



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 – March 2020

Diary Dates for March 2020

3 rd	Yr 6 'Your Life' Workshop
5 th	World Book Day (See Article)
6 th	Debbie Doolittle visit to Nursery
7 th	Confirmation – 3pm at St John's Church
9 th – 13 th	Parent/Teacher Meeting Week - school finishes at 1pm daily. No Afterschool Clubs
9 th	Yr 5 Waterbus Visit
10 th	Nursery Shared Education Session at Ballyoran
11 th	Yr 3 Shared Education Session at Bocombra
16 th	St Patrick's Day Irish Dancing Festival: 1pm
17 th	School Closed for St. Patricks Day Holiday
20 th	Sponsored Charity Event for Alzheimers
24 th	Nursery Shared Education Session at Tannaghmore Gardens
	Yr 3 Shared Education Session at Ballyoran
	Yr 6 'Your Life' Workshop
25 th	Yr 3 Shared Education Session at Bocombra
	Pupil Council Meeting
31 st	Yr 3 Shared Education Session at Ballyoran

School Closures – March 2020

Ballyoran Primary School will be closed as follows during March:

- 17th – St. Patrick's Day

Coronavirus

You will be aware from local media coverage about the situation regarding Coronavirus. Please see separate leaflet with guidance in relation to this.

Parent Teacher Meetings

A reminder that Parent / Teacher Meetings will take place during the week Monday 9th March – Friday 13th March 2020. You should have already received your meeting date and time and we would encourage you to attend as this is a vital part of partnership with parents. School will finish at 1pm during this week for all pupils. To ease congestion at the gate, dismissal times will be as follows:

- Years 1 – 3: 12.50pm
- Years 4 – 7: 1pm

World Book Day

World Book Day will take place on Thursday 5th March 2020. Every child will receive a **£1 World Book Day Book Token** that can be exchanged for one of ten special £1 World Book Day books or to get £1 off any book costing £2.99 or more in Asda, Tesco or Easons. Nurseries, schools and libraries across the UK celebrate World Book Day with a huge range of events and activities. Here's what we will be doing on World Book Day on Thursday 5th March:

- Dress up as your favourite well known book character. Children should come to school as story book characters NOT footballers or film characters; the aim is to get children thinking about books that they have enjoyed reading.
- Whole school assembly.

- Reading activities in every classroom.

You can join us in building your child's enthusiasm for books well beyond World Book Day by reading together regularly and joining your local library if you are not yet members. For more information about World Book Day and ideas on sharing books at home please visit www.worldbookday.com.

St Patrick's Day Irish Dancing Festival

This will take place in the Assembly Hall on Monday 16th March from 1 – 3pm and we would encourage you to support it. Please note you are free to come and go as you please during the event.

Easter Squares & Easter Basket Draw

These will go on sale very soon.

Safer Internet Day

We celebrated Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 5th February. Assembly was taken by Mr Woolsey about the importance of using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively. We spent time discussing with children the importance of talking to adults about their online activity and seeking help when they are unsure. We would encourage you as parents to engage in these discussions at home and always be aware of what your children are doing online.

Credit Union Quiz

Well done to the following pupils who represented Ballyoran and came 4th at the Credit Union Quiz in the Pastoral Centre on Monday 4th February 2019:

- Blathnaid Moylan
- Owen Reynolds
- Reuben Kerr
- Caitlin Kelly

Soccer Tournament

On Friday 31st January, our football players took part in the annual 5 a side tournament at the Football Warehouse in Portadown. We were in a tough group including a very strong Waringstown team. Despite the tough group, the team played with great skill and determination, managing a win and a draw before going down to the narrowest of defeats against Waringstown. Well done to Owen Reynolds who scored a terrific goal. All of the players deserve great credit although player of the tournament goes to Cormac Reynolds for a consistent display of tenacious defending.

Sustrans Active Travel Superhero Challenge

Pupils have been participating in the Active Travel Superhero Challenge over the last number of weeks as part of the Sustrans programme. Pupils have been walking, scooting or cycling to school and receive a stamp for an active journey. The challenge ends on World Book Day (Thursday 5th March) and Dave will be presenting some awards in assembly for the winners.

Erasmus Study Visit

Mrs McGuire will visit Montpellier in France as part of a Study Visit for school leaders from 7th – 13th March 2020. The visit arranged by the EA will look at the French education system and include meetings with French education officials and visits to schools.

Attendance

The average Pupil Attendance for January was 91.9%. Well done to the classes with the highest attendance for January which were:

Foundation/Key Stage 1: Year 4A – 95.5%

Key Stage 2: LSC – 97.5%

Service of Light

On Thursday 13th February Year 7 Confirmandi attended The Service of Light with Sponsors and Parents. The service is about parents handing on the lit Baptism Candle to their child as a symbol of passing on their faith.

Year 7 Confirmation

We wish our Year 7 pupils well for their Confirmation on Saturday 7th March in St John's Church at 3pm. This is a very important event in the life of our school.

Wear Red Day

On Friday 14th February, staff and children had a non-uniform 'Wear Red' day to raise money for The British Heart Foundation. A total of £224 was raised. Thank you all for your support. It is greatly appreciated.

Jo Jingles visit to Nursery

Jo Jingles visited the Nursery on Friday 14th February. It was a morning of fun, music and movement.

Mackey Opticians

Caroline and Elaine from Mackey's Eye Care visited the Nursery on Wednesday 12th February. They encourage eye tests for all children of Nursery age.

W5

On Wednesday 5th February the Nursery went to W5. The children had a great time exploring all the different activities.

Alzheimer's Society

On Friday 20th March, we will be holding a sponsored fitness event to help raise money for Alzheimer's Society. We plan to collaborate with the local gym, Club Vo2, who have very kindly offered their services and expertise for the day. More information as well as sponsorship forms will be given out in due course.

Outdoor Spaces Programme

The popular 'Outdoor Spaces Programme' has just released some more spaces for children to enjoy a series of FREE after-schools workshops. Registration is open to children aged 6-12 years old; they will become official park rangers as they explore the outdoors on a weekly basis. Children will be learning about wildlife, the environment and the heritage of local parks all whilst getting messy and getting active outdoors. There are spaces open to register for the programme in your choice of Portadown People's Park, Solitude Park, Lurgan Park and Loughgall Country Park. Be quick and register today as spaces are limited! For more information visit www.acbcoutdoorspaces.co.uk and sign up by following this link: <https://form.jotformeu.com/92522819981366>

Names on Clothing

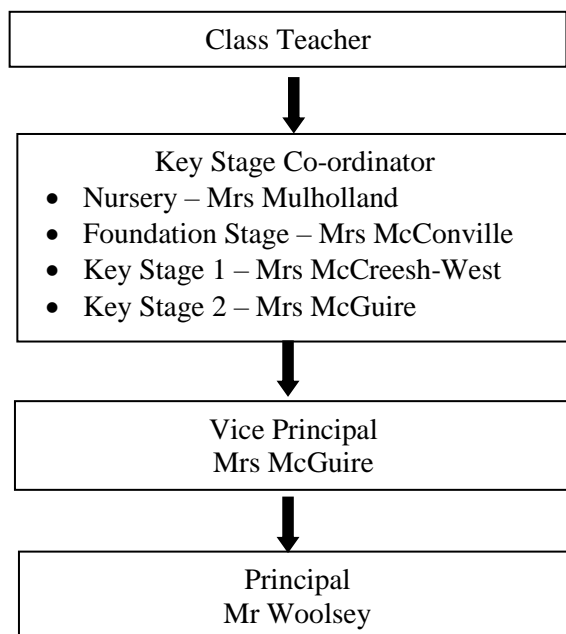
Pupils frequently lose items of clothing in school and it is very difficult for staff to reunite lost items with pupils if there are no names on the item. With this in mind, I would ask that parents ensure that all items of school uniform and PE uniform have your child's name on them.

Coats Rule

From Monday 2nd March the coats rule will be relaxed as we move into Spring. We would however encourage you to ensure that your child has a coat with them on cold or wet days.

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.

Early Pick Up of Pupils

A significant number of parents are collecting pupils early from school. We do understand that from time to time pupils may have appointments or there may be family circumstances which mean that this is unavoidable. We would however encourage you to keep early collections to a minimum as they do have an impact on your child's education.

Picking Pupils Up

A significant number of pupils are still 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. Many 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.

Holidays 2020/2021

See Page 5

Menu for March 2020

(See final page)

R Woolsey
Principal