



### 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 – April 2019

### Diary Dates for April 2019

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Year 7 Transition Talk Session 1 Year 6 Moy Park Challenge Year 6 'Your Life Programme' Session 5
4 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 'Wee Critters' Visit
5 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Soccer Festival – Drumgor PS
8 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Shared Education Session 1 – Bocombra
9 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Shared Education Session 2 – Ballyoran Year 7 Transition Talk Session 2 Year 4 First Confession
10 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Shared Education Session 3 – Bocombra Nursery Shared Education Session – C & J's Farm Pupil Council Meeting
11 <sup>th</sup>	Photographer in school – classes & groups Last Day of Homework & Clubs
12 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Draws Year 6 Shared Education Session 4 – People's Park Last Year 5 Swimming Session
15 <sup>th</sup>	Year 7 Transition Talk Session 3 Jo Jingles visit to Nursery
17 <sup>th</sup>	Last day of term, no uniform, no dinner, unhealthy break
18 <sup>th</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Holidays
29 <sup>th</sup>	Term 3 begins Year 7 Shannaghmore Residential
30 <sup>th</sup>	Year 7 Shannaghmore Residential

### End of Term Arrangements

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April is the last day of term. There will be no uniform, no dinners and school will finish at 12 noon. Pupils may bring an unhealthy break. To reduce congestion at the gate, dismissal times will be as follows:

- **Years 1 – 3 at 11.50am**
- **Years 4 – 7 at 12 noon**

### Easter Holidays

Please note that school will be closed from **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2019** for the Easter Holidays. School reopens for the Summer Term on **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019**.

### Advance Notice

School will be closed on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2019 for Staff Training. Please note this date has not been previously published.

## **Staffing**

We say farewell to Mrs Catherine McShane who retired as a cleaner after 17 years service at the school. We thank her for her hard work, commitment and dedication to the school over the years and wish her well for the future.

## **Parents & Friends Easter Draws**

Please support our Easter draws by buying a raffle ticket for £1 or a square for 50p. The draw will take place in assembly on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April. There will be an Easter Egg for the winner of the Easter squares draw in every class and the Easter Hamper for the winner of the raffle, kindly prepared by Mrs Clarke.

## **Parent/Teacher Meetings**

A big thank you to parents for attending the Parent/Teacher Meetings at the beginning of March. These are a vital part of our home-school partnership and we are delighted with the very pleasing overall attendance of 88%

## **Summer Uniform**

After the Easter Holidays, pupils may come to school wearing the summer uniform as follows:

- Boys may wear grey shorts
- Girls may wear a blue checked dress with white socks

We continue to be very proud of how smart our pupils look in their uniform.

## **Coats**

As we have moved into Spring and the weather is a bit milder, we are no longer enforcing the coats rule at break and lunch. We would, however encourage you to ensure your child/children come to school with a coat on a wet or cold day.

## **Service of Light**

As part of their preparation for Confirmation, Year 7 pupils joined with other local schools to attend a Ceremony of Light in St John the Baptist Church on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March. Some parents and children participated in the ceremony.

## **Dancers to Rosemount**

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019, as part of the St. Patrick's Day celebrations, pupils from the Irish Folk Dancing Club were invited to Rosemount Care Home to perform for the residents. Pupils from Year 6 and Year 7 enjoyed a walk up in the fresh air and danced beautifully as the men and women smiled and clapped along. The events coordinator at Rosemount, said it was a pleasure to have the young people visit and hoped to see them again. She remarked on how friendly the pupils were, shaking hands with the residents and chatting to them. Well done to all the pupils involved!

## **Irish Folk Dancing Festival**

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March, a group of Yr3, Yr4, Yr5, Yr6 and Yr7s took part in our 17<sup>th</sup> Folk Dance Festival/Celebration. The adjudicator, Miss Aine McKee, praised all the dancers for their behaviour and performances. She added that this was her first visit to Ballyoran and she was very impressed by all the dancers. Adding to the fun, Molly Davis and Aoife Madden, two of our Yr 7 pupils treated us to an exhibition Treble Jig, and a Reel. Local musicians Fastrad, led by Mary Fox, played for us, and this really added to the celebration. Major prize-winners were, Caoimhe O'Connor Yr 6, Kelly Encada Yr 7, Sabina Baran Yr 3, Emilia Baran Yr 7, Julia Osinska Yr 6, Mafalda Lopez Yr 7 and Eva Williamson Yr 5. A big well done to the pupils who were dancing on stage for the first time. A special thank you to those who helped organise the event and those who came to support our celebration, one of our largest audiences ever, and a big well done to all the team for dancing to the best of their ability.

### **Shared Education visit with Bocombra**

On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March the children enjoyed their visit from Bocombra Nursery. They are looking forward to meeting their friends again on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April and a visit from CJ's Farm.

### **Debbie Doolittle visits the Nursery**

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March Debbie Doolittle came to the Nursery with some of her animals. The children really enjoyed her visit, have a look at our school website for some photos of the children with the animals.

### **Fire & Rescue Service Visit Nursery**

On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March Portadown Fire & Rescue Service came to visit the Nursery. They told us to check our smoke alarms at home. We got to sit in the fire engine and all the children had the opportunity to use the hose.

### **Nursery W5 Trip**

On Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March the Nursery went to W5 with Hart Memorial Nursery. The children had a great time exploring all the different activities.

### **World Book Day 2019**

All the pupils celebrated World Book Day on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018 by coming to school dressed as their favourite book characters. We had a whole school assembly to celebrate the day and every class exhibited their impressive outfits. All classes were involved in exciting book activities during the day.

### **Word Millionaire**

Alex Abbott Neill in Year 7 has become the school's first Word Millionaire this year as part of our Accelerated Reader programme. This means that he has read one million words – well done Alex.

### **Mega Maths Day**

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March was our Mega Maths Day. The focus for the day was Numeracy. All classes from Year 1-7 were involved with a variety of activities from Maths games and puzzles, The Countdown Number challenge, interactive ICT games, practical maths, Athletics and much more. There was great enthusiasm and excitement about Maths throughout the school. We also completed our 'Perimeter Pennies' challenge. The pupils had been collecting 1ps and 2ps and on the day we placed them all out around the perimeter of the playground. We were able to go around the playground twice with a distance of 320m. We also raised the fantastic amount of £205.02 which will go towards the cost of our Athletics programme. Many thanks for all the coins sent into school. There are a sample of photos on the school website to show the variety of activities.

### **Bee Safe Event**

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March, Year 7 went to Brownstown Community Centre to complete a variety of workshops delivered by the Emergency Services. The Fire Service encouraged pupils to think about making an escape plan and the importance of having a working smoke alarm and regularly checking it was working on 'Test it Tuesday'. NIE talked about the importance of not playing around power lines and mini towers and substations. Translink talked about how everyone should respect other passengers on buses and trains. The PSNI helped the pupils see how anti-social behaviour can be upsetting to older members of the community. The pupils also had a chance to identify hazards in a kitchen. Please talk to your child about the topics that were covered.

## **Attendance**

Well done to the classes with the highest attendance for February:

Foundation/Key Stage 1: Year 2 – 95.1%

Key Stage 2: Year 5 A – 94.7%

These classes received the Attendance Cup and a Certificate and every pupil got a voucher entitling them to one night off homework.

The whole school attendance percentage for February was 92.8%.

## **Pupil Council**

The Pupil Council have been bringing lots of ideas to their monthly meetings. Due to a number of suggestions, we have decided to make a box of books available in the Senior playground for those who wish to enjoy a book in the fresh air during lunchtime. We are hoping to introduce this as soon as possible now that the weather is improving. The Pupil Council would be very appreciative of any children's books that are not in use any more, being donated to our outdoor reading box. We have been discussing the entries for the school mascot competition. The winning design will be sent away to be made into a trusty mascot. Details will remain undisclosed so not to spoil the surprise! We are also pleased to share that new football nets will soon be ordered for the Senior playground. The Pupil Council are hoping to have a visit to the local council offices to meet the Lord Mayor in the coming months.

## **Reach Mentoring**

You may be aware we have had Mentoring for pupils available in school now for a number of years. We are now in a position to increase that provision through a new partnership with Reach. Reach exists to unleash potential within young people. Their trained mentors provide one to one mentoring for Year 6 & 7 pupils. Pupils will be referred for Mentoring by teachers for a variety of reasons for example behavioural issues, difficulties at home, low self-esteem. Consent will be sought from parents before mentoring begins.

## **Special Diets**

The EA have recently issued schools with guidance for the provision of special diets. Special diets can be required for a wide variety of medical conditions including food allergies, food intolerance, diabetes and coeliac disease. Other children follow special diets for religious or cultural reasons or because they are vegetarian or vegan. If your child requires a special diet, please contact the office as you will need to complete a Special Diet Application Form and Special Diet Medical Form. These forms are also available on the website in 'Parents' and 'School Meals'.

## **Diabetes**

An increasing number of children and young people are being diagnosed with diabetes. Parents are reminded about the possible signs of diabetes to watch out for in their children – The 4 Ts:

- Toilet
- Tired
- Thirsty
- Thinner

If your child is experiencing any of the 4Ts, visit your doctor immediately. Don't delay as Type 1 diabetes can be fatal.

## **Traffic Situation Outside School**

The traffic situation outside school in the morning and afternoon at 2pm and 3pm continues to be a major problem. Unfortunately, many people are continuing to show a lack of respect for the safety of our pupils, other drivers and local residents. I would again urge you to please

show respect in how you drive and where you park when dropping off and picking up your children. A reminder that the yellow hazard lines must be kept clear at all times. Thank you to those parents who do show respect and drive and park with care and consideration for others

### **Picking Pupils Up**

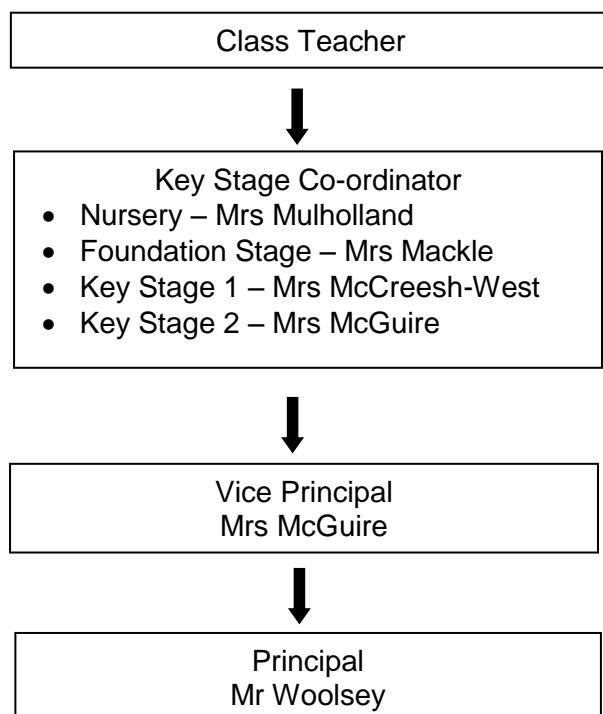
A significant number of pupils are not being picked up at the end of the school day on time. It is vital that parents are punctual when collecting their children otherwise they get anxious. If you are running late we would ask that you phone the office and inform us of this. If a child is not collected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

### **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.

## **Menu for April 2019**

(See final page)

### **School Website**

Remember to keep up-to-date with everything that is going on in school by logging on to our website [www.ballyoranps.com](http://www.ballyoranps.com)

Finally, I would like to thank all members of the school community for their support during another very busy term and wish everyone a happy and relaxing Easter Break

R Woolsey  
Principal