



# BALLYLIFFORD PS NEWSLETTER

## Term 3 - 2019



### P1 INDUCTION OPEN MORNING

Thank you to all the parents and our future P1 children who attended our induction morning on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June.

It was a wonderful opportunity to meet all the parents and children. We hope the children had a wonderful morning playing and interacting with the current P1 pupils.

We are looking forward to seeing you all again on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September for their first day.

Welcome  
to P1



### PEACE IV SHARED EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Our Peace IV Shared Education programme with neighbouring school Coagh PS concluded for the second year with a visit to the W5 exhibition centre in Belfast. This was our final session over a ten week period which has been a wonderful experience for both schools with super learning taking place across the curriculum areas of ICT (Coding) and World Around Us.

The programme also provided the children with the opportunity to form new friendships and experiences, something both schools aim to continue to further develop next year.

Well done to both schools and thank you to Mr Bayne, the staff and pupils of Coagh PS for making it a very positive and welcoming experience collaborating together.

### FIRST COMMUNION

Congratulations to all our P4 pupils who celebrated their First Holy Communion in St. Patricks Church, Ballinderry on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2019. The children's behaviour and participation were fantastic - they were a real credit to their families and we are truly proud of them. We hope they all had a wonderful day with their families

We would like to take this opportunity to  
thank:

All the school staff and John Wilson who helped prepare and organise the refreshments in the hall.

Thank you to Philomena McGuckin for preparing the pupils for the 'Do This In Memory' programme, Ms Hurl, Class Teacher for preparing all P4 pupils and Mrs Sweeney who prepared the tin whistle group.

Thank you to the choir who attended and also to Ms Hughes from Derrychrin PS who prepared the P3-P7 pupils with all the First Communion songs. Finally, thank you to Fr. Donnelly for celebrating the wonderful mass on this special occasion for all P4 pupils from Ballylifford PS and Derrychrin PS.



### END OF YEAR MASS

End of year Mass for all pupils took place on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June in St. Patrick's Church. Well done and congratulations to the P7 pupils who celebrated their End of Year Mass and thank you to Fr. Donnelly who celebrated the Mass and to all parents and families who attended.

### P7 LEAVERS ASSEMBLY

We would like to say farewell to all our P7 pupils and wish them every success in their new schools and for the future. You will be sorely missed by everyone at Ballylifford PS.

We would also like to congratulate all pupils who received full attendance certificates and all awards with their local clubs this year. The clubs some of our pupils are involved in are boxing, camogie, cheer leading, Gaelic Football, horse riding hurling, Irish dancing, Hip Hop dancing, running, soccer and swimming.

### P7 TRANSFER CLUB

P7 Transfer Club will recommence on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019 for P7 pupils. The second afternoon session will take place every Friday 2pm - 3pm. This will be the timetable of two afternoons per week until November 2019.

### BALLYLIFFORD ANNUAL JUNE FUN DAY

Unfortunately, due to poor weather conditions we reluctantly had to make the decision to cancel it this year. Hopefully the weather will be much kinder to us next year and we can look forward to hosting it again next June.

### SCHOOL MASCOT

The Student Council recently held a vote to decide upon a name of our school's new mascot. All the pupils got an opportunity to vote on the 8 names selected by the school council. The most popular name from the vote was **Buddy**. The big teddy bear was kindly donated to the school by Charlie Ferris. Thank you Charlie!

### CLEVER CLOGGERS

Our P7 pupils took part in the 'Clever Cloggers' Programme led by Julie from 'Amazing Brains'. The pupils joined up with P7 pupils from Coagh and Stewartstown Primary Schools.

The Programme was very informative for the pupils they took part in various tasks and watched videos helping the pupils believe in themselves and how to look after their brain.

#### **The tasks included:**

Buddy Bingo as an ice breaker and getting to know other pupils from other schools.  
Growth Mindset ideas and how your brain is amazing  
Made Neurons using pipe cleaners and joined up together with other groups. The Big Squeeze - game to pass message along line  
Fuel your brain and finding out about the nutritional information for each food item and the importance of Diet Water Exercise Sleep  
Memory Master game to learn memory strategies and strategies about over coming fears and challenges starting Post Primary school.

Thank you to the parents who attended the follow up 'parents information session' and hopefully you are better informed about how they can help their children with their learning.

Thank you to SOFT Project again for organising another informative and meaningful session for all the pupils from the three schools. Big thank you to our wonderful hosts and Shared Education partner school Coagh PS.



## AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Throughout Term 3 the pupils got the opportunity to experience Gaelic Football, Camogie & Golf.

Our Camogie and Boys Gaelic Football teams enjoyed 5 weeks coaching developing their skills and most importantly having fun playing their national sports. It was brilliant to build on the strong community links we currently have in place with Ballinderry Shamrocks who provided the use of their pitch and to club/schools coach and past player Mickey Conlan who along with Mr McElroy passed on their knowledge of the game to all the boys.

A massive thank you to parents and club underage Camogie coaches Shauna Forbes and Donna Loughran who kindly offered to assist with the Camogie team and helped the girls develop their skills and team play over the 5 weeks.

Special appreciation to Clodagh McKinless and Róisín Mullan who donated money to the school in

Term One from their Fundraising 5k Run. We decided to use the money to purchase new Gaelic footballs and we intend to use the remaining money to purchase new Camogie smart touch balls for the girls.

We hope to continue with our club / school link again in the new school year come September. It's fantastic to see so many pupils participating in the afterschool's clubs, the Superheroes program and along with the Daily Mile, the pupils are getting a great opportunity to improve their fitness levels, self-confidence, resilience and determination in the company of all their friends.

From September **BURNS SKILLS SCHOOLS** will be delivering 10 week coaching sessions each term after school every Wednesday, focusing on Basketball, Gymnastics and Hip Hop dance.

<https://www.burnsskillsschool.com/>

Further details including times and costs will be provided at the start of September.



## BOYS AND GIRLS GAELIC FOOTBALL

Well done to both the boys and girls teams who took part in the South Derry Cumann na mBunscol Championship Finals Football tournament recently held at Glen GAA Grounds, Maghera. The children represented the school with pride and played with great determination in all games.

## CAMOGIE TOURNAMENT

Well done to the girls Camogie team who were participated recently in the Derry All County Camogie tournament at Owenbeg.



## STRENGTH LAB

### SUPERHEROES PROGRAMME

After successfully being one of the schools who won a one year subscription for the Strength Lab Superheroes Programme, there have been a few issues with the delivery of the programme. These problems will be corrected in September and The Performance Lab coaches will be visiting the school to deliver a number of sessions throughout the year and assisting with the progress of all pupils.

## ECO-SCHOOLS GREEN FLAG



Congratulations to our AMAZING @Eco\_SchoolsNI Green Team who gained their second Green Flag as the previous one expired in 2011. The assessors Nigel and Fiona were blown away by the work of our pupils and school community. The pupils were amazing and displayed all their skills and talents when delivering their presentation to the assessors to showcase what they have achieved in their ECO Schools Action Plan. A fully deserving award for a very committed team.

Thank you to our ECO Schools Co-Ordinator Mrs Sweeney, former teacher Mr Sheerin, Caretaker John, Wendy and all the staff who helped contribute in any way to help our ECO-Schools Green Team achieve their flag. What a team!



## SCHOOL TRIPS

End of year school trips for all our pupils was on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June.

**P1-P4** pupils had a fantastic time on their end of year trip to AIRTASTIC and an enjoyable time was had by all!

**P5/P6/P7** pupils enjoyed their end of year school trip to Lisburn LeisurePlex and Lisburn Bowl. All the children had a fantastic time and again may we commend them on their exemplary behaviour.

## BALLINDERRY BRIDGE CREDIT UNION

The total savings by the pupils from September 2018 - June 2019 was £287 Well done to the small number of pupils who participated in the savings scheme this year and we encourage all new members to get involved and support our local credit union. Congratulations to P2 Cain, who was top saver this year.

We would also like to offer Ballinderry Bridge Credit Union our best wishes on the grand opening of their new premises on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June.

## SMARTIES CHALLENGE FUNDRAISER

Thank you to the Friends of Ballylifford PTA who organised the 'SMARTIES' fundraiser in May. Each family received a tube of SMARTIES before Easter and they had the challenge of filling them with 20p and £1 coins

The total amount raised was £548 Well done to Shauna & Caragh McGuckin who raised the most with a total of £83.60

## Spraoi as Gaeilge

Míle buíochas le Pearse Cullen, Club Cultural Officer from Ballinderry Shamrocks G.A.C., who recently donated a sum of money for the purchase of Irish Language resources to be used in school during our weekly Irish lessons led by Mrs Sweeney. #GAAGaeilge

## SCHOOL UNIFORM

Please note the following uniform guidelines for September 2019:-

We expect all children to wear full school uniform at all times. We urge you to continue with your excellent support and adhere to the guidelines below.

### Girls:

- Navy sweatshirt with school motif
- Yellow polo shirt
- Plain navy skirt with white socks or navy tights. Girls can also wear plain navy jogging bottoms (NO SPORTING logo- NO Canterbury or GAAGLE bottoms)
- Preferably black/dark shoes or trainers.

### Boys:

- Navy sweatshirt with school motif
- Yellow polo shirt
- Plain Navy jogging bottoms
- (NO SPORTING logo- NO Canterbury or GAAGLE bottoms)
- Preferably black/dark shoes or trainers.

We would like to make parents/carers aware Select Kidz & Sportique Sports Shop are the main uniform providers for Ballylifford PS.

Both stores can do embroidery of school crest & names on all items of uniform if purchased from them. Both stores can also provide plain navy jogging bottoms.

**Your child's name should be clearly marked on ALL clothing and personal belongings.**

We would like to commend everyone on the children's impeccable appearance in their school uniform this year. We feel a real sense of pride when pupils receive positive comments from the local community about their uniform.

## NEW PE SPORTS KIT

We have made contact with O'Neill's Sportswear about our proposed PE and sports clothing for the pupils to use on set PE days and other events when representing the school. It will be restricted to a PE Kit (t-shirt and shorts), school jersey(optional) and a school half zip top.

Our School Uniform Policy will remain the same, as the proposed sports clothing will only be an addition to our school uniform and it will not replace it in any way. In the spring / summer months the shorts can be worn as part of the school uniform.

O'Neill's have produced a product design template including costs. They will provide samples for sizing and the school will collect orders from the parents in one bulk order. It will be delivered to the school which will then be distributed to the parents. The lead time is three weeks from when the order is confirmed.

**A date will be confirmed in early September for size fittings and to place all orders.**

## ACCELERATED READER PROGRAMME

Well done to all pupils who received certificates for reaching different milestones and achievements in the AR reading programme this year. We had children who reached targets from 10,000 to over 1,000,000 million words, which is a fantastic achievement!

We would also encourage children who possibly fell short of their targets throughout the year to continue with reading over the summer months.

Congratulations to the following pupils who have achieved their One Millionaire words certificates throughout the year.  
Jane Devlin, Aideen Gribbin, Eoin McCusker and Eabha Scullion.

**REMINDER: If your child/children have any school reading books, we would be grateful if you could return them before the end of June or in September, in preparation for the next academic year.**

### PSNI SAFETY TALK

Thank you to PSNI Officer Marty Allen who visited the school recently and talked to all the pupils in separate sessions about keeping safe and making good choices.

P1 and P2 pupils were made aware of 'Stranger Danger'

P3 and P4 pupils were made aware of 'Online Safety'

P5, P6 and P7 pupils were given a drugs awareness talk and participated in a number of practical tasks.

### RNLI WATER SAFETY TALK

Thank you to RNLI Lifeguards Ben and Adam who visited us recently to talk to the pupils about water safety and the role of RNLI Lifeguards.

They passed on the knowledge on how they need to stay safe, inspired them by sharing the lifesaving work of RNLI volunteers, the lifeguard uniforms for on the beach when protecting swimmers and surfers. They made the children aware of the different types of

flags used on the beach and the vehicles used to help the Lifeguards in their roles.

Some of the pupils got the opportunity to try on the uniforms and Mrs Sweeney's class got a photo at the RNLI lifeguard rescue jeep.



### SCHOOL SPORTS DAY

Our annual School Sports Day was another very successful and enjoyable event for everyone.

It was great to see so many parents and family members in attendance. We thank all parents who assisted with the supervision of the team events and Fionnuala Devlin who provided the music.

Thankfully the weather was in our favour for most of the day! Sincere gratitude to Ballinderry Shamrocks GAC for gracefully allowing us the use of their excellent facilities. Also thank you to Brigid Ann and Wendy for providing refreshments for parents and family members.

The children enjoyed taking part, having fun and doing their best. We decided not to award any medals for winning races or events this year but instead we presented all children with a participation sports day medal to mark the occasion.

### EXTRA-CURRICULAR MAPS DAY

Our extra-curricular MAPS day trialled in Term 3 on a Friday led by the specialist teachers within the school, proved very successful. The feedback from pupils, staff and parents was positive and we aim to continue with it in September 2019.

It is our vision to give every child a broad and balanced education and we have a team of committed staff and governors who work together to achieve this. Music, Art and PE play an important role in the curriculum and great emphasis is placed on enabling our children to experience a wide variety of activities from a young age. Sometimes these areas can be neglected and we want to ensure all pupils develop many life skills and qualities that can be used in the future and further develop their self-esteem and confidence.

## ST. PIUS X COLLEGE ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE DAY

The P5-P7 pupils had a wonderful morning recently participating in the Environmental Science Day organised by St. Pius College Magherafelt. The pupils along with the P6 pupils from Derrychrin PS got the opportunity to visit their beautiful conservation area and completed a number of cross curricular tasks using a superbly produced booklet.

The Science activity involved identifying creatures found in the pond and recording their results in a tally chart, the Numeracy activity involved completing an excel spreadsheet and producing a graph to show the number of creatures found in the pond and then they completed a short Literacy activity describing their favourite pond creature. While completing both Literacy and Numeracy tasks the pupils got the opportunity to develop their ICT skills and printed out all the work they produced independently.

A massive thank you to all teachers from all curriculum departments who organised the day and who provided a wonderful learning experience for the pupils. The pupils also received great hospitality with a lovely snack at break time and at the end of the event the children were presented with a lovely certificate each to mark the occasion. The pupils are looking forward to the next Environmental Science Day!

## SWIMMING LESSONS

Swimming lessons for the P5-P7 pupils will continue every Thursday 1pm - 1:30pm in the next academic year 2019/2020. Pupils will be notified of cost in September.

## REMINDER OF SCHOOL CLOSURE SUMMER HOLIDAY DATES

School will close on **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June at 2:00pm**

and will re-open for all pupils on **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019 at 9:00am.**

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As the school year comes to an end and what was another positive and successful year for everyone, we wish to thank the local and wider school community, for the tremendous support shown to us over the last year in so many ways. We would especially like to thank everyone who attended all school events, parents who helped with transport to sporting events, accompanied classes on school trips and assisted with after school clubs. We depend so much on your support throughout the year in order to be able to give children the opportunities to participate in many and varied activities both inside and outside school.

A special word of thanks to our 'Friends of Ballylifford' who have been fantastic with their generosity and support as always throughout the last year. They have organised so many incredible events which has raised funds to support the children in their learning and development.

We hope that you will enjoy a restful holiday and look forward to seeing all again safe and well in September. Thank you for your continued support from all the staff at Ballylifford PS.



# oneills

## OFFICIAL SCHOOL PRODUCTS



## PLACE YOUR ORDER TODAY

NOTES:

ITEM	SIZES	INITIALS	PRICE	
			KIDS	ADULTS
LEAVERS JERSEY	KIDS: <input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5-6 <input type="checkbox"/> 7-8 <input type="checkbox"/> 9-10 <input type="checkbox"/> 10-11 <input type="checkbox"/> 11-12 <input type="checkbox"/> 13-14 ADULTS: <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> XXL LADIES: <input type="checkbox"/> 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 10 <input type="checkbox"/> 12 <input type="checkbox"/> 14 <input type="checkbox"/> 16 <input type="checkbox"/> 18		£18.00	£24.00
RICK HALF ZIP SQUAD TOP	KIDS: <input type="checkbox"/> 5-6 <input type="checkbox"/> 7-8 <input type="checkbox"/> 9-10 <input type="checkbox"/> 10-11 <input type="checkbox"/> 13-14 ADULTS: <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> XXL		£24.00	£31.00
RICK T-SHIRT	KIDS: <input type="checkbox"/> 5-6 <input type="checkbox"/> 7-8 <input type="checkbox"/> 9-10 <input type="checkbox"/> 10-11 <input type="checkbox"/> 13-14 ADULTS: <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> XXL <input type="checkbox"/> XXXL		£14.00	£18.00
AZTEC SHORTS	KIDS: <input type="checkbox"/> 5-6 <input type="checkbox"/> 7-8 <input type="checkbox"/> 9-10 <input type="checkbox"/> 10-11 <input type="checkbox"/> 13-14 ADULTS: <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> XXL <input type="checkbox"/> XXXL		£9.50	£12.00
CUSTOMER NAME:		TEL. NO:	TOTAL	



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