



Ballylifford PS

www.ballyliffordps.com

November & December 2022



TERM 1 DATES

Wednesday 31st August –
Thursday 22nd December 2022

Thursday 22nd December –
children finish at 11am for
Christmas Holidays

CHRISTMAS BREAK

Friday 23rd December 2022 –
Wednesday 4th January 2023
inclusive

Staff Development Day –
Wednesday 4th January 2023

UPCOMING EVENTS

**P.5/6/7 Shared Education
trip to Belfast Zoo –**
Monday 14th November

Odd Socks Day (Friendship
Week) – Wednesday 16th
November

**Bright Day/Ditch the Dark
Day (Road Safety Week)–**
Friday 18th November

Daily Mile Santa Run –
Friday 2nd December

**Christmas Dinner and
Christmas Jumper Day –**
Friday 9th December

Christmas trip to Panto -
Tuesday 13th December

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. This year we are creating a whole school display to remember our loved ones – if you would like someone to be remembered, please complete the flower sent home this week. We ask that all flowers are returned to school as soon as possible so that we can create our 'Garden of Remembrance'. We will share our display on the school website when it is completed.



A Very Warm Welcome

We would like to welcome 2 new pupils to Ballylifford PS - Cormac P.4 and Naoifa P.1. We hope that they will be extremely happy in our school.

We would also like to welcome Miss Leah Clements and Mr Padraig McAlynn to our school to embark on their teaching placements. Miss Clements is currently completing her observation days in P.5/6/7 and her block placement will take place in February and March 2023. Mr McAlynn is a PGCE student and will be teaching in P.3/4 from November to January. We hope that both Leah and Padraig enjoy their teaching experience in Ballylifford PS.

‘Nurturing Potential, Achieving Together’

P.3/4 – Miss Caoimhe McPeake

We would like to welcome Miss McPeake to our P.3/4 class. Ms Hurl was in hospital over the Halloween break and will be absent from school for the next few weeks as she recovers. We will remember Ms Hurl in our prayers. Miss McPeake will be covering in P.3/4 until Ms Hurl returns.

Flu Vaccine

The school nurse was in school on Monday 7th 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.



Transfer test

The Transfer test will take place on Saturday 12th November – We wish all our P.7 children sitting the Transfer the very best of luck and they will be in our thoughts and prayers.

Shared Education Trip to Belfast Zoo

On Monday 14th November P.5/6/7 will visit Belfast Zoo along with Coagh PS as part of our WAU topic for this term. This trip is funded through the Shared Education programme – it is lovely to see the children and staff from both schools continuing to work in close partnership with each other every week.

Important Date for your diary

Sacrament of Confirmation for our P.7 children – Thursday 2nd March 2023 at 5pm.

Date for Sacrament of First Holy Communion and First Confession for our P.4 children will be confirmed ASAP.

All God's Children

A parish meeting will take place in our school hall for the parents of P.4 children from both Ballylifford PS and Derrychrin PS on Tuesday 8th November at 6:30pm. The aim of the meeting is to outline the 'All God's Children' programme which will help prepare P.4 children for First Holy Communion and First Confession this year. P.4 children do not attend the meeting.



'Ballylifford 100' Draw 2 and 3

Our Friends of Ballylifford draw 'Ballylifford 100' will continue this term. Winners of £100 will be announced on Friday 11th November and Friday 2nd December. Good luck everyone!

Shoe Box Appeal



Our new School Council will be responsible for promoting the Blythswood Care Shoe Box appeal again this year. One small shoebox can help make a difference to the lives of vulnerable communities across Eastern Europe this Christmas. Your kindness and generosity are much appreciated. Please send Shoe Box into school on or before Friday 25th November.

European Week of Waste Reduction – Monday 21st to Friday 25th 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 off lights/computers, using our paper bins and closing the doors on the way outside. The Eco Council will soon be starting to feed the birds for the Winter. We hope to work towards renewing our Green Flag this year.

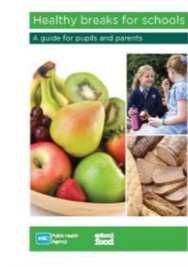


School start time – 9am

Our school day starts at 9am. Can we please ask that all children are in school by 9am so that teaching and learning can begin promptly. Children arriving late are missing part of the morning routine. We thank you for your co-operation.

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. **Reminder – we are a NUT Free school.**



Mass for P.5/6/7

Our P.5/6/7 children will continue to attend mass on the first Friday of every month in St. Patrick's Church, Ballinderry. Dates for this term are Friday 11th November and Friday 2nd December.

Completion of Ramp

The handrails have finally been installed at the front of the school and children can now enter the school safely via the steps or ramp. We sincerely appreciate your patience and co-operation during September and October.

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

The Friendship Week 2022 theme is **"REACH OUT"**. During this week, children in all year groups will be highlighting the importance of 'Reaching out' to our friends and giving them the help and support they need.



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 16th November, all children are encouraged to come to school wearing odd socks to celebrate Friendship Week. Our new school will be talking to children about the importance of 'Reaching out' to each other. It is the responsibility of everyone in our school to set positive examples of being a good friend and create kinder communities. **Friday 18th November will be 'Friendship Friday'.**

Road Safety Week – Monday 14th November – Friday 18th November 2022

This year the Road Safety Week 2022 theme is **"Safe Roads For All"**. During this week, children will be learning about the importance of keeping safe on the roads to make our journeys safer for everyone.

SUSTRANS - Johnny from Sustrans will visit school on Tuesday 15th November to deliver a Road Safety workshop to all classes. We are delighted to welcome Johnny back to Ballylifford and we look forward to working with him throughout the school year.



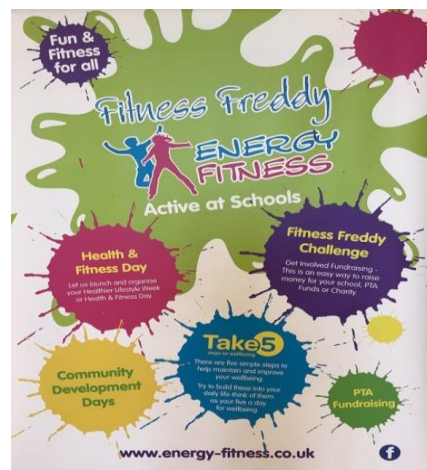
Accelerated Reader

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.



Mental Health and Well-Being

Fitness Freddy - As part of our Health & Well-Being initiative this year 'Fitness Freddy' will visit school on Thursday 24th November. All children will learn new, fun ways to keep your body and mind healthy.



Feel Good Friday – Our next Feel Good Friday will take place on Friday 25th November. All children can wear their own clothes and bring a sweet treat for extended break.

Ditch the Dark/Bright Day

On Friday 18th 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 especially over the Winter months. Johnny will speak to the children about 'Ditch the Dark Day' during his Road Safety workshop on Tuesday 15th November.

Ditch the Stabilisers

Johnny 'Active Travel Officer' from Sustrans will be in school on Friday 25th November to deliver the 'Ditch the Stabilisers' programme to some of our P.1/2 children. More details will follow in due course.



Daily Mile Santa Run

On Friday 2nd 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.



Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day

Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day for all children will be on Friday 9th 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. **All children will go home at 1pm.**



Carol Service and Nativity

Our Christmas Carol Service and Nativity will take place on Wednesday 14th December in St. Patrick's Church, Ballinderry at 7pm. In the coming weeks you will begin to hear your child singing songs for our Carol Service. We ask you to practice these with your child regularly.

Christmas Popping Balloon - £1

Our school council will be selling tickets in December for a Christmas Popping Balloon – tickets cost £1.

Christmas trip to Panto

On Tuesday 13th December, all children and staff will travel to the Grand Opera House in Belfast to see the Panto 'Cinderella'. Thank you to all Parents/Carers for paying for the trip well in advance. Children must wear their full school uniform and bring a small snack for the Panto.



Primary 1 Enrolment 2023

Admissions criteria will be available before Christmas for children starting P1 in September 2023. All forms are published on the EA website. www.eani.org.uk The portal opens on 10th January 2023 at 12noon and closes on **27th January 2023 at 12noon.** Admissions can be completed online using a smartphone, tablet, laptop or computer.

Open Night

An Open night will take place for all Parents and children considering starting Ballylifford PS in September 2023. Date and time of Open night will be displayed at front of school over the next few weeks.

Ballylifford Advent Calendar

We are excited to announce our Advent calendar draw again this year for Christmas. Tickets cost £5. If anyone would like to donate a prize for our Advent raffle, please contact the school office. More information to follow in separate letter.



