



# BALLYLIFFORD PS

## NEWSLETTER

### Term 1 - 2018



#### MORNING PRAYER

As part of the Catholic ethos in Ballylifford PS, we begin each school day at 9:00am with morning prayer. Mr McElroy leads it on a Monday and Friday and Mrs Sweeney, Ms Hurl and Mrs Muldoon leading it the rest of the week. The following prayers are said each morning: The Morning Prayer, Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be. We would encourage parents / guardians to practice these prayers with the children.

#### YEAR GROUP ARRANGEMENTS

We would like to inform all parents of year group arrangements for this academic year. Mrs Sweeney will continue to teach P1 & P2 with Caroline Quinn as Classroom Assistant, Ms Hurl will continue to teach P3 & P4 with Orla Rocks & Wendy Heath as Classroom Assistants. Mr McElroy / Mrs Muldoon will continue to teach P5, P6 & P7 Class with Rosemary Donnelly as Classroom Assistant.

#### FLU VACCINE

All pupils have received their letters regarding the delivery of the Flu Vaccines by the school nurses on the 17<sup>th</sup> October. Could we please ask that all forms are completed and returned to school by Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October.

If you do not wish your child to get this vaccine, a form still needs to be completed and returned to the school. Vaccine has to be returned for the non-returned forms as well.

#### PARISH BULLETIN

Parish Bulletin can be viewed online using our school website and clicking on Parish News tab on the main homepage.

#### NEWSLETTERS

Our School Newsletters are issued termly. As individual reminders for all dates and events cannot always be sent home, please ensure that you retain the Newsletter for your reference. **It is important that parents check schoolbags for general notes, reminders, newsletters, that are sent home.**

The Newsletter will always be made available on the school website [www.ballyliffordps.com](http://www.ballyliffordps.com) or you can follow us on twitter-@BallyliffordPS

We ask all parents and family members to download the APP 'SCHOOL NI'

It allows everyone to view school updates and receive messages and emails via smartphones or tablets. The app is available on both Apple and Android devices, and will give you access to our school news, calendar events and letters.

#### FRIENDS OF BALLYLIFFORD PTA

The Friends of Ballylifford held their AGM recently and have arranged dates for their annual events. Please keep an eye out for future events as all friends of the school are very welcome to get involved. If anyone would like to get involved, please contact the school office or any member of the PTA.

#### HOMEWORK SACK/DUO BOOK BAG

We continue to encourage all P1-P7 pupils to use the homework sack/duo book bag as it ensures all homework, reading books, newsletters etc are organised and kept together. It helps pupils develop their organisational skills and also means parents will not have to buy new homework sacks annually as they are made from strong material and should last for the seven years at Ballylifford PS. If any pupil needs to purchase one, they can be bought from the school office at a cost of £4.

### SCHOOL UNIFORMS

The children as always look super in their new school uniforms. Thank you to all parents / guardians for supporting our uniform guidelines. In the interests of safety, girls should not wear hooped or dangling earrings as they can catch all too easily during play-time. It is absolutely vital **your child's name should be clearly marked on ALL clothing and personal belongings.**

Any lost items are stored in our lost property box and you can contact the school office if your child/children have lost any items.

Children should ensure they bring the appropriate clothing for P.E., swimming, etc. on their allocated days

### SCHOOL ACCESS

We remind you that access to school during teaching time must be via the main entrance. All other entrances to the school are locked during the school day and opened only for playground access at break/ lunch time, P.E. times and the dismissal of the children at the end of the school day. Parents / guardians who call during the school day must report to the secretary's office in order to comply with Child Protection and Health and Safety regulations.

### THE SCHOOL DAY

**School begins at 9:00am and we ask for all children to arrive punctually. Arrival on time is important to reduce disruption to lessons and allow children to settle quickly to their learning.**

Supervision is provided from 8:30am and all pupils can wait in the school hall until 9:00am. We also ask that parents do not detain teachers in the morning so as to allow a prompt start to the school day. Should you need to communicate with the teacher in the morning, please send a note or leave a message with the school secretary and a meeting can be arranged. School day ends at 2:00 pm for children in Years 1 and 2 and at 3:00pm for children in Years 3-7.

### END OF SCHOOL PUPIL COLLECTION

All classes will be lined up in the playground for dismissal at the end of the school day. To assist in the management of this, the children will only be allowed to leave class line if a parent/guardian/family member is there to collect them. When we have poor weather conditions, parents can collect their children from the back door of the school hall. Please ensure that children in P1 and P2 are collected promptly at **2pm** and P3-P7 pupils at **3pm**. **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 / guardians / family members.**

### HOMEWORK

Homework is an important part of school life and a vital link between home and school. Good homework habits are encouraged in all classes to help children develop self-discipline, independence and good organisational skills; all of which are important when children make the transition to post-primary school.

Children in all year groups will be given homework on a daily basis. We would encourage parents to support their child each night. Please remember that learning homework is as important as written work and reading is essential each night. We would encourage all parents to sign homework diaries weekly on the line provided at the bottom of each page.

If a parent has any concerns or comments regards their child/children, **please use the parents comment box provided in the P3-P7 homework diary/speak to class teacher directly or an appointment should be made through the school secretary.**

We have also included termly target setting in homework diaries this year to encourage pupil ownership of their learning and areas for development. It also means parents / guardians are kept informed of their child's learning and there will be an opportunity to review their targets with them.

## HEALTHY BREAK & LUNCH POLICY

As part of our Healthy Break Policy we would encourage you to select items from the following list for your child to eat / drink at break time:-

- Milk
- Water
- Fruit
- Vegetables

Any bread based products e.g. sandwiches, pancakes or scones. (Butter or spread can be used, avoid sugary spreads such as jam, marmalade and chocolate spread)

We also encourage children to bring a **healthy lunch to school every day**. Children are encouraged to bring water to school each day and to avoid fizzy drinks. Drinking water is an essential part of a healthy lifestyle and has been shown to make the brain more receptive to learning. Children may bring their water in a small, plastic bottle and they will be given opportunities to drink water throughout the day. The canteen has asked us to remind parents that the meals provided follow the Nutritional Guidelines introduced by the Department of Education. Children are provided with a set meal which includes a choice of main course and dessert. The cost of dinner is £2.60 and a menu has been sent home with all pupils.

## HEAD LICE

As children return to school we would encourage you to check heads regularly as outbreaks of head lice are very common at this stage of the year. It is vitally important that it is treated promptly and with a lotion (not shampoo). Should you require any advice, please contact your local pharmacist.

## DO THIS IN MEMORY PROGRAMME

Thank you to all the parents of the P4 pupils from Ballylifford P.S and Derrychrin P.S. who attended the Pastoral Council meeting in Ballylifford Primary School on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October.

## NUT ALLERGY

There are a number of children in the school who have a nut allergy. We would like to remind parents/guardians of the seriousness of this condition 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, etc be brought into school. We would also like to advise parents / guardians to refrain from sending birthday cakes / buns into school. Your co-operation supports the school in monitoring the situation and protects the well-being of all our pupils.

## MEDICATION

We ask that parents / guardians should keep their children at home if they are feeling unwell or infectious. If your child requires prescribed or non-prescribed medication during the school day, parents must provide written and signed instructions by completing the AM2 form which is available from the school office.

## TIN WHISTLE

P3 to P7 pupils are currently learning the tin whistle with Mrs Sweeney.

**It is important that the children bring their tin whistle to school on the set days.**

Please ensure that the children have their name on their tin whistles and kept in their homework sacks along with their music sheets.

Pupils can purchase a tin whistle for £5.00 from the school office.

- **P3-P4 Tin whistle -Wednesday 2-3pm**
- **P5-P7 Tin whistle -Tuesday 2-3pm**

## GUITAR

P5- P7 pupils are currently learning the guitar on a Thursday afternoon with Mr. Ryan McGarrity. The cost per session is £2.50. It is very **important** that all pupils practice for at least 15-20 minutes daily as Ryan would like to involve the children in various events throughout the year.



## **PARENT / TEACHER MEETINGS**

The Parent / Teacher meetings for Term One will be held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November. **All pupils will go home early at 12:00noon on these two dates.** The meetings are an important opportunity for you to pass on information about your child and for the teachers to inform you of your child's progress. Individual times and dates will be issued by class teachers in due course and if these times and dates are unsuitable, please contact school office or class teacher to make alternative arrangements.

## **CHILD PROTECTION / PASTORAL CARE**

At the beginning of each new academic year, class teachers will revise 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 in the classroom and assemblies throughout the school year.

Please contact Mrs. Sweeney (designated teacher for child protection) or Mrs Muldoon (deputy designated teacher for child protection) should you wish to raise a child protection issue.

A copy of all Child Protection information leaflets will be sent home to each family. The school will be issuing the '**Parent's Awareness Leaflet**' to all parents in Term 1A. Once received please sign the relevant permission slips and return to school.

Child Protection, Pastoral Care, Intimate Care, Online Safety and Anti-Bullying Policies are available on request from school office.

## **FREE SCHOOL MEALS & UNIFORM GRANTS**

School dinners cost £2.60 per day (£13.00 per week) this year and the price has been put in place by the Education Authority.

You can earn up to £16,190 per year and still be entitled to Free School Meals. To find out if you qualify for Free School Meals, please check the Education Authority website.

## **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, encouraging and structured.

In order for learning to be effective, good discipline and positive behaviour is essential. In school we have a number of mottos, Golden Rules and we have an established system of rewards which promotes positive behaviour and we would like the pupils to maintain their excellent attitude and application to their learning. However, in order to maintain our excellent standard, it is also necessary to have effective sanctions in place; a sheet outlining the discipline plan for each year group is attached.

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.

As a Catholic school, we wish to help children understand that we all make mistakes and do the wrong thing sometimes but that saying sorry, trying to put mistakes right and accepting appropriate consequences with good grace are part of learning and growing up and, once over, mistakes are forgiven and forgotten.

## **PUPIL AWARDS**

At Ballylifford PS, we like to acknowledge and recognise the pupils' positive behaviour, application and attitude to school life by having various awards.

Weekly Principal Award certificates & School Values Cup are presented to pupils who have followed the Golden Rules and School Values really well for that week. Each class who gains most points for lining up correctly in the morning, break and lunch time for that week are rewarded with extra play on Friday.

Pupil of the Month certificates are also awarded to each year group at monthly assembly on the last Tuesday of each month. This year we have introduced a 'Super Literacy' and 'Super Maths' certificates to acknowledge their positive learning in both curriculum areas.

### **STAFF CAR PARK & ROAD SAFETY**

In response to a number concerns from parents in previous years regarding our staff car park, please note that staff have priority for parking and parents/guardians/childminders are urged to park and drive **slowly, carefully and responsibly**, showing regard at all times.

Can we ask all parents/guardians to please refrain from dropping their children off at school in the morning while parked on the main road as it is extremely dangerous and may lead to a serious accident.

**We would also ask for NO cars to be parked in front of the double green gates at the side of the school at any times while pupils are collected at home times. This is particularly important with regard to the safety of all the whole school community. We are very grateful for your co-operation.**

### **SCHOOL BUS PARKING**

Can we ask all parents / guardians to please refrain from parking in front of the blue wooden gates at the entrance to the school canteen / boiler house yard. The School Bus has priority for parking here to ensure children get on and off the bus in the morning and afternoon safely. It also means that the bus can depart the school site promptly.

Thank you for co-operation.

### **SWIMMING**

P5- P7 swimming lessons for the school year recommenced on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September in the Greenvale Leisure Centre, Magherafelt. The cost of each session is £3.50 which covers the cost of the swimming lesson and transport. The pupils are extremely lucky as they have an opportunity of three full years of developing their swimming skills.

### **AFTER SCHOOLS**

- P1/P2 After Schools Club - (Mon- Fri) 2-3pm supervised by Wendy Heath and Orla Rocks
- P7 Transfer Club - Tuesday 3-4pm with Ms Hurl & Mrs Muldoon

The P3-P7 After School programme will usually take place on Tuesday - Thursday afternoons this year to allow for staff meetings, staff training and curriculum planning for the remaining days.

Arrangements are in place to hold other activities throughout the school year and a timetable will be sent home in due course.

We are always very keen to include parents/grandparents/family members in our after school programme. We welcome a variety of clubs in the areas of sports, art, drama, languages, gardening, cooking and any other suggestions. If anyone would like to help or get involved please contact the school office.

### **IRISH LANGUAGE LESSONS**

This year at Ballylifford PS, we have introduced Irish language lessons to our P5-P7 pupils. The enthusiasm and willingness shown by the pupils is fantastic and they are extremely lucky to have P1-P2 teacher Mrs Sweeney who is a fluent Irish speaker, leading the weekly lessons on a Friday afternoon.

This is an excellent opportunity for the pupils to learn their native language through many themes and also gain a better understanding of their culture. We intend include our Irish language on a daily basis at whole school level and include it in Sacramental celebrations throughout the year.

Maith sibh na paisti!

## **ANTI-BULLYING WEEK** The Anti- Bullying Week 2018 theme is "RESPECT".

Anti-Bullying week is the week beginning 12<sup>th</sup> November. Children in all year groups will be concentrating on the definition, causes and effects of bullying and discussing anti -bullying strategies and procedures. This will involve activities to promote anti-bullying across the curriculum.

If you have concerns that your child may be being bullied, it is important that you talk to class teachers at an early stage. Concerns of a serious nature should be raised with our Safeguarding team of Mrs. Sweeney (Designated Teacher) or Mrs Muldoon (Deputy Designated Teacher), Mr McElroy (Principal)

Bullying is an issue which is taken very seriously and all incidents will be dealt with as outlined in our Anti-Bullying Policy. We have also introduced a **School Safety Net** through our Anti-Bullying Procedures to make all pupils aware if they have any concerns or worries that **ALL** staff in school are there to help.

## **ANTI BULLYING AMBASSDORS TRAINING**

Fifteen KS2 pupils, five from each class in P5-P7 attended Anti-Bullying Ambassador training in Magherafelt High School along with our Shared Education partner school Coagh PS and six other schools. The programme is part of the charity the Diana Award and it was an excellent event and the pupils came gained great ideas to further develop the great practice already in place to prevent and tackle any potential issues.

After receiving the training, the pupils become Anti-Bullying Ambassadors in schools. In their role they will help educate their peers on bullying, lead on anti-bullying campaigns, promote a culture which celebrates and tolerates difference and help keep their peers safe both online and offline. A super day and our ambassadors are looking forward to their new roles.

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## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **HALLOWEEN DRESS & MOVIE NIGHT**

Halloween fancy dress & movie night organised by the PTA is on **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October from 6:00pm - 8:00pm**. A light supper will be provided for all children. £3 admission.

### **SANTA TEA PARTY / COFFEE MORNING**

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

In St. Patrick's Hall at 11am after Mass

### **CHRISTMAS DINNER**

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

Pupils finish school at 1pm

### **CAROL SERVICE & OPEN NIGHT**

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

Annual Christmas Carol Service in St. Patrick's Church, Ballinderry at 7:00pm followed by our Open Night for P1 Admissions - September 2019

### **CHRISTMAS PANTO**

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

Pantomime 'Jack in the Beanstalk' in the Grand Opera House, Belfast. Details of prices and times will be issued soon.

## **SACRAMENTAL DATES**

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 5pm**

Sacrament of Confirmation

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at 10am**

Sacrament of Reconciliation

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at 11am**

First Holy Communion

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## **BALLYRONAN COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP**

This Craft Fair & Coffee Morning will be held in the Main Hall at the Marina Centre, Ballyronan on **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November from 10am - 1:00pm** (All welcome)

### **P7 Transfer Club**

P7 Transfer Club started again for P7 pupils on **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September** with Ms Hurl and Mrs Muldoon on Tuesday afternoons from 3- 4pm and Friday afternoons from 2-3pm with Mr McElroy.

## Golden Rules



## Our School Values

Welcome  
Learning Respect  
Nurture Achievement  
Empathy

### Sanctions

1. First Reminder
2. Final Reminder
3. One Minute Time Out
4. Break / Lunch Time Detention
5. Behaviour Form
6. Phone Parent

### Rewards

1. Homework Pass
2. Games / Toy Box
3. Computer / iPad Time
4. Rewards Box
5. Free Time Book

# Behaviour Reflection Sheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I did not make a good choice today by not following the Golden Rules.  
Tick the box to show which rule(s) you didn't follow.

- ☐ 1. We are gentle
- ☐ 2. We work hard
- ☐ 3. We are kind
- ☐ 4. We listen
- ☐ 5. We look after property
- ☐ 6. We are honest

What happened?

What I should have done?

Please discuss with your child the importance of following the Golden Rules in school at all times.

Pupil: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_





## Ballinderry Bridge Credit Union Limited

143 Ballinderry Bridge Road, Cookstown, Co. Tyrone, BT80 0AY

Tel/Fax: 028 79 418555

Email: [ballinderrycu@btconnect.com](mailto:ballinderrycu@btconnect.com)

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**Opening Hours:** Tues – Thurs 9am – 5pm, Fri 9am - 8pm,  
Sat 9am – 12 noon

*Ballinderry Bridge Credit Union Ltd is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority.*

Dear Parent/Guardian

Ballinderry Bridge Credit Union is encouraging our youth to save in their local Credit Union. Advantages for saving are as follows:

- ❖ Minors' savings are insured from the age of 6 months upwards.
- ❖ Minors' can save up to the age of 16 years and then can transfer the savings to an adult account if they live within the common bond.
- ❖ Minimum savings is £1.00, maximum is £4,000.00
- ❖ Each year interest is paid on every Account.
- ❖ **Collections take place in our local Primary Schools on Tuesday mornings during the school term.**
- ❖ Minors are entered into "Gr8 savers draw" also other promotional draws and competitions that occur during the year.



**No minor can withdraw without their signing parent/guardian's presence & signature.**

Should you consider opening a Minor account for your son/daughter please visit the office with your child's birth certificate and two forms of identification for yourself (one photographic and one verifying your address). A minor passbook will be issued and collections will take place in your child's school every Tuesday morning.

If your son/daughter has already an account in this Credit Union it is not necessary to make a further application.

Should you require additional information please do not hesitate to contact our office during office hours where our staff will be only too happy to advise you.

Thank you for taking time to read this. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

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Andrea O'Hagan

## **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

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**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

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**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