



BALLYLIFFORD PS NEWSLETTER Christmas 2019



BALLINDERRY PLAYGROUP CHRISTMAS VISIT

It was great to have the children from Ballinderry Playgroup visit our school recently. They really enjoyed all the songs, music, activities led by our KS2 pupils. They also enjoyed a small snack and received a Christmas selection box.

Thanks to the playgroup and their staff for accepting our annual invitation and we hope you all enjoyed a fantastic morning. We wish them all a very happy Christmas and peaceful new year.



CHRISTMAS DINNER & CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY



School Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day was on Friday 6th December.

Thank you again to Brigid Ann and Orla who always serve a wonderful dinner for staff and pupils.

SANTA CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

We would like to say a big thank you to our Friends of Ballylifford PTA for their invaluable support and organisation of the recent Santa Coffee morning.

It was fantastically supported by everyone who attended.

These events help raise funds to support the school in many curriculum areas but it also creates a sense of community spirit within Ballylifford school community and the Ballinderry Parish.

PRIMARY 1 ENROLMENT 2020

Admissions criteria is now available for children starting P1 in September 2020. All forms are published on the EA website. www.eani.org.uk

The portal opens on 7th January 2020 at 12noon and closes on **30th January 2020 at 12noon**. You can apply 24/7 using a smartphone, tablet, laptop or computer.



ETI Sustaining Improvement Inspection

A copy of our recent Sustaining Improvement Inspection Report (SII) for Ballylifford PS which was carried out on 21 October 2019, can now be viewed on the Education and Training Inspectorate website www.etini.gov.uk



CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE & OPEN NIGHT



Our annual Christmas Carol service is always a special time of year for all families and it is always great to see the joy and happiness of the children as it is something to treasure. It was fantastic to welcome everyone connected to Ballylifford PS community and the whole Ballinderry Parish.

We would like to commend all children who were fantastic on the night and also in their preparation for the Carol Service. As a school community we are all extremely proud of them. A lot of gratitude and appreciation must go to all the hard working and caring staff for preparing and assisting the pupils in their roles for the nativity scene, the narrators, readers of the prayers; the beautiful singing, and the pupils in the tin whistle group and also our P6 and P7 pupils involved in the guitar group.

A special word of thanks to Mrs Sweeney who again has led the whole carol service. Each year, Mrs Sweeney strives to change various aspects of the Carol Service and this year we had a number of fantastic new songs. Last year we introduced an Irish prayer to the Carol Service and this year we added 'Silent Night' in Irish which is a reflection of our P3-P7 pupils learning the Irish language with Mrs Sweeney during weekly lessons.

We were also very grateful to Fr Donnelly and John Wilson for providing the use of the chapel for all our practices.

We would like to thank our canteen staff, Brigid Ann Orla for organising tea/coffee refreshments in the school afterwards and to our caretaker John and the all the staff for having the school looking fantastic as always.

Our P1 OPEN NIGHT in the school provided opportunity for all parents of prospective P1 pupils to get a feel for school life in Ballylifford PS with many curriculum learning activities taking place.

'KEEP BALLINDERRY CLEAN - TAKE YOUR LITTER HOME'

Mid Ulster Council recently invited the local schools in the Ballinderry Parish to take part in a poster competition focusing on the issue of litter in the local community.

You may be aware already that within the Ballinderry area, a proactive group have begun working together to keep Ballinderry clean, carrying out litter picks in the area. A very successful clean-up was held in June and another one took place on Saturday 19th October where many staff, pupils, parents/guardians and extended family got involved.

The group are very keen to emphasise the importance of keeping the community clean and tidy whilst raising awareness of the problems litter can cause and reinforcing the importance of taking your litter home and not discarding it along our local roads etc.

Both primary schools in Ballinderry were asked to take part in a poster competition with the theme of "Keep Ballinderry Clean - Take your litter home".

The KS2 pupils in Ballylifford PS participated in the poster competition and their posters were presented at a school assembly to raise litter awareness within the whole school group.

Cllr Christine McFlynn and Siobhan from the Ballinderry Credit Union were part of the judging panel and winning posters from both schools will be displayed throughout the local Ballinderry area in shops, businesses, the sports club, community hall etc.

Karen Brown from the Mid Ulster Council provided goody bags to all winners and Ballinderry Credit Union provided prizes also



St. Vincent de Paul Food Collection

Thank you to all the pupils and families for their kind donations to the Parish Food Collection for @SVP_Ireland food hampers.

The school community donated seven large hamper boxes and it was great to be part of a lovely gesture at Christmas organised by the Ballylifford Parish Council.



SUPERHEROES PROGRAMME

All pupils have made a great effort with all their SUPERHEROES exercises this term during all MAPS lessons and all daily opportunities with their teachers.

Thanks to Conor from The Performance Lab Cookstown for delivering monthly sessions in October and November and also assessing all pupils in December.

StrengthLab Superheroes is a fantastic initiative helping to develop pupil's physical literacy through the Superheroes characters. It is being completed daily in school and also as a homework activity.

Keep up the great work boys and girls!



Supporting Our Families Together

SOFT organises many workshops and courses throughout the year with lots of different programmes designed with family's needs in mind. It involves other partners in workshops and run some in-house. These include family bonding trips, children's and young people's events, trips, residentials and a summer scheme, reaching a wide audience. The programmes involve and work with people from all backgrounds, sharing, learning and growing together. The breadth and scope of diversity within the project is it's greatest strength.

Recently our P1 pupils and their parents were treated to a Sensory Play Workshop facilitated by the SOFT Project. Both children and adults thoroughly enjoyed making the scented salt dough and using junk materials for imaginative play. It allowed everyone to see that play is fun, provides an opportunity for bonding and doesn't always have to involve spending lots of money. The children were given their bag of goodies to take home and continue their enjoyment! Thank you Kim and Tara!

Ballylifford P.S. have been extremely fortunate to have SOFT Project partners in the school recently who delivered anxiety workshops for pupils with follow up information sessions for parents. They will continue to deliver other programmes for other year groups throughout the year,



GAELIC GAMES at Ballylifford PS

Last year Ballinderry GAC donated money to each Parish school from their successful 5km Run organised by Roisin Mullan and Clodagh McKinless. The school used some of the money last year to buy Quick Touch Gaelic footballs and just recently the school used the remaining money to purchase First Touch and Quick Touch Hurling balls for our Camogie and Hurling Teams. Again thanks to Roisin and Clodagh for their donation and also to Ballinderry Club for continuing with Club School links



TERM 2: EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS

MONDAY: 3rd Feb-6th Apr

Hurling (St. Finbarr's Hurling Club)
3pm-4pm (P3 to P7 boys)

****£1 per session****

TUESDAY: 7th Jan-10th Mar

Hip Hop Dance (Burns Skills School)
2pm-3pm (P1 and P2 pupils)
3pm-4pm (P3 to P7 pupils)

****£30 for 10 weeks****

FRIDAY: 10th Jan-3rd April

GAELIC GAMES - (Enda Muldoon / Mr McElroy)

ALL pupils during MAPS lessons



We would like to take this opportunity to ask you to keep in your thoughts & prayers our P3 and P4 teacher Ms Hurl whose son Joseph is currently in hospital. It has been an extremely difficult time for her and all the family. We know that the family are very grateful for all the prayers and kind messages of support from the whole school community and the Ballinderry Parish.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 23rd December 2019

School will finish for Christmas Holidays at
11:00am.

There will be **NO** bus or lunch provided on this day.

Monday 6th January 2020 -School will reopen for ALL pupils.

SACRAMENTAL DATES:

Confirmation Friday 6th March 2020

First Holy Communion Sat. 16th May 2020



On behalf of all pupils, staff and governors of Ballylifford PS we would like to thank you for all the support, encouragement and assistance you give to the school. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year

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