the present time.

Our club coaches in partnership with Healthy Kidz will be facilitating after schools each Wednesday for 5 weeks, commencing Wednesday 30th September.

- Places will be restricted and for members only. New members are welcome - contact club for application
- Places must be booked and paid via the link below with Healthy Kidz
- No walk ons on the day - booking strictly in advance

<https://healthy-kidz.com/product/healthy-kidz-gaelic-football-afterschools-at-tir-na-nog/>

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Everyone has a role to play in keeping our schools safe and helping to stop the spread of COVID-19.

DON'T SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF THEY HAVE COVID-19 SYMPTOMS.

VISIT [NIDIRECT.GOV.UK/CORONAVIRUS](https://nidirect.gov.uk/coronavirus) TO BOOK A TEST ONLINE. CALL 119 IF YOU CANNOT BOOK A TEST ONLINE.

YOU SHOULD BOOK A COVID-19 TEST IF YOUR CHILD HAS:

A HIGH TEMPERATURE

This means they feel hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure their temperature).

OR

A NEW CONTINUOUS COUGH

This means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if they usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).

OR

A LOSS OR CHANGE TO THEIR SENSE OF SMELL OR TASTE

This means they've noticed they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

IF YOUR CHILD DOES NOT HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 BUT HAS OTHER COLD-LIKE SYMPTOMS, SUCH AS A RUNNY NOSE, THEY DO NOT NEED TO BE TESTED AND THEY OR MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD DO NOT NEED TO SELF-ISOLATE. YOUR CHILD CAN ATTEND SCHOOL IF FIT TO DO SO.

HERE'S WHAT TO DO IF:

YOUR CHILD HAS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Book a COVID-19 test
- Household self-isolates
- Inform school immediately about test result

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school if the test is negative providing they are well enough, have not had a fever for 48 hours and if they haven't been advised to self-isolate by the PHA Contact Tracing Service.

YOUR CHILD TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Inform school immediately about test result
- Self-isolate for at least 10 days as advised by the PHA.

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school after 10 days even if they still have a cough / loss of smell or taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks.

SOMEBODY IN MY HOUSEHOLD HAS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- The household member should book a COVID-19 test
- Household self-isolates
- Inform school immediately about test result

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school if the symptomatic household member's test is negative and if they haven't been advised to self-isolate by the PHA Contact Tracing Service.

SOMEBODY IN MY HOUSEHOLD TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Inform school immediately about test result

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school when they have completed 14 days of self-isolation without any symptoms*.

CONTACT TRACING HAS IDENTIFIED MY CHILD AS A CLOSE CONTACT

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Self-isolate for at least 14 days as advised by the PHA Contact Tracing Service

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school when they have completed 14 days of self-isolation without any symptoms*.

YOUR CHILD HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS A CLOSE CONTACT

WHAT TO DO?

- Attend school as normal
- If your child does not have any COVID-19 symptoms they should carry on with normal activities.

YOUR CHILD HAS TRAVELLED ABROAD AND HAS TO SELF-ISOLATE

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Self-isolate for 14 days in line with quarantine advice

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school when they have completed 14 days of self-isolation without any symptoms*.

*If your child has been identified as a close contact of a case of COVID-19, or has returned from travel abroad and is self-isolating, they must self-isolate for 14 days regardless of a negative COVID-19 test result.

Further information, including [Frequently Asked Questions for Parents and Carers](#), can be found on the Department of Education's website at www.education-ni.gov.uk

EDUCATION RESTART



LET'S ALL KEEP OUR SCHOOL SAFE

We need your help! We want everyone to be safe, healthy and enjoy school.
So, make sure you follow these new rules...

IF YOU ARE SICK YOU MIGHT HAVE TO STAY AT HOME

Going to school is really important but if you have a bad cough or feel very warm,
tell a grown up right away.



GIVE EACH OTHER SPACE

Keep a safe distance from your
teachers and friends as much
as you can. You should try to stay
in your bubble.



CATCH YOUR COUGHS & SNEEZES

Cover your face with your elbow
or use a tissue. (Don't forget to
put used tissues in the bin!)



WASH YOUR HANDS

Wash your hands lots of times
during the day. (Make sure you
wash them as soon as you get
to school too!)



HOLD ONTO YOUR OWN ITEMS

You shouldn't share things
like pencils, food and drinks
with your friends.



**IT'S OK TO HAVE QUESTIONS!
YOU CAN ALWAYS ASK A
PARENT, CARER OR TEACHER.**

EDUCATION RESTART



Department of
Education
www.education-ni.gov.uk

**WE ALL
MUST DO IT
TO GET
THROUGH IT**



STAY SAFE



SAVE LIVES