



# Ballylifford PS

[www.ballyliffordps.com](http://www.ballyliffordps.com)

January & February 2024



## TERM 2 DATES

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January –  
Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

## MID TERM BREAK

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February –  
Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
inclusive

## ST PATRICK'S DAY HOLIDAY

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024

## Staff Development Day –

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Catholic School's Week –**

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January –  
Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### **Grandparents Day Mass –**

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January  
2024 at 10am in St. Patrick's  
Church, Ballinderry

### **St. Brigid's Day –**

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February (All  
children will attend mass on  
Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January)

### **Internet Safety Day –**

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024

### **P.7 Ceremony of Light –**

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February at  
10am

## Happy New Year everyone!

We would like to welcome all children back to school after the Christmas Holidays. We hope you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year with your family. We are delighted all children have returned to school healthy and well after the Christmas break and we hope that the few weeks off has helped cleared all the coughs and colds for the New School Term.

## Welcome Tilly and Marcus

We would like to particularly welcome 2 new children to our school Tilly and Marcus. Tilly is in P.6 and Marcus is in P.4. We hope you will both be very happy at Ballylifford PS.

### *NEW YEAR PRAYER:*

Thank You Lord for giving me  
The brand new year ahead.  
Help me live the way I should  
As each new day I tread.  
Give me gentle wisdom  
That I might help a friend,  
Give me strength and courage  
So a shoulder I might lend.  
The year ahead is empty,  
Help me fill it with good things  
Each new day filled with joy  
And happiness it brings.  
Amen.



## School Attendance

Winter often brings a lot of coughs, runny noses and colds. **If your child is off school, a note to explain his/her absence must be sent to the school office on his/her return to school.** Children's attendance should not go below 85% and currently we have no children who are below this level. We appreciate your co-operation with this matter to ensure that all our children can reach their full potential.

**'Nurturing Potential, Achieving Together'**

## Miss Clements and Miss Lee

Miss Clements will return to complete her observation week on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January (P.5/6/7 and P.3/4) and her 6-week block placement from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024.

Miss Lee will complete her observation week in P.1/2 from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January to Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January and her 6-week block placement from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. We hope that both Miss Clements and Miss Lee will be very happy throughout their teaching placement and gain a wealth of knowledge and skills at Ballylifford PS.

## KS2 Swimming

On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January, all children in KS2 will return to swimming lessons in Greenvale leisure centre. Tracey and Emmett will continue to be our swimming instructors for this term. All children must wear goggles in the pool and girls must have a swim hat. Please bring swimming gear in a separate bag each week and the cost is £3.50.



## Catholic School's Week – Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024

This year we will be celebrating Catholic School's week from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January to Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January. We will begin each day with a short prayer service and a whole school assembly on Friday morning of this week. Children will engage in activities in class to promote Catholic School's week.

**Grandparents Day Mass** – This year we will celebrate our Grandparents Day mass on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January at 10am in St. Patrick's Church, Ballinderry. All Grandparents/family members are welcome to attend. More information will follow in due course.

## Credit Union Schools Quiz

This year the Credit Union Schools Quiz will take place on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January. All P.6 and P.7 children will attend the quiz in Derrychrin PS. We will be entering 2 teams of 4 pupils along with Derrychrin PS and St. Patrick's PS, Loup. More details will follow in due course.



## All God's Children mass for P.4 pupils

All God's Children masses for our P.4 children will continue this term. The dates for this half term are Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January and Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 10am in St. Patrick's Church, Ballinderry.

## Internet Safety Day

On Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February, we will be promoting Internet safety day in all classes. Mrs Conlan (ICT Co-Ordinator) and our Digital Leaders will deliver a short Assembly to all classes to reinforce the importance of keeping safe online. In class, all teachers will be engaging in activities to highlight ways in which we can keep safe when using computers/Ipad/Xbox/Nintendo Switch etc. and the Internet.

Safer  
Internet  
Day 2024 | Tuesday  
6 February

Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre

[saferinternetday.org.uk](http://saferinternetday.org.uk)

**BEAM Creative Network will be providing a workshop for KS2 children on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February.** Please talk to your child at home about the importance of keeping safe online.

## Morning and After School's clubs

Morning club continues every morning from 8:10am to 8:30am – Cost £1 (includes breakfast)  
P.1/2 children can avail of our After Schools club daily – Cost £2.

## Reminder – Healthy Break

We would continue to encourage all children to bring a healthy snack to school every day, such as, pancake, plain biscuit, yoghurt, fruit, vegetables. Before Christmas, some children were bringing chocolate snacks, so we ask that all children return to having a healthy snack.



## Health & Well-Being Days

On our 'Feel Good Fridays' all children can bring ONE sweet treat to school and wear their own clothes. **Our 'FEEL GOOD FRIDAYS' for this half term will take place on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January and Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024.**

## Accelerated Reader and Freckle



In January, all children in P.3 to P.7 will complete their second **STAR Reading** test in Accelerated Reader. This will be used to set all children with a target to work towards achieving within Term 2. Continue to encourage your child to read AR books and quiz regularly. We look forward to celebrating our AR target and certificate winners at the end of Term 2.

**STAR Maths** – children will also complete their STAR Maths test at the start of January, and this will be used to set a Term 2 target for FRECKLE. Freckle achievements will also be awarded at the end of Term 2.



## Primary 1 Enrolment 2024

The portal for P.1 admissions opens on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 12noon** and closes on **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 12noon**. Admissions can be completed online using a smartphone, tablet, laptop or computer. Please see the EA website. [www.eani.org.uk](http://www.eani.org.uk)

The infographic features a smartphone screen on the left with the text "econnect Applying for a Primary school place?". To the right, a "Key Dates" section lists: "September 2024 to June 2025 school year", "12 December 2023 Admissions Criteria published", "9 January 2024 Applications open at 12noon", and "26 January 2024 Applications close at 12noon". At the bottom, there is a QR code and a red speech bubble that says "Scan here for more information".

Please contact the school office if you require any additional information about P.1 admissions.

## CASH FOR CLOBBER Collection

In Term 1, our ECO team organised a **CASH FOR CLOBBER** collection. Following a clear out over the Christmas holidays, you may have some items you would like to donate. CASH FOR CLOBBER will be collected on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January.

### CASH FOR CLOBBER

Clothing Recycling.  
The easy way to generate cash for your School.

*we weigh. we pay.*



## P.E Sessions with Active Kids – Term 2

P.E sessions with David from Active Kids will recommence on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January. The first 6 weeks will focus on Gymnastics and the following 5 weeks will be Athletics. Children thoroughly enjoyed both Games and Dance sessions with David and Mia in Term 1 and learned lots of new skills. Cost for Term 2 - £11.

## Ballylifford 100 draw

Our Friends of Ballylifford will continue their 'Ballylifford 100' draw in Term 2. Draws for this half term will take place on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January and Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March. Good luck everyone!

## Important dates for P.7 children

Ceremony of Light – **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 10am** in St. Patrick's Church, Ballinderry

Sacrament of Confirmation – **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 5pm** in St. Patrick's Church, Ballinderry.  
**All pupils will go home at 12pm.**



Talk to your P.7 child about the work they will be completing in their Confirmation booklet each week as we prepare for this special sacrament.

## P.7 Post Primary Application Process 2024

Applications for Post Primary Schools will open on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 12pm and close on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 at 12 noon. Please see EA website for further details.

Key Dates  
September 2024 to  
June 2025 school year

- 11 January 2024  
Admissions Criteria published
- 30 January 2024  
Applications open at 12noon
- 22 February 2024  
Applications close at 12noon

Applying for a Post Primary Year 8 School place?

Scan here for more information

www.ea.ie

## CAT4 GL Assessments – P.4 and P.6 pupils only

P.4 and P.6 pupils will be completing their CAT 4 Assessments in January – week beginning Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024. Results of these assessments will be shared with Parents/Carers in Term 3.

*'CAT4 is an assessment of developed abilities in areas known to make a difference to learning and achievement – namely verbal, non-verbal, quantitative and spatial reasoning – and provides you with an accurate analysis of potential student achievement.'*

CAT4

Verbal Classification

Directions

In each of these questions there are three words in bold type. These three words are similar in some way. Decide how they are the same. Then choose the word from the answer choices that goes with the first three words. Look at the example below.

green blue red

A colour B crayon C paint D yellow E rainbow

## Post Primary Open Days for P.7 Pupils

**St Pius X College** – Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 11:30am

**St. Mary's Grammar School** – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January from 12:30pm (Booking is required)

**Rainey Endowed School** – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January (Booking system opens on 8<sup>th</sup> January)

## P.7 SEAG Results

SEAG Results for our P.7 pupils will be issued on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024. We will keep our P.7 pupils in our thoughts and prayers.

## SENTINUS workshop

On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February all classes will participate in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) workshop delivered by Sentinus.

P.1/2 – The day the crayons quit

P.3/4 – Fun Maths

P.5/6/7 – Design and Build with Lego or K-Nex

## CCEA Literacy and Numeracy Assessments – P.7 Pupils only

P.7 pupils will complete CCEA Literacy and Numeracy assessments online week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> January. This is a pilot project and results will not be shared with parents. As assessments are online, this will provide children with the opportunity to experience computer-based tests as opposed to paper.

## After Schools Clubs for Term 2

We aim to begin our After Schools activities this term for P.3 to P.7 pupils from 3pm to 4pm. Activities will include:

- Fundamental skills with Aidy
- Gymnastics with InSPIRES
- Active Kids with David
- Miss Clements 4-week club
- Miss Lee 4-week club

More information will be issued as soon as activities are finalised in a separate letter.

**After school Camogie and Football will commence in the drier/warmer weather (March/April 2024).**

**'Nurturing Potential, Achieving Together'**

