



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 – October 2019

Diary Dates – October 2019

1 st	Year 2 Taster Session in People's Park
3 rd	Year 4 McCW Taster Session in People's Park
7 th – 11 th	Book Fair
10 th	Year 3 Taster Session in People's Park
16 th	Restart A Heart Day
21 st - 25 th	Parent/Teacher Meetings – school finishes at 1pm daily for all pupils. No Afterschool Clubs.
23 rd	Dental Nurse visit to LSC
24 th	Flu Vaccinations
28 th – 1 st Nov	School Closed for Half Term

Advance Dates

We aim to work in partnership with parents and, with this in mind; we have arranged as many dates as possible for the school year to give parents as much notice as possible. These can be found on the Calendar on our website www.ballyoranps.com.

School Closure: October 2019

Please note that school will be closed from Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November 2019 for Half Term.

Book Fair

This will take place from Monday 7th – Friday 11th October 2019. Please see flyer which will be sent home next week. Please give this your support.

First Aid

Our 3 First Aiders are:

- Mrs N Fusco (Co-ordinator)
- Mr R Hendron
- Mrs L Baxter

More staff will be completing their First Aid Training soon and I will let you know when this happens.

Fizzy Drinks

A reminder that as part of our Healthy Schools Policy, we do not permit pupils to bring fizzy drinks into school.

Healthy Breaks

Nursery to Year 2 get a healthy snack provided by the school, Year 3 – 7 must bring in their own healthy snack. To help parents we have created a table of suitable and non-suitable healthy break snacks:

Suitable healthy break snacks	Not allowed at break
Pieces of fresh fruit	Any type of confectionery, eg chocolate products and sweets
Fruit pots of sliced or chopped fresh fruit	Crisps and crisp-like products such as tortilla chips, potato sticks, corn chips, prawn crackers, puff crackers
Canned fruit in natural juice	Cakes, buns or pastries
Salad pots	Cereal or fruit bars
Raw vegetables such as tomatoes, carrots, celery, peppers and cucumber	All biscuits
Bread, pancakes or scones with a thin spread of margarine	Fizzy drinks
Breadsticks or crackers with cheese	Dried fruit that has been sugared or coated in

	yogurt or chocolate
Sandwiches, bagels, baguettes, pitta bread, tortilla wraps or rolls	Pretzels
Yogurts	Nuts

Nut Allergy Advice

A number of our pupils have a very serious nut allergy. These children can become very ill if exposed to nuts in any form. Even touching anyone/anything that has been in contact with nuts or nut products can cause a severe reaction. In order to protect this pupil, we will be attempting to make the school a NUT FREE environment. We would therefore be grateful if all parents could ensure that their children do not come to school with nuts or any items containing nuts, e.g. snickers, peanut butter or nutella sandwiches, cashew/brazil/hazel nuts etc. We ask all parents to be particularly careful when preparing children's lunches. Thank you for your cooperation.

Food Allergies

Legislation means that the school kitchen must be aware of any pupils with food allergies. Whilst most special dietary requirements and food allergies should have been made known to the school already through the Medical Register forms, it is of vital importance to inform us if you have not done so already or if your child becomes allergic to something during the school year. Our school kitchen will in turn make appropriate adjustments to their menus.

Lunchbox Leaflet

We encourage parents of pupils who take a Packed Lunch, to ensure it is healthy. Leaflets are available from the Office.

Free School Meals

Are you aware that many people in Northern Ireland who are entitled to Free School Meals are not claiming them?

If you can answer 'Yes' to any of the following questions, you **may** be entitled to Free School Meals:

Are you in receipt of:

- Income Support?
- Income-Based Jobseeker's Allowance?
- Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance?
- Guarantee Element of Pension Credit?

If you are **not** receiving one of the above benefits

- Are you in receipt of **Child Tax Credit** and/or **Working Tax Credit** and have an annual taxable income of £16,190 or less?
- Are you in receipt of **Universal Credits** and have net household earnings not exceeding £14,000 per year?
- Are you an Asylum Seeker supported by the Home Office Asylum Support Assessment Team (ASAT)?

If you have answered 'Yes' to any of these questions and are not in receipt of Free School Meals, please contact Mrs Mayers in the office for an Application Form or visit the school website 'Parents' and 'Apply for free School Meals/Uniform Allowance'.

After School Clubs

The school continues to offer a varied selection of Extra Curricular Activities to its pupils. We believe that these are an important part of your child's educational experience at Primary School. We would encourage every pupil to attend at least one Club year term. Please see the Club List on page 7. A reminder that all Clubs which begin at 2.00pm finish at 3.00pm. Those Clubs which start at 3.00pm finish at 4.00pm. Please ensure your child is collected promptly after Clubs.

School Uniform

I want to say a big thank you to all our parents for ensuring that your children are in full school uniform every day. Our pupils look so smart in the uniform and we ask that you ensure that these high standards are maintained all year. A reminder that replacement ties and PE bags can be purchased from the office for £3 each.

Please note that hooded tops (hoodies) are not permitted in school.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

These will take place from 21st – 25th October 2019 for all parents. To facilitate these, school will close at 1.00pm each day. As these meetings are a vital part of our home/school partnership we would ask that you make the effort to attend. As last year, one letter has gone out to the eldest pupil in each family. We would ask that you complete the reply to include all family members and return it to school with the eldest pupil. A reminder that there will be no after school clubs during this week.

House System

The school continues to operate the House Competition. All pupils have been placed into one of three houses:

Bann, Lagan and Foyle

Points are awarded to pupils for a range of things, (e.g. good manners) and the points are displayed in the Assembly Hall each week with a monthly House Cup presented to the House with the most points.

Congratulations to the following Yr 6 and 7 pupils who have been elected as Captain and Vice Captains this year.

House	Captain	Vice-Captain
Bann	Owen Reynolds	Rachel Mallon
Foyle	Caoimhe O'Connor	Nadia Knop
Lagan	Joab Silva	Eva Williamson

New Pupil Council Elected

Well done to all our newly elected Year 4-7 Pupil Council members who were recently presented with their badges in assembly. The Pupil Council will meet with Mrs Totten (Pupil Council Co-ordinator) every month in the Conference Room.

Yr 7	Owen Reynolds & Joab Silva
Yr 6 B/M	Henrique Fialho & Nadia Knop
Yr 6 McK	Emma Creaney & Roisin McAleese
Yr 5	Jude Hall & Miguiera Guterres
Yr 4A	Goda Valiute & Daniela Norusaite
Yr 4 McCW	Courtney McGeown & Noah Wilson
LSC	Donald Lucas & Ryan-Lee Flynn

Eco Committee

Congratulations to the following pupils who have been elected onto the Eco Committee for 2019 – 2020. They will meet on a regular basis with Miss Abraham (Eco Co-ordinator)

Yr 7 – Roxana Rosca & Blathnaid Moylan

Yr 6 B/M – Brooke McGeown & Caitlin Kelly

Yr 6 McK – Eva Williamson & Shea Mulholland

Yr 5 – Miguiera Guterres & Corey Simpson

Yr 4 A – Nuria Encada Pires & Daniela Norusaite

Yr 4 McCW – Ollie Byrne & Maisie Millar

Sustrans Bronze Award

We are very pleased that Ballyoran PS has been awarded the Sustrans Bronze Award for active travel to school. Staff, pupils, teachers and parents have all contributed and worked hard over the past year to increase active travel in our school. A big thank you to Dave from Sustrans who has helped us achieve this award. We look forward to working towards our Sustrans Silver Award through lots of active travel events this year.

Park Explorer Activities

Classes from Ballyoran PS have been enjoying Park Explorer activities at the People's Park. These include activities such as pond dipping, bird watching, scavenger hunts, mini beasts and trees. A big thank you to the park rangers at the People's Park for organising these activities.

Gaelic Blitz

On Wednesday 18th September our gaelic team took part in a blitz hosted by St Peter's Collegeland. The team performed really well against six other teams, winning 3 and losing 3 of their matches. We are particularly proud of our younger players who represented their school for the first time. Player of the tournament for Ballyoran was Year 7 pupil Lara Lopes.

Year 5 Fire Safety Talk

Three firefighters from Portadown Fire Station visited Year 5 and talked to the children about fire safety. Planning an escape route, checking smoke alarms, switching off plugs and not overloading sockets were the main learning points.

Morning and Afternoon Arrangements

A reminder that all pupils must be dropped off outside school in the mornings. We ask that parents do not enter the school building. This is to ensure the smooth operation of the school first thing in the morning. Unfortunately it will not be possible for you to speak to your child's teacher in the morning as they are busy preparing and supervising. If you have an urgent message, please go to the Office. A reminder that supervision does not begin until 8.45am, therefore your child/children should not be on the premises before this unless they are attending Breakfast Club.

You are reminded to wait outside the red gate at home time until your child is dismissed by their teacher. We ask that parents do not come in to remove their child/children or call them out until they have been dismissed.

Thank you to the vast majority of parents who respect the above requests.

Car Parks/Parking

A reminder that the car parks must not be used for dropping off or collecting pupils. Parents and pupils are asked to refrain from entering the car park for Health and Safety reasons. Again, thank you to the vast majority of parents who respect this. Traffic congestion continues to be a problem in Ballyoran Park and we would ask that you respect local residents by parking sensibly. Please also respect other drivers and pupils. No-one should park on the yellow hazard lines or block the gates. **Unfortunately, I have been informed that recently a local resident was verbally abused and threatened by someone picking up a pupil from school when they were challenged about where they had parked. This behaviour is totally unacceptable and I would ask all our parents to show respect for all local residents.**

European Day of Languages

On Wednesday 25th September we celebrated European Day of Languages. Children spoke in lots of different languages and had fun learning new songs and games.

School Attendance – Every School Day Counts

Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning. Sometimes attendance percentages can be misleading – as a whole school in 2018/19 we had an average attendance of 90.8%. From the Department of Education guidance detailed below you can see that this falls into the 'Poor' category. As a whole school we would like your cooperation in improving our rate of attendance and in turn reducing the days of lost learning. From your child's summer report you will find the rate of attendance for 2018/19 and make comparisons with the table below. Please note that rates of attendance are reviewed monthly with the Educational Welfare Office (EWO) and those children falling below 85% are automatically referred to the EWO for intervention. Thank you for your help in this matter. The Department of Education booklet '**School Attendance Matters - A Parent's Guide**' is available on the school website and from the Office.

100% Attendance	0 Days Missed	Excellent
95% Attendance	9 Days of Absence 1 Week and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Satisfactory
90% Attendance	19 Days of Absence 3 Weeks and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Poor
85% Attendance	28 Days Absence 5 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	Very Poor
80% Attendance	38 Days of Absence 7 Weeks and 3 days of Learning Missed	Unacceptable
75% Attendance	46 Days of Absence 9 Weeks and 1 Day of Learning Missed	Unacceptable

Due to Department of Education Guidelines, a present mark can only be given if a pupil is in school.

Just as Attendance is important, Punctuality is also very important. School begins at 8.55am therefore; pupils should be in school when the 8.55am bell rings. We would ask all parents to help ensure this is the case. If pupils are late, the class is disrupted and valuable teaching time is lost. **Please note that**

Pupils arriving in class after the 9.00am bell will be marked as late. If a pupil is late twice in one week, you will receive a letter from the teacher. If this happens again in the same half-term, you will receive a second letter and be referred to the Principal.

School Website

Please keep up to date with what is going on in school by visiting our website on www.ballyoranps.com

Money Reminder

Thank you to everyone who sends all money into school in an envelope. Parents are reminded that teachers will no longer be accepting loose coins. All money coming into school must be the correct amount, in an envelope labelled with the child's name, the amount and what it is for. Also where there are more than one pupil in the school, a separate envelope should be sent for each item and each child. This will ensure that teachers have more time for teaching. Thank you for your co-operation on this matter.

Daily Mile

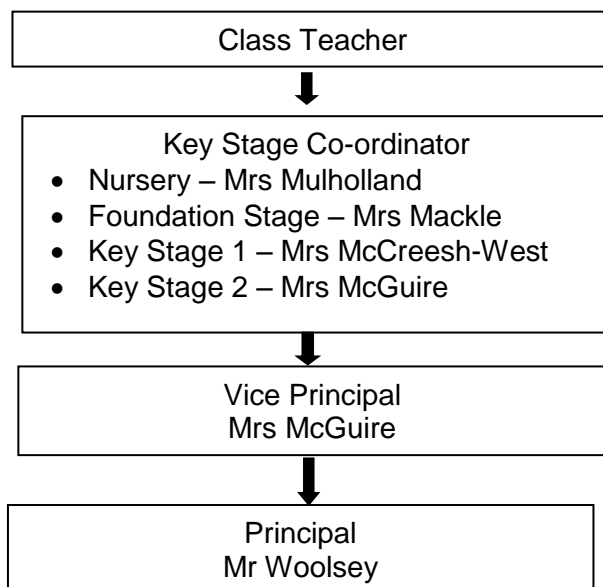
As you have previously been notified all our pupils take part in the 'Daily Mile' initiative in conjunction with the Southern Health Trust. This includes 15 minutes of walking or running each day, over and above normal PE lessons. Further information is available on the school website.

Gum Shields

Please note that it is school policy and GAA policy that everyone involved in Gaelic Football must wear a gum shield to protect their teeth and gums. All pupils attending after school Gaelic on Mondays and playing in matches and blitzes must wear a gum shield or they will not be able to take part.

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.

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.

Information for EEA Citizens

The UK are set to leave the EU on 31st October 2019.

All EEA Citizens and their family members can apply now to the EU Settlement Scheme to establish their right to live in the UK after June 2021.

The scheme is open and it is **free** to apply.

If you are an EU citizen living in Northern Ireland and you need help with the application or advice on the process for applying yourself you can contact Community Advice Centre Craigavon on **02838361181** or email enquiry@advicecraigavon.com to arrange an appointment. Appointments are also available Saturdays in our Lurgan office and Tuesday evenings in our Portadown office.

Alternatively you can contact the EUSS helpline on **0800 138 6545**.

Flu Immunisation Programme

The School Health Team will be visiting the school on Thursday 24th October for the flu immunisation programme. Consent forms will be given out to the children in the coming weeks and must be returned to school before Thursday 24th October.

The programme has been introduced to give protection to children against flu, which can be a very unpleasant illness and can mean that they have to take time off school. It will also help to stop the spread of flu and so will protect people around them as well. The vaccine is usually given to children by a simple spray into their nose and they can return to their lessons very quickly afterwards. Having read the leaflet provided, you can contact the school health team if you have any further questions on 028 3831 1431.

Information about the programme and leaflets in other languages can be found at:
<http://www.fluawareni.info>

A short video aimed at children explaining the programme can be found at:
<http://www.nhs.uk/Video/Pages/flu-heroes-nasal-flu-spray-for-kids.aspx>

You may find it helpful to show it to the children in advance of school health teams visiting the school.

Extra Curricular Activities - Term 1

(See page 7)

Menu for October

(See back page)

R Woolsey
Principal

Extra-Curricular Activities 2019/2020 Term 1

Club	Day	Dates	Time	Class	Staff	Location
ICT	Monday - Thursday	Weekly Commences Monday 23 rd September	3 - 4pm	Yr 4 - 7	Mrs Glavin	ICT Suite
Gaelic	Monday	23 rd Sep, 7 th & 14 th Oct, 4 th , 11 th , 18 th & 25 th Nov, 2 nd & 9 th Dec	2 - 3pm	Yr 2	PC Coaching	Pitch/ Playground/ Hall
Gaelic	Monday	23 rd Sep, 7 th & 14 th Oct, 4 th , 11 th , 18 th & 25 th Nov, 2 nd & 9 th Dec	3 - 4pm	Yr 3 - 7	PC Coaching	Pitch/ Playground/ Hall
Soccer	Tuesday	TBC	3 - 4pm	Yr 5 - 7	Ambassadors In Sport	Pitch/ Playground/ Hall
IPads	Tuesday	24 th Sep, 1 st , & 8 th Oct, 5 th , 12 th & 19 th Nov	3 - 4pm	Yr 4 - 7	Mrs Mulholland	Nursery 1
French	Tuesday	24 th Sep, 1 st , & 8 th Oct, 5 th , 12 th & 19 th Nov	3 - 4pm	Yr 4 - 7	Mrs Baxter	Nursery 2
Games	Wednesday	25 th Sept, 2 nd , 9 th & 16 th Oct, 6 th & 13 th Nov	3 - 4pm	Yr 4 - 7	Mr Woolsey	
Irish Dancing	Wednesday	Starting after Half Term - Dates TBC	3 - 4pm	Yr 4 - 7	Mrs Heaney	Hall/Dinnerhall
Eco	Wednesday	2 nd , 9 th & 16 th , October, 6 th , 13 th & 20 th November	3 - 4pm	Yr 4 - 7	Miss Abraham	Year 4 Classroom

Please note Eco Club is for Eco Committee members only.

Please note French, IPads and Games have very limited spaces and only those children who received a consent form from the teacher in charge of these clubs have been allocated a space.

Please note there will be no Clubs during the following weeks:

1. Parent/Teacher Meeting Week: 21st - 25th October 2019
2. Half term week: 28th October - 1st November 2019
3. Last week of term: 16th - 20th December 2019