



Ballylifford PS

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May and June 2026



TERM 3 DATES

Monday 13th April 2026 –
Tuesday 30th June 2026 at
11am

BANK HOLIDAYS

Monday 4th May
Monday 25th May

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS

Tuesday 26th May &
Wednesday 27th May
2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

First Holy Communion –

Saturday 9th May at 11am

Feel Good Friday –

Friday 1st May and 29th
May

PTE and PTM assessments
– starting Monday 27th
April 2026

Sport's Day – Friday 12th
June

School Trips – Wednesday
24th June

End of Year Mass and P.7
Leavers Assembly –
Tuesday 16th June

End of School Year
Production 'Echoes by the
Lough' – Friday 19th June

May is the Month of Mary

In the month of May, we remember Mary our Mother. We pray the Hail Mary and ask Mary to care for and look after us. We will create a May Altar at the front of our school to mark Mary's special month. Each Friday in May we will come together as a whole school and pray the rosary to Our Lady.



RE Diocesan Link Officer

On Tuesday 5th May our RE Diocesan link Muirne Lawlor will visit school to talk to the children about the Grow in Love programme and the sacraments.

School Start time

Please remember that our start time is 9am. Children can arrive anytime between 8:30am and 9am. It is important that all children are present before 9am so that class can begin promptly.

Promoting Positive Behaviour

We will continue to encourage all children to follow our Golden Rules so that learning can be effective in all classes. Whole school Rewards and Sanctions are in place in line with our Positive Behaviour policy. Children have all been reminded of our Golden Rules and our Sanctions at the start of this term. Good behaviour results in children displaying an excellent attitude to their learning. Please encourage your child to follow our school rules and to always remember their good manners. We are very lucky to have such well-behaved children in Ballylifford PS.

PTE and PTM assessments May 2026

This year our PTE and PTM assessments for children in P.3 to P.7 will take place week beginning Monday 27th April. We hope to have all assessments completed by Friday 8th May. Results of PTE and PTM will be shared with parents in the end of year pupil reports. We encourage all children to be in school every day over the next few weeks, if possible, to ensure all assessments are completed.

'Nurturing Potential, Achieving Together'

Easter Raffle

A special congratulations to the winner of the painting 'Heart of the game' by Lisa Talbot – Noirin Doyle. Noirin was delighted to receive the painting at the Toddler morning last week. A sincere thank you to Lisa for donating this painting which raised a fantastic £700 for our school.



Credit Union School Savers

Congratulations to our Credit Union School Savers for Term 2. Keep up the great saving in Term 3 everyone! A special thank you to Philomena McGuckin for her continued support every week.

First Holy Communion

The Sacrament of First Holy Communion will take place on Saturday 9th May at 11am for all our P.4 children. First Holy Communion will be a parish event including all P.4 children from both Ballylifford and Derrychrin schools.



The choir (Children from P.5 to P.7) will be singing at First Holy Communion. (More details were sent in a separate letter via the Schools NI app last week).

Feel Good Friday

We will celebrate our last Feel Good Fridays for this school year on **Friday 1st and Friday 29th May**. The children and staff have thoroughly enjoyed the buzz and excitement of 'Feel Good Friday' each month.

Well-Being and Resilience Workshop – P.6/7 with Frank Diamond (ALPS)

On Thursday 28th May (9:00-11:30am) P.6/7 pupils will participate in a Well-Being and Resilience session at Ballinderry Community Hub with Frank Diamond from ALPS. On this morning, we ask P.6/7 pupils to be dropped off at the Hub between 8:45am and 9am.

After School Clubs for Term 3

The following clubs will continue after school in Term 3 from 3pm to 4pm.

- ✓ Boys Football – every Wednesday (5 weeks)
- ✓ Girls Camogie – every Tuesday (6 weeks)

Thank you to Killian Conlan, Clíodhna Martin and Lena O'Hara for taking our After School clubs in Term 3 – their help and support is greatly appreciated.

Gymnastics After School Club – Stephanie from INSPIRES will continue a 6 week after school gymnastics programme in May.

Hurling with St. Finbarr's

Brian from St. Finbarr's Hurling club will take P.5/6/7 for Hurling every Thursday (for 6 weeks) in Term 3 from 1:15pm to 2:45pm. Children can borrow a helmet and stick if they do not have one.

Sporting events - Dates for your Diary

Tony Fitzpatrick Memorial – Thursday 30th April

All County Camogie Championship – Monday 11th May

P.6/7 Hurling tournament – Wednesday 13th May

Aaron Devlin Memorial Boys and Girls Football tournament – Friday 15th May

South Derry Boy's Football Championship – Wednesday 20th May

St. Patrick's PS, Ardboe Tournament – Tuesday 2nd June

South Derry Girl's Football Championship – Wednesday 3rd June (TBC)



Travelling Book Fair

Thank you to all children who purchased a book from our Book Fair in March. The Book Fair raised a total of £685 and the school received £270 commission to buy new whole class novels for P.3/4 and P.5/6/7.

'Take 5 School' Award

We continue to work towards our Take 5 Level 3 award this year. We will be submitting our evidence at the beginning of May. We have enjoyed implementing the 'Being well, Doing well' initiative for the second year and hope to achieve our BWDW Level 1 at the end of this school year.

Our Take 5 Ambassadors regularly remind the children of our Take 5 Pledge and how we can look after our mental health. A special thank you to Mrs Conlan for leading Take 5 within our school and helping the Take 5 Ambassadors/School Council. Here is a reminder of our pledge.

'I pledge to look after my mental wellbeing by finding ways to follow **'CLANG'**:

Connect - with the people around me

Learn - new skills

Be **A**ctive - in a way I enjoy

Take **N**otice - of my surroundings

Give - what I can'



Annual Pupil Reports

Annual Pupil reports will be issued to Parents/Carers Week beginning Monday 22nd June.

P.7 Cycling Proficiency

Mrs Conlan and Mrs Conway will deliver the Cycling Proficiency scheme for our P.7 pupils during Term 3. A separate letter will follow with more details.

P.1 Induction Morning and Parent Talk

A P.1 Induction Morning and Parent Talk will take place on Tuesday 2nd June from 9:30am to 10:30am. This is for the new P.1 children starting school in September 2026.

St Pius Induction Day

P.7 Induction Day for pupils transitioning to St. Pius X College in September 2026 will take place on Monday 1st June.

Sport's Day

We aim to have our Sport's Day this year on Friday 12th June. More details will follow in June.



School Trips

End of year school trips will take place on Wednesday 24th June.

- P.1 – P.4 – Airtastic (Craigavon)
- P.5/6/7 – Lisburn Leisure Complex (Swimming pool)

Ballylifford 100 Draw

Our last 3 Ballylifford 100 draws will take place on Friday 1st May, Friday 29th May and Tuesday 23rd June. Good luck everyone!

End of year mass and P.7 Leavers

Assembly

Our End of year mass for all pupils and family members will take place on **Tuesday 16th June at 10am** in St. Patrick's Church, Ballinderry. This will be followed by P.7 Leavers Assembly in school for all P.7 pupils and their families.

End of School Year Production – Echoes by the Lough

We are very excited about our End of year school production. Work has already begun in school with Brian McMahon auditioning the children to select the different characters. All children P.1 to P.7 will be part of the production in some way, and we have a very few busy weeks ahead. More details to follow.

