



Ballylifford PS



September & October 2022

TERM 1 DATES

Wednesday 31st August –
Thursday 22nd December
2022

Term 1 **SCHOOL** **CLOSURES**

Monday 19th September –
Exceptional closure
Monday 26th September –
Staff Development Day

HALLOWEEN **BREAK**

Monday 31st October –
Friday 4th October 2022
inclusive

UPCOMING EVENTS

Active Kids PE sessions –
every Wednesday in Term 1

School Photographer –
Monday 10th October 2022

Maths week – Week
beginning 17/10/22

Movies and Munchies
Night - Thursday 27th
October 2022

Halloween Dress Up day –
Friday 28th October (All
children home at 1pm)

Flu Vaccine – Monday 7th
November 2022

WELCOME BACK!

We have enjoyed welcoming all children back into school over the last 2 weeks. All children have settled in well to the school routine and it's lovely to hear the buzz of the children back in the classrooms and on the corridors. We would like to give a special mention to our 14 new P.1 children, who have settled in very quickly and are able to follow the P.1 classroom routine. We hope they will all be very happy and enjoy their primary school journey in Ballylifford PS over the next 7 years. We are all looking forward to a fun and successful school year ahead and ask God to bless all staff and pupils.

SCHOOL TIMES



DROP OFF 8:30am - 9am.

Children can arrive at school any time between 8:30am and 9am. Children go directly to their classroom, wash their hands, and get their belongings ready for class. Children can draw in their 'Doodle' books or read as they wait for rest of the children to arrive.

Morning/Breakfast Club

Our Morning/Breakfast Club resumed on Monday 5th September to help support parents who are travelling on to work early. Morning club is open from 8:10am to 8:30am. During this time, children have the option of having toast, pancake, muffin, and apple/orange juice.

School Uniform

The children as always look fantastic in their school uniforms and a big thank you to all parents/carers 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 playtime. It is 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.

PE Uniform

Children are allowed to wear their school PE uniform every Wednesday and Friday. Our School PE clothing & half zips are available to purchase in O'Neill's, Magherafelt.

'Nurturing Potential, Achieving Together'

School Dinners

The price of school dinners is **£2.60** per day. Children should bring their money to school in a labelled envelope to ensure money does not go missing. The school menu is available on the school website monthly. We are extremely blessed with fantastic school dinners provided by Brigid Ann and Orla – they always go above and beyond to ensure all children receive a beautiful dinner.

Free School Meals

The Education Authority has nearly processed all Free School Meals applications. If you have any problems, please contact Wendy in the School Office.



Healthy Eating Policy

At Ballylifford PS, we try to encourage the children to make healthy choices for Break and Lunch. Please ensure to send a healthy break, for example, pancake, brioche, fruit, yoghurt, and a healthy lunch box.

Children only need ONE snack for break time. All children are also encouraged to bring a clean, filled water bottle to school each day.

Nut Allergies

We would like to remind parents/carers of the seriousness of NUT / FOOD ALLERGY conditions, 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 be brought into school.



Ballylifford 100

Friends of Ballylifford are delighted to announce their first fundraiser for this school year 'Ballylifford 100'. A draw will take place on the first Friday in every month with the chance to win £100. Please see additional sheet enclosed for further details. As always, we really appreciate your generosity and support towards school funds.

School Photographer

The school photographer will be in school on Monday 10th October. All children will receive an individual and family photo. Photos with younger siblings can be taken from 9am on this date.

European Day of Languages – Friday 23rd September 2022

All children will celebrate European Day of Languages on Friday 23rd September. Each class will be learning about the language and culture of different European countries. Children can come to school dressed in the colours of the following country flags.

P.1/2 – Ireland

P.3/4 – France

P.5/6/7 – Italy

PE with David Mulgrew from Active Kids

We are delighted to welcome David from Active Kids every Wednesday from 1pm to 3pm. David will be taking all classes for P.E sessions in Term 1 focusing on Games for the first 6 weeks followed by Gymnastics for the next 6 weeks. Cost £1 per week or £12 for Term 1.



Transfer Club

P7 Transfer Club will take place every Monday afternoon with Mrs Conway from 3-4pm. Transfer test will take place on Saturday 12th November 2022.

School Policies

A summary of all Policies is available to view on our school website. As part of our consultation procedures, we would like to remind parents that all policies linked to Child Protection are available to view online using our school website and on request from the school office.

This includes arrangements for Child Protection, Internet Safety, Pastoral Care and Positive Behaviour. Thank you to all parents for completing our Parental Consent forms at the beginning of September.

Parent Teacher Meetings – Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 26th October from 1pm

All children will go home at 1pm on Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 26th October so that Parent/Teacher meetings can be completed on both afternoons. More details will follow in October.

Credit Union

The Credit Union Savings Scheme has resumed every Tuesday morning. The children are asked to use the clear plastic wallet provided by the Credit Union and we thank Philomena for collecting and returning books on a weekly basis.

All new members are welcome. Any parents interested in opening a savings account can obtain further information by contacting Ballinderry Credit Union Office on 02879418555.



Maths Week Ireland – 17th October to 21st October 2022

This year we will be celebrating Maths Week from Monday 17th October. Throughout the week, all classes will be participating in fun, engaging Numeracy activities. We will also be running a Maths challenge within each class – one winner in each class will receive a prize.



Movies and Munchies Night

On Thursday 27th October, we will be having a 'Movies and Munchies' night for all children. More details will follow in due course.

Halloween Dress Up – Friday 28th October

On Friday 28th October, children can come to school in their Halloween costume. Children will be participating in fun activities for Halloween on this day.

(All children will receive a party bag at the end of the day to take home)



Child Protection/Pastoral Care

At the beginning of each new academic year, class teachers always revise the 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, school safety net and Worry Box. These are on display in school and will be reinforced throughout the school year. Please contact Mrs. Sweeney (Designated teacher for child protection) or Ms Hurl (Deputy designated teacher for child protection) should you wish to raise a child protection issue. A copy of all Child Protection information & 'Parent's Awareness Leaflet' was sent home with each family at the start of September and is also available to view on our school website.

Flu Vaccine

Flu Vaccines will be distributed by the school nurses on Monday 7th November.

If you do not wish your child to get this vaccine, a form still needs to be completed and returned to the school. Flu vaccine forms will be distributed in due course.

Friendship Week – Monday 14th November – Friday 18th November 2022

This year the theme is "REACH OUT". Children in all year groups will be taking the opportunity to celebrate 'Friendships' and promote positive peer relationships. We will celebrate 'Friendship Friday' on Friday 18th November. (More details will follow in November)



We have elected our new Anti-Bullying Ambassadors for this year. These children will help educate their peers on the importance of being a good friend and promote a culture which celebrates and tolerates difference.

Staff Car Park

We appreciate your patience and co-operation over the last few weeks with using the steps to enter the school. We are hoping that the handrail for the ramp will be fitted by the end of September.

To help avoid any congestion in the school car park, there will be **NO** parking allowed in the staff car park at afternoon/home collection times. Only one gate will remain open to allow pedestrian access for parents/carers to collect the children from the playground.

COVID Guidelines

Please note the following Covid Guidelines issued by the Education Authority for this school year: -

- Adults with a positive test result will be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for five days after the day of the test, or from the day symptoms started.
- For children (under 18 years of age) this period is reduced to three days.
- As a precautionary measure those who test positive should avoid contact with individuals who are at 'higher risk' from COVID for ten days.

All children continue to wash hands on arrival to school and at various times throughout the school day.

Our newly refurbished toilets

All children were delighted to see our newly refurbished toilets on their return to school. See photos for before and after refurbishment.

Newsletters/School Information

Please ensure that you retain **ALL** Newsletters/School Information letters for your reference. **It is important that parents check homework sacks regularly for general notes, reminders and newsletters that are sent home.**

The Newsletter will always be made available on the school website www.ballyliffordps.com

Seesaw will also be used for class reminders when necessary – please ensure you are connected to your child's seesaw account through the Seesaw Family App.

We ask all parents and family members to also ensure you have downloaded the '**SCHOOL NI**' APP to view all school updates. Messages will be sent via the SCHOOLS NI app weekly. If you are having problems accessing the app, please contact the school office and we will be happy to help get it sorted for you.

Road Safety Week – Monday 14th

November – Friday 19th November 2022

This year the Road Safety Week 2022 theme is "**Safe Roads for All – Everyone's life matters on the road**". During this week, children will be learning about the importance of keeping safe on the roads to make our journeys safer for everyone (More information will follow in November).



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 and encouraging. In order for learning to be effective, good discipline and positive behaviour is essential. In school we have a number of Golden Rules, and we have an established system of rewards which promotes positive behaviour. We would like the pupils to maintain their excellent attitude and application to their learning. However, to maintain our excellent standard, it is also necessary to have effective sanctions in place. Sanctions have been discussed and agreed in all classes.

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.



Welcome
Learning Respect
Nurture Achievement
Empathy

'Nurturing Potential, Achieving Together'

