



# Ballylifford PS

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

**November & December 2021**



## **TERM 1 DATES**

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> August –  
Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December  
2021

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December  
– children finish at 11am  
for Christmas Holidays

## **CHRISTMAS BREAK**

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> December  
2021 –  
Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022  
inclusive

Staff Development Day –  
Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

## **All Saints and All Souls**

In the month of November, we remember all our loved ones who have passed away and whose memory is still very dear to us. Our P.5/6/7 children made a beautiful display to help remember all the people we know that have passed away. We remember especially Mrs Sweeney's mummy Brigid Hurl who passed away at the start of November. We continue to pray for Mrs Sweeney, Meadhbh and their wider family at this sad time.



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Odd Socks Day** (Anti-Bullying Week) – Wednesday  
17<sup>th</sup> November

**Bright Day (Road Safety Week)**– Friday 19<sup>th</sup>  
November

**Daily Mile Santa Run** –  
Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December

**Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day** –  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December

**‘Nurturing Potential, Achieving Together’**

## **Anti-Bullying Week – Monday 15<sup>th</sup>** **November – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

The Anti-Bullying Week 2021 theme is **"One Kind Word"**. During this week, children in all year groups will be highlighting the importance of showing kindness to others.



Congratulations to our new Anti-Bullying Ambassadors for this year. We know they will do a super job and help all children in our school to feel happy and safe.

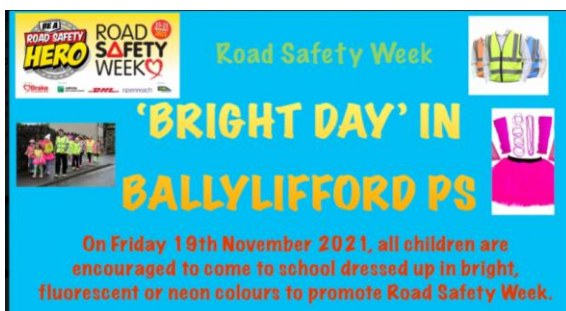
**Odd Socks Day** – On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November, all children are encouraged to come to school wearing odd socks to celebrate Anti Bullying/Kindness Week. Our new school council will take photos of all classes wearing odd socks and they will be talking to children about the importance of 'Being Kind' to each other. Kindness is more important today than it has ever been. The isolation of the last year has underlined how little acts of consideration can break down barriers and brighten the lives of the people around us.

## **Road Safety Week – Monday 15<sup>th</sup>** **November – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

This year the Road Safety Week 2021 theme is **"Be a Road Safety Hero"**. During this week, children will be learning about the importance of keeping safe on the roads to make our journeys safer for everyone.



**Bright Day** – On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November, we are encouraging all children to come to school in their BRIGHT clothes (fluorescent, neon, reflective) to promote the importance of wearing bright colours on the roads.



## **Shoe Box Appeal**



Thank you so much to everyone for the fantastic response to our Shoebox appeal this year. The new School Council presented Blythswood Care Shoe Box appeal with 58 Shoeboxes to help make a difference to the lives of vulnerable communities across Eastern Europe this Christmas. Your kindness and generosity is much appreciated.

## **P.1/2 – Miss Mayo**

We would like to welcome Miss Mayo to our P.1/2 class. Miss Mayo will be covering in P.1/2 until Mrs Sweeney returns.

## **European Week of Waste Reduction – Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November**

During this week our new Eco Council will be reminding the classes about 'Reduce, Reuse and Recycle'. The Eco Council will be checking our classrooms throughout the week to ensure we are switching of lights/computers, using our paper bins and closing the doors on the way outside. We are also encouraging you to send in any old batteries that you wish to recycle. These can be placed in the Battery box at the front of the school. The Eco Council will soon be starting to feed the birds using our new bird tables.



## **Head Lice**

We remind parents/carers of the importance of checking children's hair regularly for Head lice and treating it appropriately. Head lice can be common at this stage of the school year.



## **No NUTS Please**

We would like to remind parents that NO foods containing NUTS or that may contain traces of Nuts/peanut butter/Nutella/Kinder chocolate can be brought into school. We appreciate your continued co-operation with this in order to protect the health, safety and well-being of all our children and staff.

## Flu Vaccine



The school nurse was in school on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November to administer the Nasal Flu vaccine to all children who had completed the Vaccine form. If any child was absent on this day, please contact your GP to make an appointment.

## PE Uniform

We remind all parents/carers of our PE uniform policy every Friday. Children are encouraged to come to school wearing PE t-shirt and half zip to enjoy PE sessions with Caolan from Active Kids.

## Swimming for KS2

Swimming will begin for all children in P.5/6/7 in Term 2 – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January. More details about swimming arrangements will be given in due course.



## Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day

Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day for all children will be on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December. As always, Brigid Ann and Orla will prepare a fantastic Christmas dinner for all children and staff. Children can wear their Christmas jumper to school to join in the festive celebrations.



## Ballylifford Advent Calendar

We are excited to announce our Advent calendar draw this year for Christmas. Super prizes to be won every day in Advent. More information to follow in separate letter.



## Important Dates for your diary

We can confirm the following dates for P.4 and P.7 sacraments.

Sacrament of Confirmation for our P.7 children –  
Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 1pm.

Sacrament of First Holy Communion for our P.4 children – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 1pm.

## Accelerated Reader

In September, all children in P.3 to P.7 completed the STAR test in Accelerated Reader. This was used to set all children with a target to work towards achieving within Term 1. Continue to encourage your child to read AR books and quiz regularly. We look forward to celebrating our target and certificate winners in December.



## 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

## Mental Health and Well-Being

As part of our Health & Well-Being initiative this year linked to the COVID pandemic, we are delighted that 'SOFT' will be delivering a 4 week 'THINK' programme to our P5-P.7 children in January.

The 4 sessions will cover the themes:

- WEEK 1** – Getting to know you and 'All about me'
- WEEK 2** – Making friends and dealing with difficulties
- WEEK 3** – Independence skills
- WEEK 4** – Worries and managing my feelings

We are delighted we can provide the programme based on 'Social and Problem-Solving skills' for our KS2 children and we are confident that they will thoroughly enjoy it gaining a positive experience.





## Guess the name of the Elf - £1

Elf on the Shelf will soon be returning to many of your houses ☺ All children will have the opportunity to Guess the name of our Elf in December. £1 per guess.



## Primary 1 Enrolment 2022

Admissions criteria will be available before Christmas for children starting P1 in September 2022. All forms are published on the EA website. [www.eani.org.uk](http://www.eani.org.uk)

The portal opens on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 12noon and closes on **28<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 12noon**

Admissions can be completed online using a smartphone, tablet, laptop or computer.

## Outdoor Area

A huge thank you to Martin Wilson for the amazing job he did clearing and stoning our Outdoor Play area during the Halloween holidays. Despite the wet weather, Martin kept going to ensure the area was completed before the children returned to school after the Halloween break.

We look forward to purchasing equipment for our Outdoor Play area during this school year.



A big thank you to Dean Talbot for sourcing the Mini chip bark for our Outdoor area from **Bulrush**. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

## Daily Mile Santa Run

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, we will be taking part in the Daily Mile Santa Run. All children can wear their Christmas jumper and/or Santa hat to join in the daily mile.



## Ballinderry GAA

We would like to say a huge thank you to Ballinderry GAA for their fantastic donation to help us fund our PE sessions with Caolan from Active Kids this term. The children are really enjoying having Caolan here every Friday.



## Reminder – Healthy Break

We would encourage all children to bring a healthy snack to school every day, such as, pancake, plain biscuit, yoghurt, fruit, vegetables. Please see 'Healthy breaks for school – A guide for pupils and parents' leaflet.



## Painting of our School Hall

During the Halloween break, we were delighted to get our school hall painted using school funds. The hall now looks fantastic with all noticeboards painted with bright colours.



