



Ballylifford PS

www.ballyliffordps.com

March & April 2026



TERM 2 DATES

Monday 5th January –
Thursday 4th April 2026 at
11am

ST PATRICK'S DAY CLOSURES

Tuesday 17th March 2026
**ADDITIONAL STAFF
DEVELOPMENT DAY –**
Monday 16th March 2026

EASTER HOLIDAYS

Friday 3rd April to Friday
10th April 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

**P.4 Sacrament of Penance –
Wednesday 25th February
at 10am**

**World Book Day Dress up
£1 – Friday 6th March**

**Travelling Book Fair –
Wednesday 11th March**

**Green Day – Friday 13th
March**

**Spring Tea Party and
Ballylifford Great Big Bake
Off – Friday 20th March
10:30am – 11:30am**

**P.7 Ceremony of Light –
Wednesday 11th March at
10am**

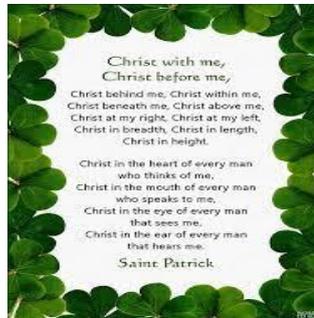
**P.7 Confirmation –
Wednesday 25th March at
5pm**

Thank you, Miss Mayo and Welcome back Mrs Sweeney!

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to **Miss Mayo** for her dedication, hard work, and genuine care in teaching our P.1/2 pupils over the past six months. Her positive impact on our children has been greatly appreciated, and she will be truly missed by both pupils and staff. We are also delighted to welcome **Mrs Sweeney** back to our P.1/2 class, and we look forward to her continued contribution to our school community.

St. Patrick's Day

To celebrate St. Patrick's Day, we will be having 'GREEN DAY' on Friday 13th March. Children can come to school dressed in Green and all classes will enjoy fun activities in their classes – arts and crafts, céilí session and special dinner.



Spring Tea Party & Great Big Ballylifford Bake-Off



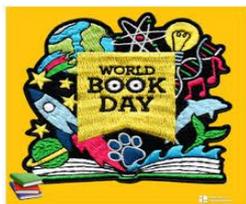
Our Spring Tea Party organised by 'Friends of Ballylifford' will take place on **Friday 20th March from 10:30am to 11:30am**. This will give all parents, grandparents and friends of our school community the opportunity to enjoy some home baked treats, a cup of coffee/tea and a friendly chat. All children will be asked to donate buns/biscuits for the morning. There will be several cakes on display for our Silent Auction. We look forward to seeing you all. See poster enclosed for more details.



'Nurturing Potential, Achieving Together'

World Book Day - £1 donation

On Friday 6th March we will be celebrating World Book Day in school (World book day is officially being celebrated on 5th March). All children can dress up as their favourite character from a book. Please do not buy a new costume – homemade costumes are perfect and if you have no costume, children can just wear their own clothes and bring their favourite book to school. Throughout the day we will be participating in fun activities to celebrate World Book Day.



Book Swap

Our Eco Council will be organising a book swap. Children can bring ONE book to school that they have read and swap it to a different one from someone else. Please send book to school week beginning Monday 2nd March. The Book Swap will take place on Friday 6th March (World Book Day).



Travelling Book Fair

The Book fair will arrive in school on Wednesday 11th March and will be open for pupils on Thursday 12th and Friday 13th March. P.7 pupils will be responsible for organising our Book Fair along with Wendy. More details will follow.



Congratulations Mrs Conlan

A special congratulations to Mrs Conlan on securing her permanent post here at Ballylifford PS. After over four years of incredible service to our school community, we are thrilled that her appointment has been officially approved. We want to extend our sincerest thanks to Mrs Conlan for her extreme hard work and unwavering dedication to the children during her time with us so far. We are delighted to have her as a permanent member of our team and wish her every happiness and continued success in her career here at Ballylifford PS.

Internet Safety Day

On Friday 20th February, Mrs Conlan and our P.7 Digital Leaders presented a fantastic assembly for all children about the importance of Online safety. Our Digital Leaders explained the importance of 'Smart Tech, Safe Choices'. They emphasised the importance of using AI safely and responsibly. The assembly ended with a fantastic song about using AI safely to the tune of 'Hills of Donegal'. Well done, P.7 Digital Leaders.



Online Safety Competition

Mrs Conlan organised an Online Safety poster competition for all classes promoting the safe use of AI. Congratulations to the winners from each class.



Digital Leader Workshop

Mrs Conlan and our P.7 Digital Leaders will be leading an ICT workshop based on our focus for this year 'Digital Storytelling – Presenting'. The workshop will take place on Tuesday 3rd March, and we look forward to welcoming the Digital Leaders from the other 4 Loughshore Cluster schools as we share our expertise and ICT skills together.

Health & Well-Being Days

In Term 2, we will have our 'FEEL GOOD' days on Friday 27th February and Wednesday 1st April. Thank you to Mrs Conlan and the Take 5 Ambassadors for organising our activities for Children's Mental Health Week. Check out our school website to find out all the things we got up to as we promoted the 5 ways to well-being.



Ceremony of Light

Our P.7 pupils will celebrate the Ceremony of Light in St. Patrick's Church, Ballinderry on **Wednesday 11th March** along with P.7 pupils from Derrychrin PS. **P.7 pupils must wear full school uniform, and we ask Parents/Carers to attend if possible.**

Confirmation

Good luck to our P.7 pupils who will receive the sacrament of Confirmation on **Wednesday 25th March at 5pm** in St. Patrick's Church, Ballinderry along with pupils from Derrychrin PS. We hope they enjoy their very special evening with their families.

All pupils will go home at 12:00pm – BRUNCH will be provided before children go home.

Important Dates for your Diary

Sacrament of Penance for P.4 children – Wednesday 25th February at 10am in St. Patrick's Church, Ballinderry

First Holy Communion – Saturday 9th May 2026 at 11am

All God's Children Mass – Sunday 8th March, Sunday 19th April and Sunday 7th June.



Upcoming Sporting Events

St. Pius Monsignor O'Byrne Camogie – Tuesday 14th April

South Derry Cross Country – Friday 17th April

St. Peter's P.S Girls Football – Tuesday 21st April

St. Pius Monsignor O'Byrne Boys Football – Tuesday 21st April

St. Peter's PS Boys Football – Thursday 23rd April

Tony Fitzpatrick Memorial – Friday 24th April

Down Memory Lane – Friday 13th March

P.6/7 pupils will travel to Ballinderry Community Hub for Down Memory Lane workshop on Friday 13th March.

After School Football Club

Mr McCann is taking an After School Football club for 4 weeks for P5/6/7 children from 3pm – 4pm every Monday. Check out the website for photos of the football activities. Cost £1 per week.

After School Art Club

Mrs McGuckin is running an After School Art club. This club is for our P.3 and P.4 children for 4 weeks from 3pm to 4pm every Monday. Cost £1 per week.



Fitminds Fun 4 All Club

Ronan will continue After school sessions with our P.4 to P.7 pupils on Wednesday 25th February and Wednesday 4th March. Cost £4 per week.

Inspire Gymnastics After School Club

Stephanie from INSPIRE will return in April for a 6-week block of After School Gymnastic sessions. More details will follow after Easter.

P.4 Interim Key Stage One Assessments – Numeracy and Literacy

P.4 pupils ONLY will complete Key Stage Assessments in Numeracy and Literacy on the dates below. See Parent leaflet enclosed for more information.

Numeracy – Tuesday 10th March

Literacy – Thursday 12th March

Spring into Maths Quiz

P.6/7 pupils will participate in the 'Spring into Maths' Quiz on Friday 27th March at St. Pius X College. More details will follow in separate letter.

Raffle for Painting

Lisa Talbot has very kindly donated a beautiful painting of a Ballinderry football player which we will raffle on Wednesday 1st April. The painting will be available to view at our Spring Tea and in the Hub on Saturday 28th March. We sincerely appreciate Lisa's generosity to help raise funds for our school. More information to follow about where tickets can be purchased.

