



BALLYLIFFORD PS

NEWSLETTER

Term 2 - 2019



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

The theme for Catholic Schools Week this year was Catholic Schools: Celebrating the Work of Our Local Catholic Schools.

We celebrated the week (27th Jan-3rd Feb) with daily thought for the day, Grandparents Day prayer service on Wednesday, John Wilson made St. Brigid's crosses with the pupils on Thursday & pupils attended St. Brigid's Day Mass on Friday 1st February.

CEREMONY OF LIGHT

Well done to all the P7 pupils who celebrated the Ceremony of Light along with Derrychrin PS in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

It was lovely to see so many families & friends supporting the school at our joint Ceremony of Light celebration

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Congratulations to our P7 pupils who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Friday 5th March. It was a beautiful celebration for both Ballylifford PS and Derrychrin PS with Archbishop Martin as celebrant.

A special word of thanks must also go to our P3-P6 pupils in the school choir and our tin whistle group who were also fantastic.

SIOLTA CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Ballylifford hosted this year's P7 Siolta Retreat Day with Derrychrin PS in preparation for Confirmation. It was lead by Bosco McShane from Siolta and the pupils learned so much about their faith. Great to see both Parish schools learning together and sharing the experience.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Well done and congratulations to our P4 pupils who made their First Penance recently.

A special thank you to Fr Donnelly who celebrated the Mass, Mr Sheerin & Mrs Muldoon who prepared the children so well and all parents and family members who attended.



THANK YOU & GOOD LUCK MR SHEERIN

Mr Sheerin who has been with us in Ballylifford PS since January to cover Ms Hurl's absence in the P3/P4 class, has taken up a permanent post in Holy Trinity PS, Cookstown.

We would like to wish him every success in the future and we have no doubt he will make a massive contribution like he has done in Ballylifford. Mrs Muldoon has been in the P3/P4 since 1st April until Easter and we welcome Ms Hurl back after the Easter holidays.

VALETINE'S DRESS UP RED DAY

All shades of red were on show for Wear Red Day on Valetine's Day. All pupils contributed £75.00 which will go towards the Defibrillator at McCrystal's shop.

INTERNET SAFETY DAY

Splendid work by our Digital Leaders who delivered two assemblies to our P1-P4 and P5-P7 pupils in Term 2, on how to stay safe online. They also participated in drama scenarios on how to make good choices online and pledges to make online a safer place.

The Digital Leaders informed everyone about the potential online dangers and highlighting this years message,

'Our Internet, Our Choice'

BALLINDERRY CREDIT UNION QUIZ

Well done to our P6 and P7 pupils who took part in the Ballinderry Bridge Credit Union Quiz on Monday 4th February along with Derrychrin PS and St. Patrick's PS, Loup.

Thank you to Ballinderry Bridge Credit Union for the wonderful prizes that all teams received and to The Loup PS for being wonderful hosts.

CREDIT UNION ART COMPETITION **WINNERS**

Congratulations to all the pupils who won prizes in the Ballinderry Bridge Credit Union Art Competition. The theme was *'The Force of Nature'*

Thank you to Philomena who presented the wonderful prizes to the winners.

SPRING IN MATHS QUIZ **ST. PIUS COLLEGE**

Well done to our P6 and P7 pupils who participated in the St. Pius College 'Spring Into Maths' Quiz. A brilliant experience for the pupils and a great opportunity to test their Mathematical knowledge and understanding. Thank you to St. Pius Maths Department for the invite and well done on a successful and well organised event.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

School photos will take place on **Tuesday 30th April.**

Family group photos will take place at 9am, with individual photos, P1 & P7 class



INSPIRE & WELL-BEING FOR ALL

Thank you to Teresa and Anita from 'INSPIRE WELL-BEING FOR ALL' who hosted a workshop session 'Calming the Mind & Body Techniques' for our P4 and P5 pupils. They showed all the pupils various strategies on how to deal with anxiety and emotions through muscle relaxation, breathing techniques and tapping techniques.

We would like to thank all the parents who attended the follow up session and received feedback from the pupil workshop and an information pack to support the children at home.



Calmer Shores
Counselling & Creative Therapy

EMOTIONS IN MOTION

Thank you to Padraic Devlin from *Calmer Shores* who held a parents' session to inform parents about the activities and strategies that the P6/7 pupils participated in during the 4 week sessions. All techniques can be used to reduce and relieve stress or anxiety. This successful and very beneficial program was organised by the SOFT project based in Cookstown.

THE DAILY MILE

Our P3-P7 pupils continue to participate in The Daily Mile and just recently the P1/P2 pupils have been introduced to the program.

This is something we very much value and it improves learning readiness, concentration and behaviour - which leads to better attainment. It also builds the children's confidence, resilience and determination while they are enjoying being outside in the fresh air, running with their friends.

The children can either run or jog and is implemented as per core principles, almost all children will be able to run for most, or all of, the way after around 4 weeks. This level of fitness will be maintained or improved over the coming months and years.

Our pupils are very motivated and excited to be involved in the program and are always very willing to complete the daily challenge.



MID ULSTER SCHOOLS SWIMMING CHAMPIONS 2019



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Congratulations to our Swimming Team who were crowned the Winners of the Best Overall School at Greenvale Leisure Centre Inter-Schools Swimming Gala. A fantastic achievement by the team and they performed brilliantly in all their heats recording excellent times. With five P5 pupils, two P6 pupils and two P7 pupils, it was a superb team effort by all pupils, showing super determination and attitude in all events.

Congratulations to Nicole Higgins P6, who came first in the Back Crawl, Front Crawl, Breast Stroke and Butterfly.

Conor McCusker P5 came second in the Front Crawl and third in the Butterfly.

The girls' team came third overall in the Freestyle Relay. Unfortunately, the Boys Freestyle team missed out on a medal and were unlucky not to finish in the top three overall.

The scoring system meant we won Best Overall School in a close contest with only five points separating an excellent Annahorish PS team and ourselves.

It was a week to remember for Nicole was also crowned Irish U10 Schools Champion in the Freestyle event held at the Aquatic Centre, Dublin. Brilliant achievement and as a school community we are extremely proud of her success.

Winning the Magherafelt Area Gala meant the school reached the Mid Ulster Finals against the Cookstown and Dungannon Schools. This was a much tougher event against schools much larger than Ballylifford PS.

Nicole Higgins, came third in the Freestyle, Back Crawl and Breaststroke events. Another superb performance Nicole and she surely has a bright future ahead!

Well done to our pupils who participated in both Swimming Galas at the Greenvale Leisure Centre organised by the Mid-Ulster District Council. It was the pupils' first experience of competing in a Swimming competition and they were fantastic, representing Ballylifford PS with pride. The pupils are already looking forward to it again next year.

SHARED EDUCATION

Our Shared Education partnership with Coagh PS continues to grow with great learning through the WAU Themes of 'Water' and 'Fairtrade' along with developing the pupils' ICT skills through Coding using Sphero Sprk+

Our P5 pupils continue to develop their understanding of WATER especially the importance of having clean water and experiencing the challenges of how some countries don't have instant access to clean water, with dirty water their only option. It highlights the serious consequences and also how they have to walk long distances to collect clean water to survive.

All P5 pupils also got opportunity to release Dollaghan trout fry into Ballinderry River. In groups they also sorted through river samples and tried to name all the different types of bugs which are found in the river. Thank you to Ballinderry Rivers Trust for organising the release.

Our P6/P7 pupils continue to develop their knowledge and understanding of FAIRTRADE comparing various Fairtrade and Non-Fairtrade products along with the advantages and disadvantages of Fairtrade.

With our ever changing digital world the pupils show great teamwork in all coding sessions through the use of Sphero Sprk+ and activity mats by programming the Sphero to make various journeys around the mats and by creating their own journeys using various materials and resources.



MID ULSTER COUNCIL FAIRTRADE SCHOOLS EVENT

Pupils from Ballylifford PS and Coagh PS enjoyed a wonderful morning at the Fairtrade Schools Event at the Hill of The O'Neill and Rathfurly House Arts and Visitor Centre Dungannon.

They took part in various workshops and also enjoyed Fairtrade snacks and refreshments. Thank you to Mid Ulster Council for the invitation.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

As part of our St. Patrick's Day celebrations everyone enjoyed a day of craic agus ceol in Ballylifford, immersed in our Irish Culture. It started off with an assembly about St. Patrick presented by the P1 and P2 pupils.

We were treated to some songs and tunes from the P3-P7 pupils. We then listened to scéalta from our Irish Tutor Gerry McDonald, who portrayed them with such fun and enthusiasm! Míle buíochas Gerry!



ACCELERATED READING AWARDS

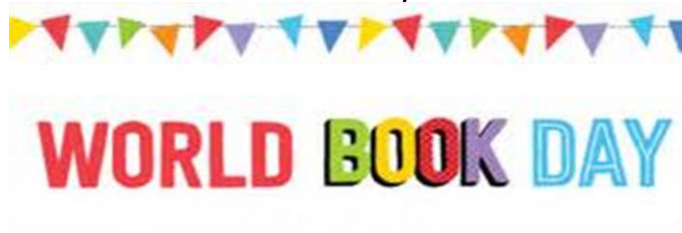
Well done to all pupils who received AR certificates for fabulous reading in Term Two

The children received certificates for reaching or exceeding the recommended 85% or above in reading practice quizzes and reading between 10,000 and half a million words. They also reached their termly points target for AR.

Tremendous reading by everyone and it's brilliant to see such motivation and enthusiasm to improve their reading and comprehension skills.

We also had our first pupil to reach **ONE MILLION** words. Well done to Eoin

McCusker P5 who became our first 'AR Millionaire' Superb reading and he is already determined to repeat the feat again in the next school year.



BALLYLIFFORD WORLD BOOK DAY

Well done to all the boys and girls who dressed up for World Book Day and thank you to the parents for supporting and assisting their children with their wonderful costumes.

The pupils enjoyed completing reading activities throughout the day.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Thank you to everyone who purchased books at our recent Book Fair.

We sold £490.00 in books and the school will receive £196.00 in commission which will go towards purchasing new Literacy Comprehension resources for the school.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

GIVE YOUR CHILD A HELPING HAND

The Department of Education has launched a new campaign '**Give your child a helping hand**' highlighting the essential role that parents can play in helping their children do well at school and improve their life chances

If you spend time playing, talking, reading and counting with your child, this can make a big difference in how well they do at school

Reading is essential for your child's success. Children who read outside class time are 13 times more likely to read above the expected level for their age

A child's family and home environment has a big impact on their numeracy and educational achievement



Find out how at:

www.nidirect.gov.uk/helping-hand



Supporting Our Families Together

SOFT PROJECT -COOKSTOWN

The SOFT Project (Supporting Our Families Together) is a five-year school and community family programme funded by the Big Lottery's Reaching Out Supporting Families fund. The Speedwell Trust is the lead partner.

SOFT brings children and young people together. The project works with primary schools, post primary schools and nursery school from all sectors across Cookstown and the surrounding area - Controlled, Maintained, Integrated and Irish Medium. They widen the network of support for children, young people and their families by co-operating with additional organisations across the community and statutory sectors. The size and scope of the project helps SOFT find and deliver the best possible service.

SOFT organises many workshops and courses throughout the year with lots of different programmes designed with family's needs in mind. It involves other partners in workshops and run some in-house. These include family bonding trips, children's and young people's events, trips, residentials and a summer scheme, reaching a wide audience. The programmes involve and work with people from all backgrounds, sharing, learning and growing together. The breadth and scope of diversity within the project is it's greatest strength.

Ballylifford P.S. have been extremely fortunate to have SOFT Project partners in the school recently who delivered anxiety workshops for pupils with follow up information sessions for parents. They will visit the school again in May to deliver healthy eating and good food choices workshops for our P3 / P4 pupils with a follow up parent's session.

Details have been sent home to parents regards this workshop.

FAMILY SUPPORT NI



Helping You Find the Services You Need

The Health and Social Care Board for Northern Ireland, has developed the Northern Ireland Family Support website. They have asked all schools to keep their families informed about their website. The purpose of this website is to create a comprehensive database of family support and REGISTERED childcare services across Northern Ireland. The health and social care in Northern Ireland also recognised the importance of the website as an information and signposting resource for families, communities and professionals.

ECO-SCHOOLS

In Term 2, our 'Green Team' carried out some repairs on our Eco signs around the school. The signs help to make our school more Eco-Friendly and guide our younger children on how to dispose of all types of waste. The team also delivered an assembly on Energy Saving throughout the school and their homes and recycled old batteries. We have now applied for our 'Green Flag' and we hope to have the assessment completed in June. Thank you to Mrs Sweeney and Mr Sheerin for co-ordinating the ECO Schools and continue to inform the pupils of its important role in our school.



STRENGTH:LAB **SUPERHEROES PROGRAMME**



Strength: Lab Superheroes Programme

Superheroes organised by The Performance Lab Cookstown, is the movement curriculum that your school's pupils have been dreaming of, and one which will give them the solid foundations upon which to build their physical activity and competence. The goal of the program is not just to develop the children's physical literacy but to also support the teachers PE and physical literacy skills as well, so the program in the school becomes self-sustainable in the long term.

Put simply, it's a movement programme delivered through the medium of some of their favourite Superhero characters.

So all the squats are Ironman moves, crawls are Spiderman, Thor for lunges, Superman for planks and Hulk for burpees!

There are 24 movement patterns to be mastered in each of the five different disciplines. Each pupil has received a Superhero poster with all 24 levels and a passcode to login online to see the levels awarded to them by their assessors/teachers, video support for each movement pattern and league tables within their class, school, or area.

We are one of the lucky primary schools who are involved in the program and the feedback from the pupils has been extremely positive. They are also having lots of fun during the sessions and we encourage them to practise at home to further develop their skills and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

It is also a great opportunity for parents to get involved and join in with their children while practising at home!

FRIENDS OF BALLYLIFFORD PTA



The Friends of Ballylifford PTA have organised a Term Two Fundraiser. As a treat, the children have been given an Easter Egg and a tube of Smarties. They can enjoy both treats over the holidays but they need to keep the Smarties tube! They can fill the tubes with £1 and 20p coins and return to school at the end of May. All money raised will again go towards resources for the school and most importantly for the children.

The Smarties Challenge

***To celebrate being so good.
Please find an Easter reward, if you would.***

***We would like to give you each a treat.
We have given you these smarties to eat.***

***Keep the tube, don't throw it away.
Do jobs, tasks and good deeds to earn your pay.***

***Fill the tubes with £1.00 and/or 20p coins, don't stop.
There is a prize for the family on top.***

***Families with more than one child in school.
Can just fill one tube, that's still cool.***

***And if by the end your tubes not packed.
Don't worry, put your name on it and send it back.***

***To spend in school for one and all.
So come on kids answer our call!***

***Please return to school by Friday 31st May
Thanks, Friends of Ballylifford PTA***



PUPIL HOME TIME COLLECTION

Reminder: Pupil home time collection is from the school hall when there is wet/poor weather. The hall has been marked out for where the children are to line up. All parents and family members can collect their children from the hall at the back of the school. These doors will be opened for parents / family members to enter the hall whilst waiting on the children. We thank you for co-operation and support with this school procedure.

****The school bell will ring at 2:50pm daily to allow the P3-P7 children to tidy up and get ready for home time to ensure they are collected on time and to avoid any delays for parents/ family members****

TERM 3: AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

TUESDAY: Transfer Club -P6 pupils
(Mr McElroy/ Ms Hurl /Mrs Muldoon)

WEDNESDAY: GOLF -KS2 pupils
(Tony Mulholland)

THURSDAY: CAMOGIE P3-P7 pupils
(Mrs Shauna Forbes / Mrs Donna Loughran)

THURSDAY: BOYS GAELIC FOOTBALL
P3-P7 pupils
(Mr McElroy)

Happy Easter!



IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FIRST COMMUNION

First Communion - Saturday 18th May 2019 at 11:00am

New P1 Intake for September 2019 - Open Morning - Tuesday 4th June

Friends of Ballylifford PTA School Fun Day -Sunday 9th June 2019

End of Year School Trips - Wed. 19th June

Sports Day - Thursday 20th June

Aaron Devlin Tournament - Fri. 21st June

End of Year School Mass - Tues. 25th June

End of Year Assembly - Wed. 26th June 2019

REMINDER: SCHOOL CLOSURES

Easter Holidays: -

Good Friday 19th April -Fri. 26th April 2019

May Bank Holiday - Mon. 6th May 2019

Staff Dev. Day - Fri 24th May 2019

May Bank Holiday - Mon 27th May 2019

CONOR'S COLOUR RUN

SAT 20th APRIL at 10am

ON CONOR'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY
THE MCCUSKER FAMILY INVITE YOU TO:

CONOR'S COLOUR RUN

RUN • WALK • CRAWL 5K
FOR ORGAN DONATION AWARENESS

SATURDAY 20TH APRIL 2019 AT 10.00AM
BALLINDERRY SHAMROCKS GAC
REGISTER NOW BY TEXT/WHATSAPP
TO: 07495460284

ALL AGES WELCOME.
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS ON THE DAY

FREE ENTRY!

/ConorsColourRun