



Ballylifford PS

www.ballyliffordps.com

May and June 2022



TERM 3 DATES

Monday 25th April 2022 –
Thursday 30th June 2022
at 11am

BANK HOLIDAYS

Monday 2nd May and
Tuesday 3rd May (Optional
closure)

Thursday 2nd June and
Friday 3rd June 2022

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

DAY

Monday 6th June 2022

May is the Month of Mary

In the month of May, we remember Mary our Mother. We pray the Hail Mary and ask Mary to care for and look after us. We will create a May Altar at the front of our school to mark Mary's special month. Each Friday in May we will come together as a whole school and pray the rosary to Our Lady.



UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sacrament of
Confirmation**

– Saturday 30th April at
1pm

First Holy Communion –

Saturday 14th May at 1pm

**Daily Mile 10th Birthday –
Thursday 28th April**

Feel Good Friday –

Friday 27th May

**PTE and PTM assessments
– starting Wednesday 4th
May**

**School Trips – Monday
20th June (TBC)**

**Sport's Day – date to be
confirmed ASAP**

School Start time

Please remember that our start time is 9am. Children can arrive to school anytime between 8:30am and 9am. It is important that all children are present before 9am so that class can begin promptly. We appreciate your co-operation. Please continue to send children in full school uniform with **plain navy bottoms**.

Morning Club

Morning club continues in Term 3 from 8:10am to 8:30am. If your child would like to start Morning Club, please complete a permission slip at the school office. Cost £1 or 50p with no breakfast.

Promoting Positive Behaviour

We will continue to encourage all children to follow our Golden Rules so that learning can be effective in all classes. Whole school Rewards and Sanctions are in place in line with our recently reviewed Positive Behaviour policy. Good behaviour results in children displaying an excellent attitude to their learning.

‘Nurturing Potential, Achieving Together’

Accelerated Reader in Term 2

Congratulations to all the children from P.3 to P.7 for their fantastic reading and quizzing in Term 2. A number of children reached their individual target and achieved over 85% or above in all quizzes. Well done everyone!



Coffee Morning

What a wonderful morning we had at our Spring Coffee Morning. It was lovely to welcome parents and friends of our school community in to our hall after such a long time. Brigid Ann and Orla treated everyone to beautiful home baked scones and cakes. Thank you to everyone for attending and your very generous donations. All donations will go towards the painting of our school building.



Popping Balloon Bunny Raffle

Congratulations to Clodagh in P.6 on winning our Bunny raffle. We hope Clodagh had lots of fun popping the balloons to find yummy treats. The raffle raised a fantastic £206 – thank you boys and girls!



After School Clubs for Term 3

The following clubs will continue after school in Term 3 from 3pm to 4pm.

- ✓ Boys Football – every Wednesday
- ✓ Girls Camogie – every Friday
- ✓ Multi Sports for P.5/6/7 – every Tuesday up to Tuesday 24th May
- ✓ Transfer Club – every Monday starting on Monday 9th May

Hurling with St. Finbarr's

Brian from St. Finbarr's Hurling club will continue to take P.5/6/7 for Hurling every Thursday in Term 3 from 1pm to 3pm. Children can borrow a helmet and stick if they do not have one.

Good Luck Mrs Kelly and Mrs Conlan

At the end of Term 2 we said Goodbye to Mrs Kelly and Mrs Conlan as they enjoy a good rest over the next few weeks before their little baby arrives. We would like to take this opportunity to wish Mrs Kelly and Mrs Conlan all the best for their new arrivals and we look forward to hearing their baby news soon.

A special word of thanks to Mrs Kelly for her hard work and dedication to our P.5/6/7 class since the start of September. The children adored Mrs Kelly and enjoyed her teaching them every Monday to Wednesday. We will miss her dearly and hope to see Mrs Kelly in Ballylifford in the future.

Thank you to Mrs Conlan for completing the Engage programme and Catch Up Literacy programme in school with different groups of children since the start of November. Mrs Conlan worked tirelessly with children from P.3 to P.6 and the children were so excited to complete their weekly sessions with her. Mrs Conlan made the additional support fun and engaging for all children. We hope to see you again in Ballylifford very soon.



‘Lego Therapy with Conor from Activity NI’

Conor has now completed the 8 weeks of Lego Therapy with all classes. A special thanks to Conor from Activity NI for completing the weekly sessions. The children enjoyed the challenges and created some fantastic Lego models. A great opportunity to develop teamwork, problem solving and thinking skills in a fun way.

Thank you to Katie from Calm Kit

Katie has completed the 6 weeks Calm Kit programme with P.3/4 and P.5/6/7. We received a lot of positive feedback from staff and children about Katie’s weekly sessions and the children always left each session feeling happy, refreshed and positive about themselves. Thank you Katie and we hope to see you back in Ballylifford in the near future.



Ceremony of Light – P.7

A huge well done to our P.7 children for participating in their Ceremony of Light on Wednesday 6th April. The P.7 children were extremely well prepared and reverent in their prayers as they prepared for the sacrament of Confirmation. Thank you to Mrs Kelly and Miss Mayo for preparing the children for the Ceremony of Light.



Sporting events - Dates for your Diary

Woods PS Football competition – Friday 6th May
All County Camogie Championship – Tuesday 10th May
South Derry Boy’s Football Championship – Wednesday 18th May
All County Hurling Championship – Monday 23rd May
Aaron Devlin Memorial Football tournament – Friday 17th June at Ballinderry Shamrocks GAA



Daily Mile 10th Birthday

All schools will be celebrating the 10th Birthday of the Daily Mile on Thursday 28th April. We are very fortunate to have been sent some t-shirts for a few children in each class to wear on this day.



Feel Good Friday

We will celebrate our last 2 Feel Good Fridays on **Friday 29th April and Friday 27th May**. The children and staff have thoroughly enjoyed the buzz and excitement of ‘Feel Good Friday’ each month.

St Pius Induction Day for P.7

St. Pius will be having an Induction day for P.7 children either on Wednesday 15th June or Thursday 16th June (Date to be confirmed in due course).

Confirmation P.7

Our P.7 children will celebrate their Confirmation on Saturday 30th April. We know they will all look beautiful and will be a credit to our school. We hope they have a super day with their family and friends. A special thank you in advance to Fr Donnelly who will celebrate the Sacrament with our P.7s on Saturday.

Cross Country Cumann naBunscol

Well done to all 8 children who participated in the Cross Country event in Maghera on Wednesday 6th April. They had to run 1200 metres and we were extremely proud of them. A special mention to Leah in P.6 for coming 8th out of approximately 40 runners.



P.5/6/7 visit to Titanic Centre – Monday 4th April

On Monday 4th April, P.5/6/7 children enjoyed a trip to Titanic centre in Belfast along with our Shared Education partner school Coagh P.S. The children were excited to meet up face-to-face with the children from P.6/7 in Coagh P.S and they participated in lots of team building activities. A great day was had by all and a lovely way to end our Term 2 World Around Us topic.



Our Easter Fun Day

What a super day was had by all children on Wednesday 13th April. The children enjoyed fun on 3 bouncy castles followed by a special visit from Ben's Ice-Cream. A huge thank you to Jason for supplying the bouncy castles for the day and to Ben's Ice-cream for providing all the children and staff with such beautiful treats. See the school website for photographs.

Farm Safety Talk

Paul from Healthy and Safety will deliver a talk to our P.1 and P.7 children on Wednesday 27th April about Farm Safety.

Safer Schools NI App

Hopefully all parents have had a chance to download the 'Safer Schools NI' app using the information sent home in Term 2. This app will provide children and parents with very useful information about safeguarding and keeping safe online.



Travelling Book Fair

Thank you all children who purchased a book from our Book Fair in March. The Book Fair raised a total of £541 and the school received £264 commission to buy books for Accelerated reader.

Credit Union Junior Saver Winners

Congratulations to our top 3 Junior Saver Winners for Term 2. The Credit Union presented them with a lovely prize.

Logan Talbot - £15
Searlaith Scullion - £10
Tiarnan Scullion - £5

PTE and PTM assessments May 2022

This year our PTE and PTM assessments for children in P.3 to P.7 will take place week beginning Wednesday 4th May and Week beginning Monday 9th May. We hope to have all assessments completed by Friday 13th May. Results of PTE and PTM will be shared with parents in the end of year pupil reports.

P.7 Last day

This year we will mark our P.7 children leaving with a special mass and assembly on Monday 27th June. More details to follow closer to this date.

Outdoor Learning Area

Throughout Term 1 and Term 2, we have been working hard to develop our new Outdoor Learning area. The children have started to use the area and it has been a fantastic new resource for our school. The following have been created as part of our Outdoor Learning Area: -

- ✓ Sand pit with cover
- ✓ Mud kitchen
- ✓ New storage shed
- ✓ New garden (developed by our Eco Council)
- ✓ Sensory classroom
- ✓ 10 new bicycles and scooters
- ✓ Multi-functional shop
- ✓ Construction/Builders bench (includes soft blocks, wheelbarrow, tools and hard hats)

We would like to express our sincere thanks to all parents and friends of the school who have supported our fundraising events in Term 1 to help buy all of the above.

In Term 3 we hope to develop the following using the recent Outdoor funding from the Department of Education: -

- Paint picnic benches and tables
- Install water butt to supply water to our Mud Kitchen
- New Playground Markings including an activity circuit for the bicycles, caterpillar alphabet and the outline of a football pitch for the KS2 playground
- New football nets and basketball nets

See separate page for picture of before and after 😊

Thank you to the McIvor Family

We would like to express our sincere thanks to Jacob and the McIvor Family for the fantastic donation they made in Term 2 to help purchase equipment for our Outdoor area. The money went towards buying tools, blocks and a builder's yard.



