



# BALLYLIFFORD PS

## NEWSLETTER

### Term 3 - 2018



#### FIRST AID TRAINING

We would like to thank the parents and other cross- community members who attended the First Aid training course which was held at Ballylifford Primary School on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April** which was funded by People Plus NI.

It was a wonderful opportunity for our community to receive local, fully funded training which will benefit the whole school community and the individuals themselves. Other suggested sessions namely gardening, Irish Language and ICT courses were unfortunately not arranged due to the low level of interest.

#### FORTNITE ADVICE - BATTLE ROYALE

There has been an increasing number of young people talking about the game 'Fortnite'. The following information is aimed at providing guidance to parents about Fortnite, looking at what the game is and some of the things to be aware of.

An advice sheet from C2K has been attached with the newsletter.

#### BALLINDERRY CREDIT UNION

The total savings by the pupils from September 2017 - June 2018 was £439.40

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.

#### PARISH BULLETIN

You can now keep up to date with all Parish information by viewing the Parish Bulletin online using our school website and clicking on Parish News tab on the main homepage.

#### AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

During Term 3 the pupils got the opportunity to experience Fitness Club, Art Club & Golf Club

The fitness club has been a fun, positive and interactive experience for all the children to be physically active. They displayed great determination, enthusiasm and energy with a smile on their faces at all times while improving their fitness levels and enjoying the entertaining music!

It's fantastic to see so many pupils participating in the fitness club 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. Keep it up everyone!

#### MARY'S MEAL AND BACKPACK PROJECT

Thank you to all pupils and parents who have kindly donated backpacks to Mary's Meals and Backpack project. The Backpack Project is a simple way to help children from poor families to get to school in countries like Liberia and Malawi. Very often these families cannot afford to buy basic things like pencils and notebooks, or even suitable clothes to wear to school, and so children miss out on an education. Along with the free school meal that Mary's Meals provides (costing as little as £6.15 per child, per year) the backpacks we send help children to get an education that will help them escape poverty in later life.



## **FIRST COMMUNION**

Congratulations to all our P4 pupils who celebrated their First Holy Communion in St. Patrick's Church, Ballinderry on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>

May 2018. The children's behaviour and participation was fantastic - they were a real credit to their families and we are truly proud of them.

We hope they all had a wonderful day occasion with their families

### **We would like to take this opportunity to thank:**

A special thank you to all the Derrychrin primary School staff and members of the Ballinderry Community to help prepare and organise the refreshments in the hall.

Miss Philomena McGuckin for preparing the pupils for the 'Do This In Memory' programme.  
Ms Hurl, Class Teacher for preparing the P4 pupils for First Holy Communion.

Thank you to the choir who attended and who have sung at all the school liturgies throughout the year. Well done and thank you!

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.

## **P1 INDUCTION MORNING**

Thank you to all the parents and our future P1 children who attended our induction morning on Wednesday 6<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 the 31<sup>st</sup> August for their first day.

**Welcome  
to P1**



## **THE DAILY MILE**

Like a lot of schools all over the world, we decided to introduce The Daily Mile in March to our P3-P7 pupils.

Schools that are already involved say that they really value it. Teachers state that it improves learning readiness, concentration and behaviour - which leads to better attainment. They see how it builds the children's confidence, resilience and determination while they are enjoying being outside in the fresh air, running with their friends.

We introduced The Daily Mile to all children as a run or jog, not as a walk on occasions. It was implemented as per core principles, almost all children would 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.

The pupils were totally involved in the programme always look forward to participating in the daily challenge.



## **PEACE IV SHARED EDUCATION PROGRAMME**

Our Peace IV Shared Education programme with neighbouring school Coagh PS concluded for this year with a visit to the Titanic exhibition 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 in the curriculum areas of Numeracy and World Around Us.

The programme also provided the children with the opportunity to form new friendships and experiences which both schools aim 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.

### NEW SCHOOL JERSEY PRESENTATION

We would like to say a massive thank you to Noel and Mary McCracken (TES Group) for their kind generosity in sponsoring the new sports kit for the school.

We are really impressed with the design and the pupils can look forward to representing Ballylifford PS with pride in all sporting competitions wearing the new sports kit as it gives a real sense of school identity and a great way of promoting our fantastic school.



### PASSPORT FORMS

Can all parents please be aware when requesting a passport countersignatory The teacher /Principal must know the person applying (or the adult who signed the form if the **passport** is for a child under 16) for at least 2 years. be able to identify the person applying, eg they're a friend, neighbour or colleague (not just someone who knows them professionally)

### **Examples of recognised professions who can countersign passports include:**

- accountant
- airline pilot
- articulated clerk of a limited company
- assurance agent of recognised company
- bank/building society official
- barrister
- chairman/director of limited company
- chiropodist
- commissioner for oaths
- councillor, eg local or county
- civil servant (permanent)
- dentist
- director/manager/personnel officer of a VAT-registered company
- engineer - with professional qualifications
- financial services intermediary, eg a stockbroker or insurance broker
- fire service official
- funeral director
- insurance agent (full time) of a recognised company
- journalist
- Justice of the Peace
- legal secretary - fellow or associate member of the Institute of Legal Secretaries and PAs
- licensee of public house
- local government officer
- manager/personnel officer of a limited company
- member, associate or fellow of a professional body
- Member of Parliament
- Merchant Navy officer
- minister of a recognised religion - including Christian Science
- nurse - RGN or RMN
- officer of the armed services
- optician
- paralegal - certified paralegal, qualified paralegal or associate member of the Institute of Paralegals
- person with honours, eg an OBE or MBE
- pharmacist
- photographer - professional
- police officer
- Post Office official
- president/secretary of a recognised organisation
- Salvation Army officer
- social worker
- solicitor
- surveyor
- teacher, lecturer
- trade union officer
- travel agent - qualified
- valuer or auctioneer - fellows and associate members of the incorporated society
- Warrant Officers and Chief Petty Officers

### **MINI EGG CHALLENGE FUNDRAISER**

Thank you to the Friends of Ballylifford PTA who organised an exciting fundraiser in May for the school called the 'Mini Egg Challenge'. Each family received a tube of mini eggs before Easter to fill with money.

**The total amount raised to date is £600.00**  
**Well done to Shauna McGuckin who raised the most with a total of £66.51.**

### **MEDICATION**

Can we encourage all parents to please keep the school informed of any changes to their child's health / medication. This is very important as it keeps the School informed and it can also be updated on the School Medical Register. It is also vitally important to update all medication especially Piriton and Asthmas inhalers.

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

If any family has any novel 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 can be used as part of the Accelerated Reader programme.

**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.**

### **HOMEWORK SACK/DUO BOOK BAG**

The homework sack/duo book bag in preparation for all new P1 pupils in September can be purchased at the school office on 31<sup>st</sup> August. The cost is £4 per bag.

### **BALLYLIFFORD JUNE FUN DAY**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended and supported our annual Family Fun Day on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June which was again superbly organised by the Friends of Ballylifford PTA.

We hope everyone had a wonderful and enjoyable day. There are a lot of people we have to thank who made the day a success. We would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone individually and acknowledge their kindness and support.

Lorna Higgins for securing Grant Funding from Mid-Ulster Council.

Karen & Janelle (Chocolate Cups)

Sean O'Connor (Burger Baps)

C.P. Hire (Safety Barriers)

Claire McOsker (Ice)

Jason Arrell (The Inflatables NI)

Brian & Dolores Muldoon (Sausages for BBQ)

Stephen Scullion (Marquee Hire NI)

Liam McGuckin (Use of Field)

Collie O'Hara (Music)

Brigid-Ann & non-teaching staff for tea/coffee and refreshments.

### **SCHOOL TRIPS**

Our end of year school trips for all our pupils was on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June.

**P1/P2** Thanks to the staff of Sperrin Fun Farm for an informative and fun visit to their farm in Feeny yesterday. The children had an educational tour of the farm with the onsite farmer, looking at the different animals and finding out about farm safety. The rain certainly didn't dampen their spirits as they finished their trip with an array of fun activities and outdoor and indoor play sessions.

**P3/P4** pupils had a fantastic time on their end of year trip to the Jet Centre. The children spent time playing in Alley Cats and enjoyed a game of Bowling. An enjoyable time was had by all!

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

### SCHOOL UNIFORM

**Please note the following uniform guidelines for September 2018:-**

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.

### NEW SCHOOL SWEATSHIRT

We have recently received a sample of the new school sweatshirt with our modernised school crest has been on display at the front reception area of the school. Our sweatshirts will be available to purchase from Sportique Magherafelt and Select Kidz Magherafelt for September 2018. This will be the only change to our school uniform as the school polo shirts will remain the same with the text 'Ballylifford Primary School'. The children are looking forward to wearing them



### SDP & OUTDOOR LEARNING QUESTIONNAIRES

Thank you to all pupils, parents, staff and governors who have completed the School Development Plan (SDP) and Outdoor Learning Questionnaires. The results from the questionnaires and views from all stakeholders which is part of the effective self-evaluation process will be reviewed and evaluated. The data will identify areas for improvement, to implement changes and raise standards. The actions that flow from it, should deliver improved educational outcomes and experiences for all pupils.

### PUPIL HOME TIME COLLECTION

Pupil home time collection is from the school hall when there is wet/bad weather. 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 get ready for home time to ensure they are collected on time and to avoid any delays for parents/family members.\*\***

## **ST. FINBARR'S HURLING COMPETITION**

Congratulations to our Hurling Team who competed in the first ever St. Finbarr's Competition winning the Shield. Having never hurled before the boys have made fantastic progress over a four-week period of coaching.

Well done also to our parish neighbours Derrychrin PS on winning the Cup. Could there be a Henry Shefflin or TJ Reid developing in Ballinderry?

## **GAELIC FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS**

Well done to the P5 - P7 boys who took part in the South Derry Cumann na mBunscol Championship Finals Football tournament recently held at Glen GAA Grounds, Maghera. The boys represented the school with pride and played with great determination in all games.

## **CAMOGIE TOURNAMENT**

Well done to the P4 - P7 girls who were runners-up in the Championship Finals tournament on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May at Owenbeg.

## **WOOD PS SOCCER TOURNAMENT**

Well done to our boys' soccer team who came third in the annual Woods PS Soccer Tournament - Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May. Super commitment and attitude by all the boys. Thank you to Woods PS for the invitation and their hospitality. Well done to Derrychrin PS on coming Runners Up.

## **SWIMMING**

Swimming lessons for the P5-P7 pupils will continue in the next academic year 2018/2019. Pupils will be notified of the timetable & cost in September.

## **MARY MONTH OF MAY**

Thank you and well done to all the pupils who led the school during the month of May by saying the rosary each morning.

## **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, to parents and all families who attended.

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

Thank you to everyone who attended our Leavers' assembly and Prize Giving celebration on Wednesday 20<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.

We would like to congratulate all pupils who received a 'School Values', 'Pupil of the Year' & 'Attendance' awards

We would also like to congratulate all pupils who received 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, running, soccer and swimming.

## **SCHOOL SPORTS DAY**

School Sports Day this year was held again at Ballinderry GAC, on Thursday 21st June. It 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.

A massive thank you to Ballinderry GAC for providing their facilities which were in perfect condition. Also thank you to Brigid Ann and the PTA for providing refreshments for parents and family members.

The children enjoyed taking part and having FUN! That was the most pleasing thing about Sport's Day for all pupils.

**\*\*From next year, there will some changes to our End of Year Assembly / Prize-Giving and Sports Day awards. Parents will be informed of these changes in the new academic year.\*\***

## THANK YOU & GOOD LUCK



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

We would also like to thank Mr Christopher Sheerin who was P1/P2 teacher from January to May in Mrs Sweeney's absence and then in P3/P4 class for the month of June.

We can't thank him enough for the positive contribution he has made to all the pupils and to the school life at Ballylifford PS.

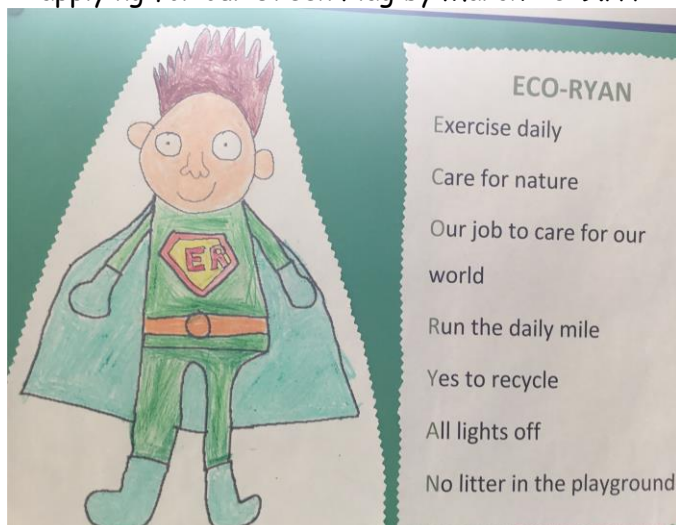
We wish him every success in the future.

### P7 TRANSFER CLUB

P7 Transfer Club will recommence on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2018 for P7 pupils, with two afternoons per week until November 2018.

### ECO-SCHOOLS TEAM

Well done to Mr Sheerin and our Eco-Schools team who have successfully achieved their Silver and Bronze awards this term. The Eco-Schools team also created their Eco-Code, song and character for the school Eco-Code. Our next objective is applying for our Green Flag by March 2019.///



## REMINDER OF SCHOOL CLOSURE

### SUMMER HOLIDAY DATES

School will close on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June at 11:00am

and will re-open on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018 at 9:00am.

School will finish at 12noon on this day.

\*\*\*\*\*

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 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 on the 31<sup>st</sup> August.

Thank you for your continued support from all the staff at Ballylifford PS.



## **Ballylifford PS Holiday List - September 2018 - June 2019**

### **TERM DATES & SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**

4 Baker Days - Monday 27<sup>th</sup> August & Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2018

**Term One Dates:** Friday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018 (FOR ALL PUPILS 9am-12noon) - Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2018

#### **School Closures:**

Staff Dev. Day Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018

#### **Mid-Term Week -**

Optional Closure Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Staff Dev. Day Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October

School Closed Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018

School Closed Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018

School Closed Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2018

Christmas Holidays - Monday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2018 - Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 inclusive

-----  
**Term Two Dates:** Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January - Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2019

#### **School Closures:**

Optional Closure Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2019

Baker Day Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2019

Staff Dev. Day Friday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Half-Term Week - Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2019  
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2019  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Optional Closure Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2019

Staff- Dev. Day Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2019

St. Patrick's Day Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Easter Holidays - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April - Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2019 inclusive

-----  
**Term Three Dates:** Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019 - Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019

#### **School Closures:**

May Bank Holiday Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Staff- Dev. Day Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019

May Bank Holiday Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2019