



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 2019

Diary Dates for March 2019

1 st	Yr 5 swimming begins
4 th – 8 th	Parent/Teacher Meetings- school closes at 1pm for all pupils No Afterschool Clubs
7 th	World Book Day
11 th	Yr 7 to 'Bee Safe' event
12 th	Mega Maths Day Yr 6 'Your Life' programme session 2
13 th	Irish Dancers to Rosemount Care Home
15 th	St Patricks Day Irish Dancing Festival: 1.30 – 3.30pm
18 th	School Closed – St Patrick's Day Holiday
19 th	Yr 6 'Your Life' programme session 3
20 th	Pupil Council Meeting
26 th	Nursery Trip to W5 Yr 3 Shared Education Session Yr 6 'Your Life' programme session 4
30 th	Confirmation – St John's Church – 3pm

School Closures – March 2019

Ballyoran Primary School will be closed as follows during March:

- 18th – St. Patrick's Day

Parent Teacher Meetings

A reminder that Parent / Teacher Meetings will take place during the week Monday 4th March – Friday 8th March 2019. 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 7th March 2019. 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 7th 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 Friday 15th March from 1.30 – 3.30pm 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. This year's theme was 'Together for a better Internet'. Assemblies were taken by Mrs Biggerstaff and Mrs McConville 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. Children also took part in an Internet Safety Art Competition designing their own Internet safety poster. Winners will be announced this week.

Shared Education

Year 1 and Year 3 have been taking part in a series of six Shared Education lessons with Bocombra Primary School. Both year groups enjoyed taking part in sessions here at Ballyoran and at Bocombra Primary School. Year 1 focused on the story of Little Red Riding Hood and enjoyed a visit from the Banyan Theatre. Year 3 created their own characters and games using the app Sketch Nation. The children enjoyed learning to Code with their new friends from Bocombra Primary School.

Peer Paired Reading Celebration

Two Year 6 and two Year 7 pupils attended a Peer Paired Reading Celebration at Seagoe Parish Centre on 13th February. During Term 1 these pupils were trained to work with some KS1 pupils to promote their reading skills and help them become more confident readers. They enjoyed the lovely afternoon and were presented with certificates and prizes in recognition of the work they had done. Well done!

Credit Union Quiz

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

- Ciaran McAlinden
- Matheus Duraes
- Emma Breen
- Julia Osinska

PSNI Year 7 Workshops

The PSNI have been in school recently talking to our Year 7 pupils about anti-social behaviour in the community and what it means to be responsible citizens.

Dairy Council Talk

The Dairy Council of Northern Ireland came to speak to the Year 5 and Year 6 pupils on 'Food and Fitness'. They helped the pupils understand the concept of balance; balance within their diet and balance within their lifestyle. The Dairy Council reminded us of the importance of exercising for 60 minutes every day.

Soccer Tournament

On Friday 15th February, 6 pupils took part in a Soccer tournament in the Football Warehouse. We played against 4 other primary schools from the area. Despite not qualifying for the knockout stages, the boys played with great skill and determination. Well done to all the players for taking part.

Nursery Quality Time Trip

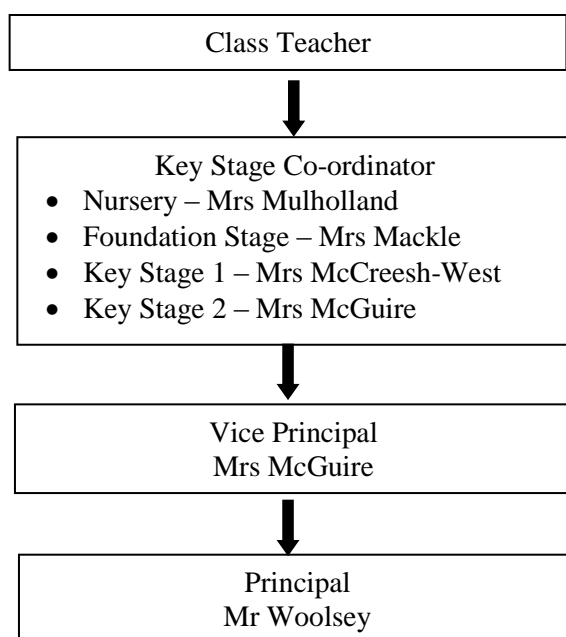
Nursery had a great day out at Quality Time. There was lots of messy play and they had great fun dressing up and playing vets.

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.

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 2019/2020

See Page 5

Menu for March 2019

(See final page)

R Woolsey
Principal