



BALLYLIFFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Wednesday 24th June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As the school year draws to a close, in a way none of us could have predicted. I hope that our pupils and future P1 pupils, their families and the wider Ballylifford school community are keeping safe and well. There are many positive signs that things are slowly returning to a new sort of normal and we hope this continues.

P1 Induction Online Meeting

Firstly, thank you to all parents/carers for confirming your child's place starting P1 in September. Transition from pre-school to P1 is a big step for both children and their parents/carers. Ballylifford PS would like to help ensure effective arrangements are in place to make the transition as smooth as possible for every child and their parents/carers. Given that induction days will not be taking place during term 3, we want to help familiarise the parents/carers of our new P1 children starting in September with school policy and procedures. Through the online presentation we will be able to provide parents with an overview on

- general information about the school;
- proposed key dates for the school year;
- what to expect in the curriculum in first term/year; and
- routines to keep safe.

The online presentation has been arranged for **Monday 29th June at 12:15pm** It will be delivered by Mr McElroy and Mrs Sweeney (P1/P2 teacher). We will be using the web-based video conferencing platform **ZOOM** to deliver the presentation. We would appreciate if you can confirm your attendance by emailing the school email address at info@ballylifford.cookstown.ni.sch.uk Once we receive your attendance confirmation, you will receive all details via Private Message on SCHOOLS NI app and email on how to join the meeting on the morning of the meeting.

Seesaw and Online Home Learning

Over the last number of weeks, we have been working on developing a new communication and learning tool between the school and parents called Seesaw. From September, Ballylifford PS will use Seesaw which is a platform for pupil engagement to support their online home learning.

Teachers will be able to use Seesaw for online learning and empower the pupils to create, reflect, share, and collaborate. It will provide the children with meaningful learning experiences.

It is an opportunity for teachers to capture pupil learning in class and it will also be a form of communication with parents about pupil progress.

Children will have the opportunity to show their learning, using photos, videos, drawings, text, PDFs, and links. They will also be able to take home paper copies of school work, complete it and then send a photo of it back to the teacher. The teacher can then provide feedback which goes to the child and the child's parent.

The [Seesaw Parent & Family app](#) is excellent for communication between the school and parents who can use this app on their phones. Seesaw is private and you will only see posts created by your child/children or their teacher. It's simple to get student work in one place and share with families, and nothing is shared without teacher approval.

The [Seesaw Class app](#) for all children from P1-P7 and they can use this app on their home device.

A Seesaw invitation letter for parents has been included with each child's End of Year report. Children will get their class app sign up sheets when they return to school in August/ September. We would encourage all parents to sign up ASAP.

Re-opening of Schools

There has been a lot of engagement with the Department of Education (DE) and the Employers' bodies on the wider re-opening of schools. We continue to wait on appropriate guidance for schools on when and how we will be re-opening for the next academic year. The health, safety and well-being of all our pupils, teachers, school staff and school community must take precedence going forward.

As we approach next term, we will keep you updated once the information and the necessary guidance materials have been provided to schools. It will allow the necessary planning and preparatory work to take place. Hopefully we will be in a position soon to inform you of what provision will be in place for September and what the new school day will look like.

We would ask you to please keep an eye on our school website and Twitter account for updates.

SCHOOLS NI APP PRIVATE GROUP MESSAGING

Get all school updates via your phone

Our school is now listed in the **Schools NI** app, which allows you to view school updates and receive PRIVATE messages via your phone or tablet. The app is available on both Apple and Android devices, and will give you access to our school news, calendar events and letters.



To install the app, open [www.ballyliffordps.com] on your phone or tablet and click the 'Download App' button that appears at the top of the screen. You can also go to the APP store on your APPLE device or the GOOGLE PLAY store on ANDROID devices to download the SCHOOL NI APP.

All new P1 parents will receive a SMS text message from School Web Design requesting all parents to verify access to private messaging. We would appreciate that all parents complete this ASAP so you can receive private messages.



Once the app opens, select [**School County Tyrone**] and then select [**Ballylifford PS**]. Next time you open the Schools NI App our school will be listed at the top of the list. You don't need to have the app open to receive messages.

Get school updates via your email

Email updates are now available through the school website. Please visit [www.ballyliffordps.com] and enter your email to receive regular messages from the school.

Enter your Email Address

Subscribe

Select year group options to receive specific year group messages.

Kind Regards

C. McElroy
Mr Ciaran McElroy
Principal