



Ballylifford PS

www.ballyliffordps.com

January & February 2023



TERM 2 DATES

Thursday 5th January –
Thursday 6th April 2023

MID TERM BREAK

Monday 13th February –
Friday 17th February 2023
inclusive

ST PATRICK'S DAY HOLIDAY

Friday 17th March 2023
Optional Closure
Monday 20th March 2023

Staff Development Day –
Wednesday 4th January 2023
Monday 13th February 2023

UPCOMING EVENTS

Catholic School's Week –

Monday 23rd January –
Friday 27th January 2023

**B.E.A.M Internet Safety
Workshop – Wednesday**
25th January

Credit Union Quiz – Friday
27th January 2023

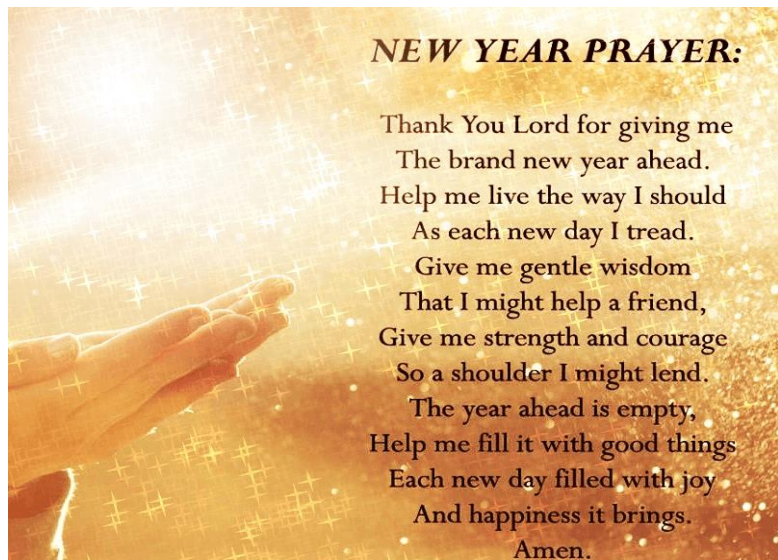
St. Brigid's Day -
Wednesday 1st February (All
children will attend mass)

Internet Safety Day –
Tuesday 7th February 2022

P.7 Ceremony of Light –
Wednesday 8th 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 that most of our children have returned to school healthy and well after the Christmas break and we hope that the few weeks off has helped cleared all sickness for the New School Term.



School Attendance

In Term 1 and particularly in the month of December, we had a lot of children off sick and we hope that the break has helped all our children return to full strength. 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 do have children who are below this level. We appreciate that a lot of sickness still remains and remind you to keep your child at home if they are unwell. However, if children are well, they should be in school learning. We appreciate your co-operation with this matter to ensure that all our children can reach their full potential.

‘Nurturing Potential, Achieving Together’

P.3/4 – Miss McPeake

Miss McPeake will continue to teach P.3/4 class until Ms Hurl returns. We continue to remember Ms Hurl in our thoughts and prayers.

Mr McAlynn will continue his PGCE teaching placement in P.3/4 until the end of January.

Miss Clements will return to complete her observation week on Monday 16th January (P.5/6/7 and P.1/2) and her 6-week block placement from Monday 6th February to Friday 24th March 2023.

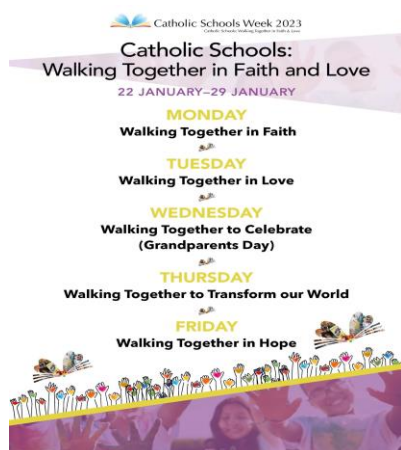
KS2 Swimming

On Thursday 5th 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 23rd January – Friday 27th January 2023

This year we will be celebrating Catholic School's week from Monday 23rd January to Friday 27th January. We will begin each day with a short prayer service. Children will engage in activities in class to promote Catholic School's week.



Accelerated Reader

In January, all children in P.3 to P.7 will complete their second STAR 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 target and certificate winners at the end of Term 2.



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 8th January and Sunday 19th February at 10am in St. Patrick's Church, Ballinderry.

Internet Safety Day

On Tuesday 7th February, we will be promoting Internet safety day in all classes. Miss Mayo (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.



Children will be introduced to different websites on this day to promote Online safety – please talk to your child at home about the importance of keeping safe online.

B.E.A.M – On Wednesday 25th January, 'B.E.A.M Creative Network' will deliver a workshop to our KS2 children on Internet Safety to raise further awareness to 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.



Healthy Me Programme

Colette Slevin from AMH Menssana (Action Mental Health) will deliver the 'Healthy Me' full-day Workshop to our P.5/6/7 children on Monday 30th January 2023. A Parent session will follow on Monday 6th February.

The 'Little Healthy Me' workshop will be delivered to our P.1 to P.4 children in Term 3.



Health & Well-Being Days

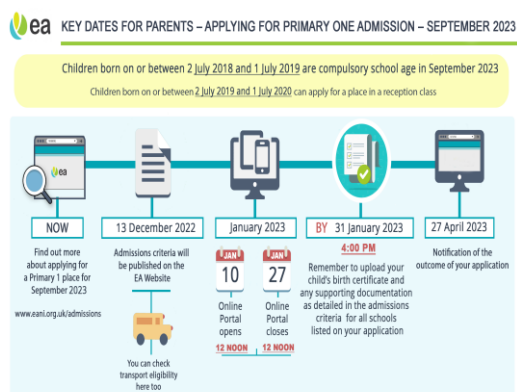
We will continue our 'Feel Good Fridays' this term when all children can bring ONE sweet treat to school and wear their own clothes. **Our first 'FEEL GOOD' day will be on Friday 10th February before Mid-Term break.**

A primary focus for all schools this year is promoting positive mental health and well-being among children and staff. Talk to your child about the 5 steps to Well-Being.



Primary 1 Enrolment 2023

The portal for P.1 admissions opens on **Tuesday 10th January 2023 at 12noon** and closes on **Friday 27th January 2022 at 12noon**. Admissions can be completed online using a smartphone, tablet, laptop or computer. Please see the EA website. www.eani.org.uk



P.E Sessions with Active Kids

P.E sessions with David from Active Kids will recommence on Wednesday 11th January. The first 6 weeks will focus on Athletics and the following 6 weeks will be Dance. Children thoroughly enjoyed both Games and Gymnastics sessions with David in Term 1 and learned lots of new skills. Cost for Term 2 - £12.

Friends of Ballylifford secure £1500 funding

We would like to say a huge thank you to our Friends of Ballylifford who again have helped us secure a council grant for £1500. The money will be used to order resources for our school.

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 6th January and Friday 3rd February. Good luck everyone!

Important dates for P.7 children

Ceremony of Light – Wednesday 8th February at 10am in St. Patrick's Church, Ballinderry

Sacrament of Confirmation – Thursday 2nd March at 5pm in St. Patrick's Church, Ballinderry

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.



After Schools Club

Mr McAlynn will be taking a 4 week 'Fitness and Games' After Schools Club with our P.3/4 children starting on Tuesday 10th January. The club costs £1. More details to follow in separate letter.

Engage Funding

We are delighted that the funding for the Engage programme has been extended until the 31st March 2023. Mrs Conlan will continue to teach Phonics, Literacy and Numeracy to our P.6 children every Monday to Thursday from 9am to 12pm.

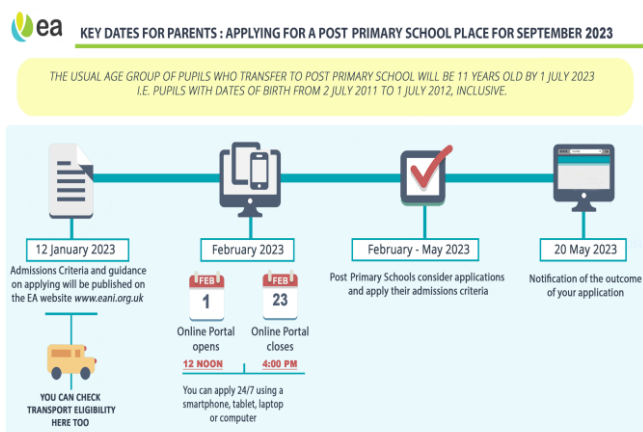
Credit Union Schools Quiz

This year we are delighted for the return of the Credit Union Schools Quiz in which we will participate along with Derrychrin PS and St. Patrick's PS, Loup. The Credit Union quiz will take place on Friday 27th January in St. Patrick's PS, Loup. More details will follow in due course.



Post Primary Application Process

Applications for Post Primary Schools will open on Wednesday 1st February at 12pm and close on Thursday 23rd February. Please see EA website for further details.



Mr Friel from St. Pius will visit school on Tuesday 10th January at 12pm to speak to our P.7 pupils.

P.7 Transfer Results

Transfer Results for our P.7 pupils will be issued on Saturday 4th February 2023. We will keep our P.7 pupils in our thoughts and prayers.

Ash Wednesday

On Wednesday 22nd February all children will attend mass at 10am to receive ashes for the start of Lent. In school, all children will be making special promises for Lent.

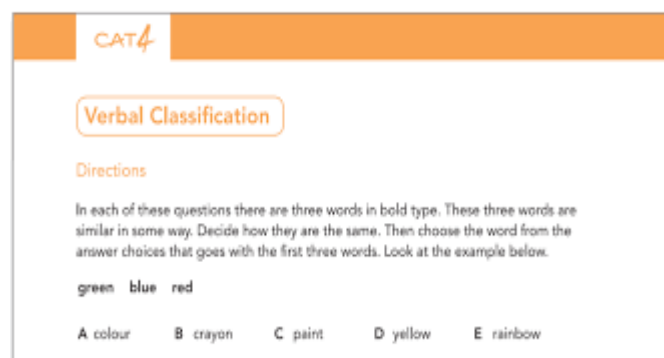
Active Kids After Schools Club

Active Kids hope to begin a 6 week After School programme for our P.5/6/7 class this term. More details will follow when finalised.

CAT4 GL Assessments

P.4 and P.6 pupils will be completing their CAT 4 Assessments in January. 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'.



CASH FOR CLOBBER Collection

In Term 2, our ECO team aim to hold a **CASH FOR CLOBBER** collection. The Eco team will inform all classes on dates and details of collection closer to the time.



'Nurturing Potential, Achieving Together'

