



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 2020

Merry Christmas

Winning Design for School Christmas Card Competition
by
Marcelina Gorgol (Year 6)

End of Term Arrangements

Thursday is Christmas Jumper Day. This is a non-uniform day and pupils should come to school wearing a Christmas Jumper. Pupils are asked to bring £1 each.

School will finish at midday on Friday 20th December 2019. Pupils do not need to wear uniform on this day and there will be no dinners served.

Start of New Term

Ballyoran Primary School will re-open for pupils on Monday 6th January 2020.

Diary Dates for January 2020

- 6th Term 2 Begins
- 7th Nursery and P1 Online Applications open at 12 noon
Year 7 Brownlow College Talk
Year 7 'Your Life' Programme Session 1
St John The Baptist College Year 7 Talk
- 8th Year 7 Lismore Comprehensive Talk
- 10th Year 5 & 7 swimming begins
- 14th Year 7 'Your Life' Programme Session 2
- 21st Football Coaching in Nursery
Year 7 'Your Life' Programme Session 3
- 22nd Pupil Council Meeting
- 25th GL Common Entrance Assessment Results out
- 28th Year 7 'Your Life' Programme Session 4
- 30th Nursery & P1 Admission Process closes at 12noon

Staffing

We say farewell to two SEN Classroom Assistants at Christmas. Mrs Fusco will be leaving after 7 years service and Mrs McKenna will be leaving after 6 years service. We thank both ladies for all that they have given to the school over the years and wish them well in their new posts.

We also say farewell to Mrs Good a Nursery Assistant at Christmas, we thank her and wish her well.

Mrs McConville goes off on Maternity Leave at Christmas and we wish her all the very best. Miss Wethers will be covering Year 2 until the end of June.

Miss George will be covering Year 3 from the 6th January.

Christmas Productions

Our Nursery Christmas Performance of 'Whoops-a-Daisy-Angel' and our Year 1 – 7 Performances of 'Bethlehem the Musical' were both very successful. All of the pupils in the school took part in these and were amazing.

Thank you to all of the staff who worked together as a team to make these happen. Thank you to all the parents who supported these and approximately £1200.00 has been raised for school funds from ticket sales.

Jo Jingles in Nursery

Jo Jingles visited the Nursery on Friday 13th December. It was a morning of fun, music and movement.

Year 3 – 7 Christmas Pantomime Outing

On Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th December 2019, pupils from Years 3 - 7 enjoyed a trip to the Market Place Theatre in Armagh for this year's pantomime 'Beauty and the Beast'.

Year 1 visit to the Navan Centre

Year 1 paid a special Christmas visit to the Navan Centre in Armagh on Wednesday 4th December 2019.

Parents and Friends Christmas Squares

Thank you all for supporting our Parents and Friends Christmas Draw and Christmas Squares. We raised a total of £130.00 which will be used to buy resources for the pupils to use in school. The winner of the Christmas Hamper was Oliver Halfpenny Year 6.

Christmas Dinner

Our pupils enjoyed a really tasty Christmas dinner in school on Friday 6th December 2019. A big thank you to Mrs Donna Campbell and her team in the kitchen for providing this.

Years 1 – 7 Christmas Disco

Pupils in Years 1 – 7 will enjoy a Christmas Disco on Thursday 19th December 2019. Every pupil will receive a Chocolate Santa treat on this date.

Nursery and Year 1 Admissions

A reminder that the online application process opens on Tuesday 7th January 2020 and closes on Thursday 30th January 2020. If you have any queries, please contact the office.

Year 7 Transfer to Post Primary School

The month of January is very important for our Year 7 pupils as they and their parents make decisions on which Post-Primary School to transfer to in September 2020. As part of this process, schools visit our Year 7 pupils and give presentations on their schools. Post-Primary schools will also be having Open Days/Nights in January/February.

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.

Sickness

Please do not send your child to school if they are sick as they will spread their sickness to other pupils and staff. The Public Health Agency advises that pupils should be kept at home for 48 hours after the last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea. Public Health Agency guidance on these matters is available on the school website under 'Parents' and 'Sickness/Illness' or from your GP.

Contingency Planning – Winter

The school has been reviewing its Winter 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.

Picking Pupils Up

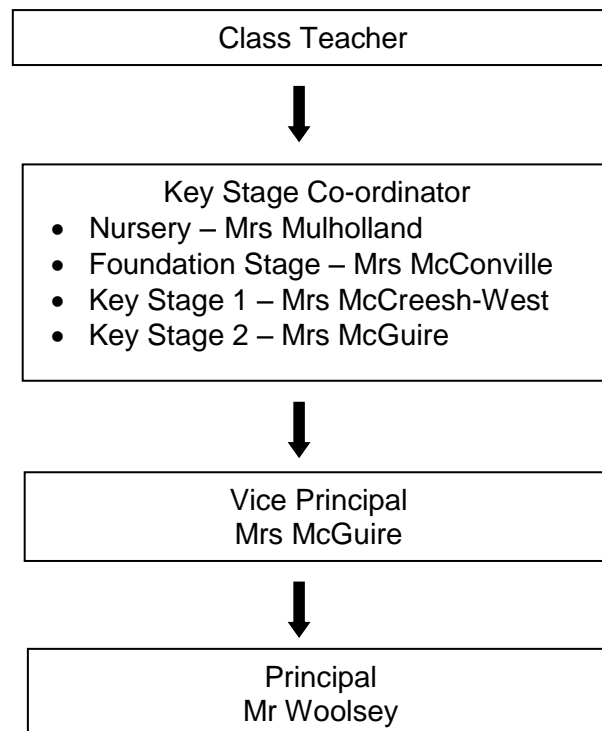
A significant number of pupils are not being picked up at the end of the school day on time. It is vital that parents are punctual when collecting their children otherwise they get anxious. If you are running late we would ask that you phone the office and inform us of this. If a child is not collected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

Menu for January 2020

See last page

Thanks and Happy Christmas

A big thank you to all my Staff for all their hard work during this very busy term.

Thank you also to parents for your continued support and co-operation and to the pupils for making this such an enjoyable term.

A Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year to the entire School Community.

R Woolsey
Principal

