

Ballylifford PS Newsletter - Term 1B Christmas 2017

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BRYSON ENERGY

Thank you to Elaine Brownlee from Bryson Energy who visited P5/6/7 class and gave a very informative talk on energy efficiency. We learned lots of ways to help us to be more energy efficient in our homes.

KS2 TRIP TO RADAR NI, BELFAST

Thank you to PSCP and Mid Ulster Council for arranging our visit to RADAR NI recently which was very informative and made the pupils aware of potential dangers. The pupils covered a number of scenarios including: Road Safety, Fire Safety, Personal Protection, Anti-Bullying, Online Safety & Anti-social Behaviour

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

The Anti-Bullying Week took place in November and the theme was "All Equal, All Different, All Together". P1/P2 and P3/P4 all produced wonderful art displays which are on view in the classrooms. The P5-P7 pupils produced lovely Anti-Bullying posters and friendship flowers for 'Our Friendship Garden' as part of Anti-Bullying Week.

NEW SCHOOL BUDDIES

Our new 'School Buddies' from Key Stage 2 were announced recently and got an opportunity to wear the new School Buddy armbands. The School Buddy system has been established to have the following aims:

- To help prevent children feeling unhappy or lonely at playtime and help create a safe environment.
- To help younger children with their belongings.
- To encourage pupils to play fairly at playtime.
- To assist the supervisors in the playground.
- To organise playground equipment.

We are in process of organising training sessions to support them in their role. The children will learn important social skills such as assertiveness, communication, respect for others, empathy, self-confidence and discourage bullying. Good luck to the boys and girls in their new roles.

PARENT / TEACHER MEETINGS

Thank you to all parents who attended the Parent / Teacher interviews in November.

NSPCC VISIT

Thank you to Siobhan, Fiona and Lisa for delivering two assemblies for P1-P4 pupils and P5-P7 pupils and a workshop to the P6 and P7 pupils.

'Speak Out, Stay Safe' message from Buddy the mascot and making the pupils aware that all children have a right to be safe.



MACMILLAN CANCER PRESENTATION

Thank you to everyone who attended our hugely successful coffee morning at the end of September.

Our School Council got the opportunity to present a cheque for £715 to Iris McKeown from local Mid-Ulster MacMillan Cancer support.

Fantastic generosity from the everyone connected to Ballylifford school community and the Ballinderry Parish.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

We would like to say a big thank you to our Friends of Ballylifford PTA for their invaluable support and organisation of the Craft Fair on Saturday 2nd December. It was fantastically supported by everyone who attended.

These events help raise funds to support the school in many curriculum areas but it also creates a sense of community spirit within Ballylifford Primary School and the Ballinderry Parish.

DIGITAL LEADERS PRESENTATION

ASSEMBLY

Thank you to Patrick McGrath from iTeach who announced the names of our newly elected Digital Leaders at assembly this morning.

He presented them with their T-Shirts, certificates, lanyards & badges. He also informed the pupils of their roles as digital leaders especially in helping friends, family and teachers. They also took the Digital Leaders pledge and are really looking forward to performing their roles throughout the year.

Great work boys and girls and good luck in your new roles.



APPLE STORE KS2 TRIP

KS2 pupils visited the Apple Store in Belfast recently for an unforgettable learning experience on their Apple Field trip. During the hands-on session, the pupils got to create iMovie projects using Green Screen which they will further develop in the classroom.

The pupils finished off their trip with lunch in McDonald's!

Thanks to Conor and Karen at the Apple Store who helped all the pupils during the session.



CHRISTMAS DINNER & CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY



School Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day
was on **Friday 8th December**.

Thank you again to Brigid Ann and Orla who always serve a wonderful dinner for staff and pupils.

PLAYGROUPS CHRISTMAS VISIT

We had special visitors at Ballylifford PS with local playgroups from Ballinderry and Ballyronan getting opportunity to see our wonderful KS2 pupils perform their musical, singing and drama talents.

They KS2 children sang Christmas songs 'Welcome', 'Christmas Candle' & 'Christmas in Ballinderry'. The tin whistle and guitar group played the popular Christmas tunes 'Silent Night', 'Away in a Manger' and 'Jingle Bells'.

The final part was a short Christmas production of 'Once Upon a Christmas Eve' led by our Narrator Tiernan, with many character roles that included Santa, Elves, Reindeers, Stars and some very excited children in their pyjamas waiting for Santa to arrive.

The playgroup also enjoyed a small snack and received a Reindeer goodie bag. Thanks to both playgroups and their staff for accepting our annual invitation and we hope you all enjoyed a fantastic morning.

We wish both playgroup a very happy Christmas and a peaceful new year.

CHRISTMAS ASSEMBLY / RAFFLE

The Christmas assembly and raffle was held in school on **Thursday 21st December**.

Well done and thank you to the KS2 pupils for our Christmas assembly which involving Christmas songs, music and a short drama 'Once Upon a Christmas Eve'

Thanks to all the parents and school community who donated to the hampers for the raffle. Thank you to everyone who bought tickets. All money raised goes towards school funds.

Your support is very much appreciated, and congratulations to all raffle winners. Raffle prize winners can be viewed on the school website.



CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE & OPEN NIGHT



Thank you everyone who attended our annual Christmas Carol Service & Open Night on **Tuesday 19th December**

Thank you to our wonderful canteen staff provided refreshments in school and to all the staff for having the school looking fantastic. It was a great opportunity for our school community to see around the school.

CHRISTMAS PANTO

The staff and pupils attended the production 'Peter Pan' in The Grand Opera House Belfast on Wednesday 20th

December - 2:30pm Matinee.

The children enjoyed a lovely brunch in school before departing for the Panto where they had a fantastic time.

BALLINDERRY CREDIT UNION ART COMPETITION

Well done to all the pupils who participated in the Credit Union competition before Halloween. Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to the Credit Union for the wonderful prizes and to Mrs Caroline Quinn for presenting them to the winners.

BALLYLIFFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL WEBSITE & SCHOOL NI APP.

Our new school website is now online and all information will be updated to the website. We hope you will find this an informative way of sharing news and events about our school. An additional sheet was sent home with our November Newsletter encouraging all parents and family members to download the **SCHOOL NI APP**



The **SCHOOL NI APP** allows everyone to view school updates and receive messages via smart Please take note smartphone or tablet. The app is available on both Apple and Android devices, and will give you access to our school news, calendar events and letters.

www.ballyliffordps.com

NEW CREST, VALUES AND MOTTO

We have finally completed our journey on deciding on our new school crest which reflects key elements of the school, the school community and the history of the school. We have retained some aspects of the current crest during the design process and added to our more modern design. The new crest has been developed alongside our new school values and school motto with the hope of reflecting the overall ethos and aspirations of the school community.



ACCELERATED READER

Well done to all the pupils who received Accelerated Reader Certificates for the first time recently.

The certificates were for all the words that have been read by the pupils since Halloween. A total of 1.8million words have been read so far this term!

Some great reading taking place and great to see huge interest levels in improving their reading skills. Keep up the great reading boys and girls!



PEACE IV Shared Education Project

We are pleased to announce that we have been successful in our joint application with Coagh PS. The programme will commence in January with pupils receiving 30 hrs contact time between both schools.

The purpose of shared education is to -

- (a) deliver educational benefits to children and young persons;
- (b) promote the efficient and effective use of resources;
- (c) promote equality of opportunity;
- (d) promote good relations; and
- (e) promote respect for identity, diversity and community cohesion.



THE SPEEDWELL TRUST

We also are pleased to announce that the Speedwell Trust has received funding from the Mid-Ulster council to deliver a fun and innovative shared project to KS1 children from Ballylifford PS and Coagh PS.

We would hope to begin the project in January and have it completed in March. Workshops that will be delivered will be drumming, friendships and feelings, team building and respecting diversity.



PRIMARY 1 ENROLMENT 2018

Enrolment application forms are now available for children starting P1 in September 2018. All forms can be collected from school office or can be downloaded from the EA website.

Forms must be returned to school office by **Wednesday 10th January 2018 at 12noon.**



DATES FOR THE DIARY:

Friday 22nd December 2017

School will finish for Christmas Holidays at **11:00am.**

Thursday 4th Jan & Friday 5th January 2018
- Staff Development Days

Monday 8th January 2018 -School will reopen for ALL pupils.

SACRAMENTAL DATES:

Confirmation Friday 9th February 2018

First Holy Communion Sat. 19th May 2018

Confirmation Retreat Day with Derrychrin PS - Wed. 24th January 2018

On behalf of all pupils, staff and governors of Ballylifford PS we would like to thank you for all the support, encouragement and assistance you give to the school. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year

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Merry Christmas



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