



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 – December 2019

Diary Dates – December 2019

- 3rd Christmas Panto – ‘Beauty & The Beast’ at Market Place Theatre
4th Christmas Panto – ‘Beauty & The Beast’ at Market Place Theatre
6th Canteen Christmas Dinner for pupils
12th School Closed – Polling Station use
13th Jo Jingles in Nursery
School finishes at 1pm for all pupils
16th Nursery Christmas Performance of ‘Whoops –a-Daisy Angel’ – 10am
17th ‘Bethlehem The Musical’ – Performance 1 - 10am
18th ‘Bethlehem The Musical’ – Performance 2 - 10am
19th Christmas Parties and Disco – No Uniform – Christmas Jumper Day for Charity
20th Last day of term, no uniform, no dinners, unhealthy break - school finishes at midday for all pupils. Dismissal times: Years 1 – 3: 11.50am
Years 4 – 7: 12 noon

Christmas Holidays

School will be closed from Monday 23rd December 2019 to Friday 3rd January 2020. Term 2 begins on Monday 6th January 2020.

Christmas Performances

The Nursery will perform ‘Whoops-A-Daisy Angel’ on Monday 16th December 2019 at 10am. The Primary School will perform ‘Bethlehem The Musical’ at 10am on Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th December 2019. Tickets are now on sale at £2.50 each (including refreshments). Please return your order forms as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Christmas Squares

The Christmas Squares draw will take place on Friday 13th December and these can be bought in classes at 50p each.

Christmas Post

This will begin on Monday 2nd December 2019. Please ensure the following are put on the envelopes: Both names, Year Group e.g. Year 1 and Teacher’s Name. LSC pupils will once again be organising this.

Christmas Card designed by pupils

These have been sent home this week, please return with order form and money by **Monday 2nd December 2019** if you wish to order these.

Coats

As the weather has been turning colder in recent weeks, we have been advising pupils to bring a warm coat to school. From Monday 2nd December 2019, any pupils who do not bring a coat to school will have to remain inside at break and lunch time.

Years 4 & 5 Visit to INTO Film

Year 4 and 5 pupils enjoyed a trip to Craigavon Omniplex as part of the INTO Film Festival. They watched 'The Grinch' and everybody had a great time. We look forward to completing some INTO Film activities in class.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

A big thank you to everyone who supported their child's education by attending our Parent/Teacher meetings at the end of October.

Pupil Attendance

The average Pupil Attendance for October was 93%. Well done to the classes with the highest attendance for October which were: Foundation/Key Stage 1: Year 4A – 95.3%
Key Stage 2: Year 6 B/M – 96.8%

Photographs

The photograph orders have now been collected from school by the company but if you still wish to order, you can contact the company directly using the number on your proof.

Brownlow STEM Day

On Monday 11th November Year 7 went to Brownlow Integrated College for a STEM Day. They worked in small groups alongside pupils from Tullygally Primary School, constructing a wheeled vehicle using KNEX kits. The completed vehicle was then powered using solar panels and the race was on! Year 7s also constructed a basic rocket and got the chance to launch it into the sky using compressed air; time to stand back and count the number of seconds the rocket was in the air. Everyone worked hard and said they would definitely recommend this STEM Day to next year's senior pupils. Great work Year 7.

Year 7 Sentinus Workshop

Year 7 enjoyed their second Sentinus day with James on Friday 22nd November. This time the focus was on flight. The children learned about some of the principles involved and had a chance to build paper aeroplanes, working helicopters and rockets. All models were tested for flight worthiness. The rockets were launches using compressed air and the Year 7's competed to see whose rocket rose the highest in the air. A very enjoyable day was had by all.

Anti-Bullying Week

The focus of Anti-Bullying Week 2019 was on the theme 'Change Starts With Us'. In every class, teachers delivered the message that by making small, simple changes we can create a safe environment for everyone. All pupils enjoyed watching animations and participating in activities taken from the Northern Ireland Anti-Bullying website. Anti-Bullying Week is aimed at sending a clear and positive message that bullying is unacceptable.

AMH Cheque Presentation

Emma McLean from AMH came into assembly on Friday 15th November 2019 to receive a cheque for £280 which was raised from our recent Non Uniform Day. She talked to the pupils about the valuable work of Action Mental Health in schools and how this money will be used.

Tharp Family from USA

On Monday 11th November 2019, we had a visit from the Tharp Family from USA. This is the sixth year that they have visited Ballyoran and the visit took the form of a Musical Concert.

Children In Need Bun Sale

On Friday 15th November, the Pupil Council held a Bun Sale to raise money for Children In Need. It was a huge success and raised £350.00! The Pupil Council ensured the day ran smoothly and did a fantastic job selling the buns. As a school, we would like to thank everyone who sent in buns and to all those who bought buns to support such a worthy cause. We would not have had such a successful fundraiser without your support.

Ditch the Dark Day

The Eco-Committee organised a 'Ditch the Dark Day' in school. This was a day in which all pupils and teachers accessorised their clothing in a bright and creative way and were encouraged to walk, scoot or cycle to school. Some children decorated their bikes and scooters. Dave also provided a 'Visibility Experiment' workshop for Year 5 pupils. It was a great day and we had lots of fun!

Admissions for Nursery and Year 1 – September 2020

The admissions process for Nursery and Year 1 for September 2020 is again digital this year. The application process will open at 12 noon on Tuesday 7th January 2020 and close at 12 noon on Thursday 30th January 2020. More information will follow shortly.

Letter Writing Workshop on Friday 20th December 2019 @ Portadown People's Park

Get those last minute requests in with Santa at a letter writing workshop on Friday 20th December at Portadown People's Park. Children will get the chance to make some Christmas decorations before getting down to the serious business of writing that all important letter to Santa! Costing £2 per person, the workshop will run from 4pm-6pm and is suitable for children aged 3-8 years old. To book your spot call 07766 740427. Find out more about this event and others here: <https://bit.ly/33bSDtK>

Sickness/Illness

As is the case in most schools across the country, we have many children who are off sick with winter bugs. We would again take this opportunity to remind you to please keep children at home if they are unwell so that the bugs are not spread to other pupils and staff. A reminder that with vomiting and diarrhoea bugs, pupils should be kept at home for 48 hours after the last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea. Guidance from the PHA has been included on page 5.

Picking Pupils Up

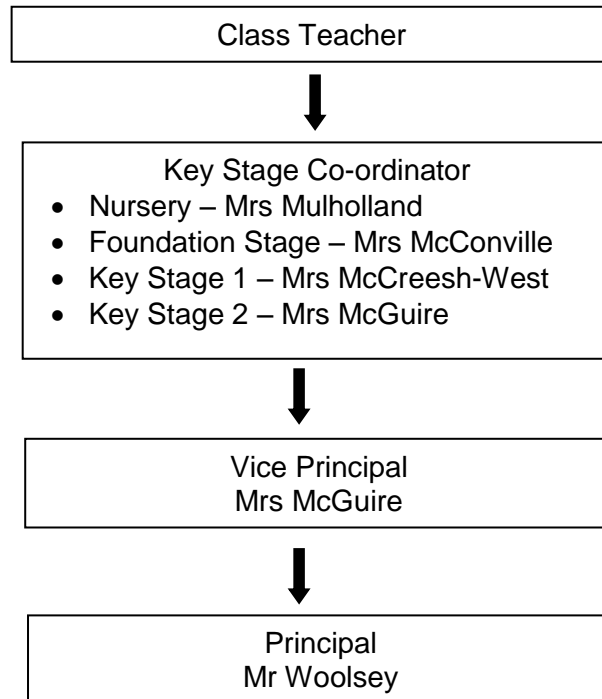
A significant number of pupils are not being picked up at the end of the school day on time. It is vital that parents are punctual when collecting their children otherwise they get anxious. If you are running late we would ask that you phone the office and inform us of this. If a child is not collected 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. An increasing number of parents are 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.

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.

Christmas Gifts

This year we are again asking that instead of buying presents for staff that you consider donating food or toys to the St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal. Boxes will be placed in the foyer to receive your kind donations.

Contingency Planning - Winter

As the winter is fast approaching, 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, the school website and local media to inform parents should a closure be necessary.

Menu for December

See last page

R Woolsey
Principal

Do I need to keep my child off school?

Chicken Pox Until all spots have crusted over	Conjunctivitis No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Diarrhoea & Vomiting 48 hours from last episode	Glandular Fever No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Hand, foot & mouth No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Impetigo Until lesions are crusted & healed or 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
Measles or German Measles 4 days from onset of rash	Mumps 5 days from onset of swelling	Scabies Until after first treatment	Scarlet Fever 24 hours after commencing antibiotics	Slapped Cheek No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Whooping Cough 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
	Flu Until recovered	Head Lice No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Threadworms No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Tonsillitis No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	