



Ballylifford PS

September & October 2023



TERM 1 DATES

Thursday 31st August –
Friday 22nd December 2023

Term 1 SCHOOL CLOSURES

Friday 22nd September –
Staff Development Day

HALLOWEEN BREAK

Monday 30th October–
Friday 3rd October 2023
inclusive

UPCOMING EVENTS

Active Kids PE sessions –
every Wednesday in Term 1

School Photographer –
Monday 16th October 2023

Maths week – Week
beginning 16/10/23

Flu Vaccine – Monday 23rd
October 2023

Parent Teacher Meetings –
Tuesday 24th October and
Wednesday 25th October 2023
(All children home at 1pm on
both days)

**Friends of Ballylifford
Halloween Fun Night –**
Thursday 26th October 2023

Halloween Dress Up day –
Friday 27th October (All
children home at 2pm)

A NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

We have enjoyed welcoming all children back into school during the month of September. We would like to give a special mention to our 8 new P.1 children, who have settled in very quickly and are able to follow the P.1 classroom routine. We hope they will all be very happy and enjoy their primary school journey in Ballylifford PS over the next 7 years. We are all looking forward to a fun and successful school year ahead and ask God to bless all staff and pupils. Fr Donnelly will celebrate our Beginning of New School Year mass on Thursday 28th September in St. Patrick's Church, Ballinderry at 10am. All pupils and staff will participate in the mass. Parents/Carers and family members are very welcome to attend.



SCHOOL TIMES

DROP OFF 8:30am - 9am.

Children can arrive at school any time between 8:30am and 9am. Children go directly to the school hall and remain there until 8:45am. Children then go to classroom to get their belongings organised for the school day. Children can draw in their 'Busy/Doodle' books, complete AR quizzes or read as they wait for rest of the children to arrive.

Morning/Breakfast Club

Our Morning/Breakfast Club resumed on Monday 11th September to help support parents who are travelling on to work early. Morning club is open from 8:10am to 8:30am. During this time, children have the option of having toast, pancake, muffin, and apple/orange juice.

School Uniform

The children as always look fantastic in their school uniforms and a big thank you to all parents/carers for supporting our uniform guidelines. **Your child's name should be clearly marked on ALL clothing and personal belongings.** If you require any spare jumpers or polo-shirts, please do not hesitate to contact the school office as we have a selection from our Uniform swap in June.

PE Uniform

Children are allowed to wear their school PE uniform **every Wednesday and Friday**. Our School PE t-shirts & half zips are available to purchase in O'Neill's, Magherafelt.

‘Nurturing Potential, Achieving Together’

School Dinners

The price of school dinners is **£2.60** per day. Children should bring their money to school in a labelled envelope to ensure money does not go missing. The school menu is available on the school website monthly. We are extremely blessed with fantastic school dinners provided by Brigid Ann and Orla – they always go above and beyond to ensure all children receive a beautiful dinner.

Free School Meals

The Education Authority has nearly processed all Free School Meals applications. If you have any problems, please contact Wendy in the School Office.



Healthy Eating Policy

At Ballylifford PS, we try to encourage the children to make healthy choices for Break and Lunch. Please ensure to send a healthy break, for example, pancake, brioche, fruit, yoghurt, and a healthy lunch box.

Children only need ONE snack for break time. All children are also encouraged to bring a clean, filled water bottle to school each day.

Nut Allergies

We would like to remind parents/carers of the seriousness of NUT / FOOD ALLERGY conditions, and we would encourage that no foods containing nuts or that may contain traces of nuts / nut products, such as peanut butter or Nutella sandwiches be brought into school.



Ballylifford 100

Friends of Ballylifford are delighted to announce the return of 'Ballylifford 100'. A draw will take place on the last Friday in every month with the chance to win £100. The first draw will take place on Friday 29th September. As always, we really appreciate your generosity and support towards school funds.

School Photographer

The school photographer will be in school on Monday 16th October. All children will receive an individual and family photo. Photos with younger siblings can be taken from 8:45am on this date.

European Day of Languages – Tuesday 26th September 2023

All children will celebrate European Day of Languages on Friday 23rd September. Each class will be learning about the language and culture of different European countries. Children can come to school dressed in the colours of the following country flags.

P.1/2 – France

P.3/4 – Italy

P.5/6/7 – Ireland

PE with David Mulgrew from Active Kids

We are delighted to welcome back David from Active Kids every Wednesday from 1pm to 3pm. David will be taking all classes for P.E sessions in Term 1 focusing on Games for the first 6 weeks followed by Gymnastics for the next 5 weeks. Cost £1 per week or £11 for Term 1.



Fundamental Skills/Derry GAA Coaching with Adrian Moran

Adrian (Aidy) will return on Friday 29th September to provide all classes with Fundamental Movement skills and GAA Coaching each Friday in Term 1. Our PTA secured a Grant to fund these sessions for all our pupils – thank you Friends of Ballylifford in advance.

Transfer Club – SEAG Entrance Assessment

P7 Transfer Club will take place every Monday and Friday afternoon with Mrs Conway from 2-3pm. SEAG Entrance Assessment will take place on Saturday 11th and Saturday 25th November 2023.

Flu Vaccine

Flu Vaccines will be distributed by the school nurses on Monday 23rd October.

If you do not wish your child to get this vaccine, a form still needs to be completed and returned to the school. We ask that all forms are returned by Friday 6th October.

Credit Union

The Credit Union Savings Scheme has resumed every Tuesday morning. The children are asked to use the clear plastic wallet provided by the Credit Union and we thank Philomena for collecting and returning books on a weekly basis.

All new members are welcome. Any parents interested in opening a savings account can obtain further information by contacting Ballinderry Credit Union Office on 02879418555.



Maths Week Ireland – 16th October to 20th October 2023

This year we will be celebrating Maths Week from Monday 16th October. Throughout the week, all classes will be participating in fun, engaging Numeracy activities. We will also be running a Maths challenge within each class – one winner in each class will receive a prize. The focus this year is 'Shape and Space'.



Friends of Ballylifford Halloween Fun Night

On Thursday 26th October, we will be having a Halloween Fun Night for all children organised by our Friends of Ballylifford. More details will follow in due course.

Halloween Dress Up – Friday 27th October

On Friday 27th October, children can come to school in their Halloween costume. Children will be participating in fun activities for Halloween on this day. All pupils will go home at 2pm.

(All children will receive a party bag at the end of the day to take home)



Little Healthy Me

Rachel from Action Mental Health delivered the Little Healthy Me programme to our P.3/4 class on Monday 25th September. See the website for photos of the children enjoying activities to promote positive health and well-being. The Little Healthy Me programme will be delivered to our P.1/2 class later in the school year.

October – Month of the Rosary

Throughout the month of October, we will come together as a whole school to say the Rosary every Friday morning. Children will be invited to lead us in our Rosary and Mrs Philomena McGuckin and Fr Donnelly will join us at some of our weekly assemblies. We encourage all children to bring their rosary beads to school throughout the month of October.



Parent Teacher Meetings – Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th October from 1pm

All children will go home at 1pm on Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th October so that Parent/Teacher meetings can be completed on both afternoons. More details will follow in October.



School Policies

A summary of all Policies is available to view on our school website. As part of our consultation procedures, we would like to remind parents that all policies linked to Child Protection are available to view online using our school website and on request from the school office.

This includes arrangements for Child Protection, Internet Safety, Pastoral Care and Positive Behaviour. Thank you to all parents for completing our Parental Consent forms at the beginning of September.

Newsletters/School Information

Please ensure that you retain **ALL** Newsletters/School Information letters for your reference. **It is important that parents check homework sacks regularly for general notes, reminders and newsletters that are sent home.**

The Newsletter will always be made available on the school website www.ballyliffordps.com

Seesaw will also be used for class reminders when necessary – please ensure you are connected to your child's seesaw account through the Seesaw Family App.

We ask all parents and family members to also ensure you have downloaded the '**SCHOOL NI**' APP to view all school updates. Messages will be sent via the SCHOOLS NI app weekly. If you are having problems accessing the app, please contact the school office and we will be happy to help get it sorted for you.

Promoting Positive Behaviour

We pride ourselves in Ballylifford PS as having a high level of Pastoral Care and we always want our children to learn in an environment which is supportive and encouraging. In order for learning to be effective, good discipline and positive behaviour is essential. In school we have a number of Golden Rules, and we have an established system of rewards which promotes positive behaviour. We would like the pupils to maintain their excellent attitude and application to their learning. However, to maintain our excellent standard, it is also necessary to have effective sanctions in place. Sanctions have been discussed and agreed in all classes.

Major breaches of discipline may result in loss of playtime at break or lunch time, or a behaviour reflection sheet will be sent home with pupils for parents to sign.



Welcome
Learning Respect
Nurture Achievement
Empathy

'Nurturing Potential, Achieving Together'

Child Protection/Pastoral Care

At the beginning of each new academic year, class teachers always revise the pastoral care arrangements with children and remind them of whom they can talk to if they have any concerns or worries. In school we talk to all the children, particularly about our school safeguarding team and school safety net. These are on display in school and will be reinforced throughout the school year. Please contact Mrs. Sweeney (Designated teacher for child protection) or Ms Hurl (Deputy designated teacher for child protection) should you wish to raise a child protection issue.

A copy of all Child Protection information & '**Parent's Awareness Leaflet**' was sent home with each family at the start of September and is also available to view on our school website.

New Eco and School Council Elections

P.3 to P.7 pupils have been busy over the last few weeks creating their manifesto for why they would like to be elected for our new Eco and School councils for 2023 – 2024. Mr Patsy McGlone SDLP and Mrs Karen Brown from Mid Ulster District Council will attend school on Wednesday 27th September to present the new members with their badge and to talk to the children about the importance of their role. New Council members will be our new 'Pupil voices' for this school year. We wish all new members every success in this leadership role, and we know they will do a wonderful job.



Important Dates for your Diary

All God's Children – Tuesday 17th October at 7pm in Derrychrin PS for all Parents/Carers of P.4 Pupils **(Please note Change of date)**

Christmas Dinner – Friday 8th December (All children go home at 1pm)

Christmas Carol Service – Wednesday 13th December at 7pm

P.7 Sacrament of Confirmation – Thursday 14th March 2024 at 5pm

P.4 First Holy Communion – Saturday 11th May 2024 at 11am

