



BALLYNURE PRIMARY SCHOOL

27th Governors Annual Report

2020 – 2021



Dear Parent / Carer / Members of this school community,

As Chair of Governors of Ballynure Primary School, I am pleased to present the Annual Report for the academic year 2020-21.

2020 was our 90th year anniversary. Little did we know of the global influences that would overshadow our plans. Celebrating 90 years as a rural school is no mean feat. The dedication of all those involved from 1930 to the present day has made the school what it is.

I know it was of great delight to the Principal, teachers and staff to welcome the children back to school in September 2020. Making the school “Covid ready” and safe for the return of the children started well before September and communication with parents was paramount. The Principal, teachers and staff are to be commended on the efforts during this re-start, and we as Governors thank them all for the hard work.

The first term was different, however, as a community we all played our part in easing the children, teachers and staff back to face-to-face learning and providing structure to the children once more. Whilst we all saw the case numbers rise in late November and December, no clear action was given from the DE / EA and the word that schools would not re-open came on New Years day – we do thank the Principal for working through the holiday period to make sure that information was passed out the very next day giving some clarity to parents and the wider school community. The Principal, Teachers and staff continued to work together to provide care for those children of critical workers during this time of home learning.

Communication and planning guidance was lacking from the DE / EA, often social media was the first to provide information (some accurate and some not accurate). Whilst this led to confusion to many, the Principal provided accurate information as soon as possible. In early March we saw a phased return of pupils, which was fantastic and breathed life back into the school corridors and classrooms. The Principal endeavoured to bring back some normality to the summer term.

I commend this report to you and the wider School community and thank all who have taken the time to support our Principal, Teachers and Staff during the year, it is very much appreciated. We thank the Principal, Teachers and Staff for all this hard work.

Yours Faithfully,

Mr Roger McMullan

The Board of Governors

The Board of Governors was in its second year of a four-year term of office during 2020-21. It is made up of seven members and the Principal. All, except the Principal, are voting members.

BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2020/2021 WERE AS FOLLOWS:

EA REPRESENTATIVES

Mr R McMullan - Chairperson

Mrs A Watson - Vice – Chairperson

TRANSFEROR REPRESENTATIVES - Church Representatives/In lieu of Transferors

Mr W Forsythe

Rev J Rogers

Rev J Campbell-Smyth

Ms L Dodds

PARENT REPRESENTATIVES

Mr P Greer

TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE

Mrs R Woods

HON. SECRETARY

Mrs E Doherty (Principal) (Non-Voting Member)

The Board of Governors commends this report to you.

Role of the Board of Governors

The role of the Board of Governors in all schools in Northern Ireland is to oversee the management of the school with a view to providing the best possible education and educational opportunities for all pupils. Boards of Governors have a range of statutory duties, particularly regarding setting the strategic direction for the school and taking corporate decisions in relation to the statutory functions of the Board of Governors. These include:

- Setting the school’s vision and aims
- Setting admission criteria
- Establishing and maintaining the school’s ethos
- Setting the school’s plans and approving policies
- Monitoring and evaluating school performance
- Promoting self-evaluation to sustain school improvement
- School performance measures
- Fiscal management
- Curriculum planning
- Employment issues
- Pupil pastoral care and protection issues
- Publication of information regarding the school and its pupils
- Managing school premises and relations with the community
- Supporting pupils, parents and staff.

Staff

Our dedicated staff, throughout the year, have worked above and beyond to provide the very best education and support to our pupils.

Principal	Mrs E Doherty
Foundation Stage	Mrs R Woods Mrs McClean
Key Stage 1	Mrs M Weir Mrs R Galashan
Key Stage 2	Mrs E Livings Mrs R McIlroy Mrs S Allen
Classroom Assistants	Mrs S Armstrong Mrs J Ervine Ms K Madden
Administrative Staff	Mrs R Nugent
School Building Supervisor	Mr R Lomas

Curriculum Matters

Training and professional development training for all teaching staff and non-teaching staff continue during the 2020-2021 school year with teaching staff participating in training in, Health and Wellbeing Strategy, EA One, First Aid at Work, Strategies for Working Memory Difficulties, Nurture Principals and Practice, Emotional Health and Wellbeing Teaching, Trauma and Attachment Awareness, Local Leadership Forum, Nurturing Approaches in School, New SEN Framework Group and Practical Strategies Support.

Enrolment

The maximum enrolment for the school year 2020-2021 was 154 with an admissions number of 22. There were 20 applications accepted. The enrolment number in September 2020 was 148.

Attendance

The attendance for the year 2020/2021 was 96.4%.

Statutory Assessment

In the year 2020-2021, teachers formally assessed pupils in year 4 (end of Key Stage 1) and year 7 (end of Key Stage 2) in Communication and Using Mathematics. The results of these assessments were as follows:

KEY STAGE 1 PERCENTAGE OF PUPILS AT LEVEL AND ABOVE - (16 pupils)

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Communication	100	93.75	37.5
Using Mathematics	100	100	25
Using ICT	100	100	0

KEY STAGE 2 PERCENTAGE OF PUPILS AT LEVEL AND ABOVE - (18 pupils)

	Level 4	Level 5
Communication	88.8	50
Using Mathematics	88.8	66.6
Using ICT	100	0

Special Educational Needs

The school will endeavour to make reasonable adjustments to enable pupils with a disability to have the same access to education as the pupils who do not have a disability and to make school life more accessible generally. Parents of children with an identified statement of special educational needs must inform the school of their child's special needs when applying for admission in order that suitable adjustments may be made. The School operates a Special Educational Needs and Inclusion Policy. Children with special educational needs will be admitted to Ballynure P.S. unless educating a pupil in mainstream is incompatible with the provision of efficient education for the rest of the children with whom the pupil will be educated.

Community Relations

Community Relations is an integral part of school life. Within the school, teachers promote Mutual Understanding in class through group work and discussion and through assembly topics and PDMU. Whilst not able to in 2020 / 2021, the school takes time to visit local businesses, take visitors from different associations to further build our standing in the local community and add to this Learning Area.

Child Protection

Mrs Doherty is the designated teacher for Child Protection; Mrs Galashan is the deputy designated teacher for Child Protection. Mrs A Watson continues as the designated Governor for Child Protection. The Chair has attended Child Protection and Safeguarding online. Mrs A Watson attended Child Protection and Safeguarding in Antrim Board Centre as Designated Governor. Rev Roger attended Child Protection Training online also. There were no Child Protection records made during 2020-21. In September, the Chairperson signed the Child Protection Register to verify this.

Extra-Curricular Activities

In Ballynure Primary School we endeavour to provide and a wide variety of extra-curricular activities which we feel are important for the all-round educational and personal development of the children. No after school activities took place in 2020/2021 Academic year due to Covid.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions pupils could not take part in swimming lessons or hockey and football participation.

Our Harvest Event with the children took place on Friday 16 October and we raised £153.00 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

On 11 November we held a socially distanced service in the playground for Armistice Day.

On the 13 November we had a 'wear something spotty' day for Children in Need and raised £200.00.

P1 pupils performed 'The Nativity' to be shown on our school website, as due to Covid-19 we couldn't have our normal Nativity Performances.

There was no whole school Christmas dinner this year due to Covid-19.

All the children and staff wore Christmas Jumpers on Monday 7, Tuesday 8, Thursday 10 and Friday 11 December. All classes held their Christmas 'Class Bubble' Party on Wednesday 9 December and pupils wore their party clothes.

Remote Learning recommenced due to Covid-19 from Wednesday 6 January according to government directive.

P1-P3 returned to school on Monday 8 March and all pupils returned to school on Monday 22 March

The Mighty Mile, Sponsored Event and Outdoor picnic took place on Friday 4 June and raised an amazing £3484.73 for the new Abacus maths scheme for school.

During May and June the P7 class participated in a 6 week cricket coaching session provided by Templepatrick Cricket Club.

During May and June the P6 class participated in a 6 week football coaching session provided by Shining Stars.

The P7 class organised fundraising week commencing 14 June and raised a total of £259.00.

Our annual leavers' event took place on Monday 21 June in the senior playground. Parents and friends gathered at the fence to share the final farewell.

School and Community

In October, due to Covid-19, parents received a short report about their child's progress from their class teacher.

On Monday 2 November P1-P7 pupils received their flu vaccinations.

Our annual school Open Day took place Virtually, with videos such as a tour of the school posted on our school website.

Teachers conducted SEN interviews with parents via telephone to discuss reviews and new individual education plans during October. Teachers also conducted Parent Interviews via telephone in April/May.

P1 Health Appraisals took place on the 4th & 5th May.

P7 Puberty Talk took place on the 14th June, by the School Nurse.

A video for our Primary One Induction was presented on the school website.

Our Annual Sports Day was videoed and shown on the school website, with each class having their own 'Sport Day' in their class bubbles.

Parents received their child's annual report at the end of June. P4 and P7 parents also received their child's End of Key Stage Results.

Charities

- The Macmillan Cancer Support - £153.00
- Wings Appeal – £30.00
- Poppy Appeal - £20.00
- Children in Need - £200.00

The School Day 2020-2021

Due to Covid mitigations our school timetable ran as follows: -

- 8:50 – 9:20 am School bell (start of term saw a staggered entry time)
- 10.30 – 10.45 am Break Time
- 12.15 – 1.00 pm Lunch Time
- 1.50 pm – 2:10 pm Years 1 – 3 finish
- 2:15 – 2:30 pm Years 4 - 7 finish

Holidays and School Closures 2020 – 2021

Autumn Half Term	Monday 26 October – Friday 30 October
Christmas	Monday 21 December – Friday 1 January
COVID Prep Day	Tuesday 5 th January
February Half Term	Monday 15 February – Friday 19 February
Easter	Monday 29 March – Friday 9 April
May Day	Monday 3 May

Spring Bank Holiday

Monday 31 May

Last Day of Term

Wednesday 23 June (government directive)

Finance

The school received a total budget for the year 2020/21 (April – March) of £505,930. A separate finance report summary is attached to this report. In addition to the school budget, the school operates a school fund for cash transactions in school. Many of these are on cash in/out basis, like money for swimming, school trips and charities. Separate finance summaries are attached to this report for the School Fund Account and the School Deposit Account.

Charges and Remissions

It is the Governors' belief that education should be free of financial charge to parents. However, parents will be requested to make voluntary contributions to assist with the cost of trips and other outings. Such trips, which are an important part of the children's education, could not take place without the additional contributions from parents.

- Swimming lessons, which take place during the school day, are provided for senior pupils. Children are required to contribute to the cost of entry to the pool and transport.
- The Music Service of the EA provides instrumental tuition. A charge is levied for tuition as well as for insurance and hire of instruments which all participating pupils are required to pay.
- Where a 'third party' arranges activities i.e. someone else is providing a service to the school, there may be charges incurred.
- Parents will continue to be invited to contribute towards the school fund through fundraising activities and donations.
- The voluntary school fund is currently £20 per family per year. We request this split over the year, the first half in September and the balance in January.

Premises

Fire drills were conducted regularly throughout the year. The Governors had requested (for a seventh year running) the refurbishment of the main boys' and girls' toilets, the resurfacing of the school playgrounds and the external painting of the school, however these were turned down by the EA (no funding available). A request was submitted for the demolition of the shelter in the senior playground however no funding was available.

Security

In accordance with the recommendations of the 'Security and Personal Safety in Schools' guidelines, the following security measures are in operation: ❖ Security locking for all external doors, restricting access to the school ❖ Entry control monitors at the reception desk and Principal's office and room 3. ❖ All visitors are asked to report to the school office ❖ Secure Perimeter Fence ❖ Signing in at reception and issue of visitor badges. As Governors we fully support the Principal and staff in that we continue to require that all parents report to reception, and speak with a member of staff – no further access to the class rooms or other areas of the school is allowed unless permission is given.

Financial Reports 2020-21

BUDGET ANALYSIS	£
Budget Allocation	467,999
Additional Allocations	37,931
Carry Over at March 2019	-7,930
Total budget	498,000
EXPENDITURE	£
Staff Costs	427,379
Non Staff Costs	70,147
Other Staff Cost	147
Premises Fixed Plants & Gds	8,785
Operating Costs	10,581
Non Capital Purchases	1,939
Re-allocations	1,307
Income	-5000
Net Expenditure	515,285
Carry/Over Surplus at March 2020	-17,285

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

DETAILS	BALANCE
Opening Balance	£ 15,110.40
Balance as at 30 June 2021	£ 15,100.68

SCHOOL FUND ACCOUNT

Ballynure Primary School				
SCHOOL FUND ACCOUNT - August 2020-June 2021				
Date	Details	Monies Paid	Monies Received	Balance
1-30 Sept '20	Opening balance			£16758.95
	Monies received		£540.00	
	Cheques Issued	£2133.60		
	Other Costs	£112.57		
	Bank Fees	£16.20		
				£15036.02
1-31 Oct '20	Monies Received		£647.00	
	Cheques Issued	£0.00		
	Other Costs	£21.63		
	Bank Fees	£0.00		
				£15661.39
1-30 Nov '20	Monies Received		£2521.53	
	Cheques Issued	£592.44		
	Other Costs	£155.32		
	Bank Fees	£17.77		
				£17417.39
1-31 Dec '20	Monies Received		£625.72	
	Cheques Issued	£249.00		
	Other Costs	£34.64		
	Bank Fees	£9.17		
				£17750.10
1-31 Jan '21	Monies Received		£610.00	
	Cheques Issued	£0.00		
	Other Costs	£0.00		
	Bank Fees	£9.17		
				£18350.93
1-28 Feb '21	Monies Received		£1344.00	
	Cheques Issued	£0.00		
	Other Costs	£12.94		
	Bank Fees	£0.00		
				£19681.99
1-30 Mar '21	Monies Received		£0.00	
	Cheques Issued	£6831.74		
	Other Costs	£3.20		
	Bank Fees	£4.82		
				£12842.23
1-30 April '21	Monies Received		£88.00	
	Cheques Issued	£200.03		
	Other Costs	£162.49		
	Bank Fees	£11.82		
				£125555.89
1-31 May '21	Monies Received		£2661.80	
	Cheques Issued	£159.00		
	Other Costs	£198.69		
	Bank Fees	£7.28		
				£14852.65
1-30 June '21	Monies Received		£5731.47	
	Cheques Issued	£3470.00		
	Other Costs	£184.35		
	Direct Debit	£55.00		
	Bank Fees	£8.97		
				£16865.80