



Ballylifford PS

September & October 2021



TERM 1 DATES

Tuesday 31st August –
Wednesday 22nd December

Term 1 SCHOOL CLOSURES

Monday 27th September –
Staff Development Day

HALLOWEEN BREAK

Monday 25th October–
Friday 29th October 2021
inclusive

UPCOMING EVENTS

Active Kids PE sessions –
every Friday in Term 1

Maths week – Week
beginning 18/10/21

Parent/Teacher Phone
calls – Tuesday 19th October

Halloween Dress Up day –
Friday 22nd October (All
children home at 1pm)

Flu Vaccine – Monday 1st
November

School Photographer -
Monday 15th November

WELCOME BACK!

We are absolutely delighted to be all back in school safe and well! Despite our challenging 2 weeks due to Covid, children have all now settled in well to the school routine and it's lovely to hear the buzz of the children back in the classrooms and on the corridors. We will continue to implement all Covid mitigations within school to ensure the safety of our whole school community. If your child is unwell or displays Covid symptoms, please keep him/her at home and book a PCR test. We look forward to a fun and successful school year ahead.

SCHOOL TIMES



DROP OFF 8:30am - 9am.

Children can arrive at school any time between 8:30am and 9am. Children go directly to their classroom, wash their hands and get their belongings ready for class. Children can draw in their 'Doodle' books or read as they wait for rest of the children to arrive.

Morning Club

From Monday 4th October, we will begin our Morning Club to help support parents who are travelling on to work early. Morning club is open from 8:10am to 8:30am. During this time, children have the option of having toast and apple/orange juice. All children who wish to avail of our Morning Club have already returned their reply slip.

School Uniform

The children as always look fantastic in their school uniforms and a big thank you to all parents/carers for supporting our uniform guidelines. In the interests of safety, girls should not wear hooped or dangling earrings as they can catch all too easily during play-time. It is absolutely vital **your child's name should be clearly marked on ALL clothing and personal belongings.** Any lost items are stored in our lost property box and you can contact the school office if your child/children have lost any items.

PE Uniform

Children are allowed to wear their school PE uniform every Friday. Our School PE clothing & half zips are available to purchase in O'Neill's, Magherafelt.

'Nurturing Potential, Achieving Together'

School Dinners

The price of school dinners is **£2.60** per day. Children should bring their money to school in a labelled envelope to ensure money does not go missing. The school menu will be distributed to children at the beginning of each month and it is available on our school website.

Free School Meals

The Education Authority has nearly processed all Free School Meals applications. If you have any problems, please contact Wendy in the School Office.



Healthy Eating Policy

At Ballylifford PS, we try to encourage the children to make healthy choices for Break and Lunch. Please try to send a healthy break, for example, pancake, brioche, fruit, yoghurt and a healthy lunch box. All children are also encouraged to bring a clean, filled water bottle to school each day.

Nut Allergies

We would like to remind parents/carers of the seriousness of NUT / FOOD ALLERGY conditions and we would encourage that no foods containing nuts or that may contain traces of nuts / nut products, such as peanut butter or Nutella sandwiches be brought into school.

Ballinderry BIG Raffle

We were delighted with our fundraiser this term for 2 All Ireland Football tickets. We raised a fantastic £2500 for school funds – a huge thank to everyone for their generosity and support.



Credit Union



The Credit Union Savings Scheme will run every Tuesday morning in Term 1. Credit Union books will be collected each Tuesday and returned on Friday for those children who wish to participate in the scheme. The children will be asked to use the clear plastic wallet provided by the Credit Union and we encourage all parents to wipe the wallets at all times.

All new members are welcome. Any parents interested in opening a savings account can obtain further information by contacting Ballinderry Credit Union Office on 02879418555.

European Day of Languages – Thursday 23rd September 2021

The children had a super fun day celebrating Ireland, Italy and France. The children looked fantastic in their country colours. Please see our school website for more photos.



PE with Caolan from Active Kids

We are delighted to welcome Coach Caolan from Active Kids (David Mulgrew) every Friday. Caolan will be taking all classes for P.E sessions in Term 1.



Transfer Club

P7 Transfer Club will take place every Tuesday afternoon with Mrs Conway from 3-4pm. Transfer test will take place on Saturday 13th November 2021.

School Policies

A summary of all Policies are available to view on our school website. As part of our consultation procedures we would like to remind parents that all policies linked to Child Protection are available to view online using our school website and on request from the school office.

This includes arrangements for Child Protection, Internet Safety, Pastoral Care and Positive Behaviour. Thank you to all parents for completing our Parental Consent forms at the beginning of September.

Maths Week Ireland – 16th October to 24th October 2021

This year we will be celebrating Maths Week from Monday 18th October. Throughout the week, all classes will be participating in fun, engaging Numeracy activities. We will also be running a Maths challenge within each class – one winner in each class will receive a prize.



Parent Teacher Meetings – Tuesday 19th October from 1pm

This year our Parent Teacher meetings will be via 10-minute phone calls. Class teachers will send home approximate times for your phone call. Parent phone calls are to discuss your child's progress and how s/he has settled in to school this term.

All children will go home at 1pm on Tuesday 19th October so that Parent/Teacher phone calls can be completed on this afternoon.

Halloween Dress Up – Friday 22nd October

On Friday 22nd October, children can come to school in their Halloween costume. Children will be participating in fun activities for Halloween on this day. All children go home at 1pm.

(All children will receive a party bag at the end of the day to take home)



School Photographer

The school photographer has been rescheduled for Monday 15th November. All children will receive an individual and family photo. Photos with younger siblings can be taken from 9am on this date.

Flu Vaccine

All pupils have received their letters regarding the delivery of the Flu Vaccines by the school nurses which will take place on the Monday 1st November. If you do not wish your child to get this vaccine, a form still needs to be completed and returned to the school.

Child Protection/Pastoral Care

At the beginning of each new academic year, class teachers always revise the pastoral care arrangements with children and remind them of whom they can talk to if they have any concerns or worries. In school we talk to all the children, particularly about our school safeguarding team, school safety net and Worry Box. These are on display in school and will be reinforced throughout the school year. Please contact Mrs. Sweeney (designated teacher for child protection) or Ms Hurl (deputy designated teacher for child protection) should you wish to raise a child protection issue. A copy of all Child Protection information & 'Parent's Awareness Leaflet' was sent home with each family in September and is also available to view on our school website.

Anti-Bullying Week – Monday 15th November – Friday 19th November 2021

The Anti-Bullying Week 2021 theme is "One Kind Word". This year Anti-Bullying week is week beginning 15th November. Children in all year groups will be concentrating on the definition, causes and effects of bullying and discussing anti-bullying strategies and procedures (More information will follow in November).



We will soon be selecting our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors for this year. These children will help educate their peers on bullying, lead anti-bullying campaigns, promote a culture which celebrates and tolerates difference and help keep their peers safe both online and offline.

Staff Car Park

For morning arrival/drop off parents/carers are free to use school car park but must drive **slowly, carefully and responsibly** at all times. Can we please ask that all parents drop children off safely and then leave car park as there will be other staff and parents waiting to to park.

To help avoid any congestion in the school car park, there will be **NO** parking allowed in the staff car park at afternoon/home collection times. Only one gate will remain open to allow pedestrian access for parents/carers to collect the children from the playground. Please continue to socially distance from others at all times.

Road Safety Week – Monday 15th November – Friday 19th 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 (More information will follow in November).



Newsletters/School Information

As individual reminders for all dates and events cannot always be sent home, please ensure that you retain **ALL** Newsletters/School Information letters for your reference. **It is important that parents check homework sacks regularly for general notes, reminders and newsletters that are sent home.**

The Newsletter will always be made available on the school website www.ballyliffordps.com or you can follow us on Twitter-@BallyliffordPS

We ask all parents and family members to also ensure you have downloaded the **'SCHOOL NI'** APP to view all school updates.

Promoting Positive Behaviour

We pride ourselves in Ballylifford PS as having a high level of Pastoral Care and we always want our children to learn in an environment which is supportive and encouraging. In order for learning to be effective, good discipline and positive behaviour is essential. In school we have a number of Golden Rules and we have an established system of rewards which promotes positive behaviour. We would like the pupils to maintain their excellent attitude and application to their learning. However, in order to maintain our excellent standard, it is also necessary to have effective sanctions in place. Sanctions have been discussed and agreed in all classes.

Major breaches of discipline may result in loss of playtime at break or lunch time or a behaviour reflection sheet will be sent home with pupils for parents to sign.



Welcome
Learning Respect
Nurture Achievement
Empathy



'Nurturing Potential, Achieving Together'

