

# BALLYLIFFORD PS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



## JUNE 2017



### FRIENDS OF BALLYLIFFORD PTA FUNDAY

What a fantastic day for everyone who attended our annual Fun Day! Mr Sunshine also made an appearance!

Thank you to our Friends of Ballylifford PTA who are 'Simply the Best' for organising everything and making it a huge success and wonderful opportunity for the whole community to enjoy!

A massive thank you to one of our parents Jason Arrell from <https://www.theinflatables-ni.co.uk/> who always supplies and sets up the bouncy castles, Rodeo Bull and Football Darts along with the Candy Floss and Slush Puppie machine.

#### Other parents/adults to thank were:

Stephen Scullion -Marquee Hire NI for supplying the marquee

Sean O'Connor (Burger Baps)

Liam McGuckin (Field)

Fionnuala Devlin (Music & 'Ballylifford's Got Talent')

Jannelle O'Doherty & Karen Gribbin (Chocolate Fountain)

Damian and Ciara Scott (Donkey rides)

Martin O'Hare for the safety barriers

Stephen McOsker for making the wet sponge board and for Toni O'Neill who painted it.

Brigid-Ann, Orla and Siobhan Rocks for preparing tea/coffee and refreshments

Shauna Quinn & Marie Claire Rocks (Princess Room)

Georgina Heath for the face painting

All parents and families who donated bottles for the bottle stall.

Mrs Muldoon & Lisa Hamilton for ordering the burgers and drinks and the ladies who cooked the burgers all day on the BBQ.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended, your support is greatly appreciated and we hope you all had a wonderful day!

Finally, thanks to all the parents and adults who helped supervise events and activities on the day plus all who helped clean up on the day! Thank you so much!

### GAELIC FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Well done to the boys Gaelic Football team who took part in the South Derry Cumann na mBunscol Championship Finals recently.

Well done to the girls Gaelic Football team who took part in the Sharon Donnelly Cumann na mBunscol tournament recently. The girls lost their semi-final against eventual winners St. Columba's Cullion.

Both teams represented the school with pride, determination and competed superbly in all games.

### CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

Well done to our girls Camogie team who were runners up recently in the Derry Cumann na mBunscol Division 3 Camogie Championship final held at Owenbeg. We congratulate the winners Gortnaghey PS on their success.

### AARON DEVLIN MEMORIAL GAELIC TOURNAMENT

Well done to the boys Gaelic Football team who took part in the annual Aaron Devlin tournament.

They lost in the semi-final stage to eventual winners St. Mary's Bellaghy. It was a superbly organised tournament by Derrychrin PS and it was a memorable occasion in memory of former Ballinderry player Aaron Devlin.

### **END OF YEAR MASS**

Well done and congratulations to the P7 pupils who celebrated their End of Year Mass this morning.

Thank you to Fr. Donnelly, parents and everyone who attended the lovely celebration.

The children enjoyed refreshments with their parents afterwards in the school hall.

### **GUITAR LESSONS**

Guitar lessons will recommence again in September and we encourage all pupils currently involved, to practice over the summer months. This is a wonderful opportunity for the pupils to develop their musical talents and it is advised that they practice 15 minutes daily.

We are extremely grateful to have an excellent tutor in

Mr. Ryan McGarrity & we appreciate the way he positively contributes to school life in Ballylifford PS.

**\*Encourage all the children to take good care of their guitars & to store them in a safe place at all times \***

### **SWIMMING**

We are currently in the process of booking swimming lessons for the P5-P7 pupils in Term One and Two of the next academic year 2017/2018.

The school have decided not to book lessons in Term Three in future years due to other extra-curricular events taking priority.

Pupils will be notified of the timetable & cost in September.

### **DERRYCHRIN PS SOCCER TOURNAMENT**

Well done to the P5 - P7 Boys who won the annual Derrychrin Soccer Tournament recently beating Holy Family PS Magherafelt in the final. Super achievement by the boys and well done to both teams that took part and represented the school with pride.

### **PRIZE GIVING & P7 LEAVERS**

#### **ASSEMBLY**

Thank you to everyone who attended our Leavers' assembly and Prize Giving celebration on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June.

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

This was the first year for our new 'School Values' Awards to be presented to the pupils and we would like to congratulate all pupils who received a 'School Values', 'Pupil of the Year' & 'Attendance' awards

### **ST. PIUS COLLEGE ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE WORKSHOP**

Thank you to St. Pius College for the invitation to their fantastic Environmental Science Workshop which was a wonderful experience for the KS2 pupils who got an opportunity to learn about pond life, Biotic and Abiotic factors.

The pupils investigated pond life using tray samples and recorded their results in a tally chart where they produced a pond life leaflet using their Literacy, Numeracy and ICT skills. The pupils also received certificates and medals as mementos of the day and were treated to toast, hotdogs and drinks at break time.

### **P1 INDUCTION MORNING**

Thank you to all the parents and our future P1 children who attended our induction morning on Monday 5th June.

It was a wonderful opportunity to meet all the parents and children and 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 in September.

## **SCHOOL UNIFORM**

**Please note the following uniform guidelines for September 2017:-**

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.

### **P.E.**

All children are encouraged to wear

- Navy shorts/plain jogging bottoms & yellow t-shirt.
- Black plimsolls (P1-P3 Velcro fastening)
- Trainers (P4-P7)

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.

## **READING BOOKS & ACCELERATED READER PROGRAMME**

If any family has any books at home that your children no longer read, we would be grateful to receive them to support our pupil's reading which we can place in the school/classroom library area. These books will also be used as part of the Accelerated Reader programme which will be introduced to KS1 and KS2 pupils next year.

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

## **BALLINDERRY CREDIT UNION WEEKLY SAVINGS**

Below is a breakdown of the total savings for this year. Well done to all the pupils who participated in the savings scheme and we encourage all new members to get involved and support our local credit union.

**Term One - £150.00**

**Term Two - £170.00**

**Term Three - £746.00**

**Total savings for year £1,066.00**

Well done to Conor McCusker who received a prize from the Credit Union for saving the most amount of money in Term Three.

## **MINI EGG CHALLENGE FUNDRAISER**

Thank you to the Friends of Ballylifford PTA who organised an exciting fundraiser for the school called the 'Mini Egg Challenge'. Each family received a tube of mini eggs before Easter and filled their tubes with 50p, 20p & 10p coins.

**The total raised was £790**

**Well done to P1 pupil Shauna McGuckin who raised £82 and received a £30 voucher for Movie House for the pupil who raised the highest amount.**

### **THANK YOU & GOOD LUCK MICHELLE**

We would like to thank a member of our non-teaching staff, Miss Michelle Martin who will end her role as lunch supervisor in June and we wish her good luck in her new role.

We would also like to wish Michelle and Martin best wishes on their wedding day in August and that they have many happy years together.

### **SCHOOL SPORTS DAY**

School Sports Day this year was held at Ballinderry GAC, on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June.

This was the first year we held it at the GAA pitch and it turned out to be 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.

We would also like to thank Mrs. Fionnuala Devlin for providing the music.

A massive thank you to Ballinderry GAC for providing their facilities which were in perfect condition

It's not about winning at Ballylifford, it's about taking part and having FUN! The children enjoyed it and that's what is the most pleasing thing about Sport's Day.

### **P6 TRANSFER CLUB**

P7 Transfer Club will recommence again on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017 for P7 pupils, with two afternoons per week until November.

### **REVISED SCHOOL MEALS PRICES**

**From September 2017**

**£2.55 - £2.60 per day  
(£13.00 per week)**

### **REMINDER OF SCHOOL CLOSURE** **SUMMER HOLIDAY DATES**

**School will close on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June at 11:00am and will re-open on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017**

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As the school draws to a close, 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 those 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 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.

