



Ballylifford PS

www.ballyliffordps.com

March & April 2022



TERM 2 DATES

Wednesday 5th January –
Thursday 14th April 2022
at 11am

ST PATRICK'S DAY

CLOSURES

Thursday 17th, Friday 18th
and Monday 21st March
2022 (Please note new
date as optional closure
day)

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

DAY

Monday 21st March
2022

2 OPTIONAL CLOSURES

Friday 18th March and
Tuesday 3rd May

Happy St. Patrick's Day

We hope you all had a lovely Mid-Term break and that all families are safe and well. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy St. Patrick's Day. To celebrate St. Patrick's day, we will be having 'GREEN DAY' on Wednesday 16th March. Children can come to school dressed in Green and all classes will enjoy fun activities in their classes – arts and crafts, ceili session and special dinner.

Saint Patrick's Prayer

Christ be with me.
Christ be beside me.
Christ be before me.
Christ be behind me.
Christ at my right hand.
Christ at my left hand.
Christ be with me
everywhere I go.
Christ be my friend,
for ever and ever.
Amen

UPCOMING EVENTS

World Book Day Dress up
£1 – Thursday 3rd March

Travelling Book Fair –
Wednesday 30th March to
Tuesday 5th April

Green Day – Wednesday
16th March 2022

Eco-Council Book Sale –
Tuesday 1st March

Spring Coffee Morning –

Friday 8th April at 10am

Easter Raffle – Monday
11th April

Spring Coffee Morning



We hope to have an Outdoor Spring Coffee Morning on Friday 8th April at 10am. This will give all parents, grandparents and friends of our school community the opportunity to enjoy some home baked treats and a cup of coffee/tea in a safe outdoor space. We would really appreciate if parents could make a voluntary donation at the door. We look forward to seeing you all – it's been a long time since we had the opportunity to gather our wider school community together.



'Nurturing Potential, Achieving Together'

Optional Closures

In our Holiday list for this school year, we still had 2 optional closures to take before the end of June. Our optional closure dates are:

Friday 18th March and Tuesday 3rd May

Friday 18th March was a Staff Development day; however, we have moved the SDD to Monday 21st March. All staff will be in school on this day.

Therefore, all children will be off school on Thursday 17th, Friday 18th and Monday 21st March.

SOFT programme for KS2



We would like to thank Tara and Kim from the SOFT project for delivering the 4 week THINK programme to our P.5/6/7 children. All children enjoyed the sessions and looked forward to them each week. Children were learning about Problem Solving, Independence skills and how to deal with friendship difficulties – important life skills for the future.

Fresh Little Minds Grow+ Programme for FS and KS1



We would like to thank Loretta from Fresh Little Minds for delivering the 4-week GROW+ programme to our P.1 to P.4 children. The children enjoyed seeing Amber the dog again and being introduced to Bamber. Loretta was teaching the children about Feelings and emotions and different ways to relax and breathe.



'Little Healthy Me & Healthy Me'

On Wednesday 9th March the 'Little Healthy Me' and 'Healthy Me' programme will be delivered to all classes. This programme will build on our Health and Well-being focus for this school year.



Internet Safety Day



On Tuesday 8th February, Mrs Kelly and our P.7 Digital Leaders presented a fantastic assembly for all children about the importance of Online safety. All classes participated in an Internet Safety poster competition and the winners were awarded beautiful prizes. Well done, everyone!



Health & Well-Being Days

All children and staff displayed great enthusiasm during our 'FEEL GOOD FRIDAYS' at the end of January and February. It was lovely to see the children enjoying a treat during their extended Break time and joining in yoga activities. **In March, we will have our 'FEEL GOOD' day on Friday 25th March.**



After School Boys Football

We are delighted to have Killian Conlan taking our boys for After School Football this year. All boys from P.3 to P.7 can attend After School Football from 3pm to 4pm every Wednesday afternoon – Cost £1. All children must bring their P.E gear to school – they will be given time to change before Football club begins. Mouth guards are essential.

After School Girls Camogie

Rachel Rocks has kindly agreed to take the After School Camogie this year for P.3 to P.7 girls every Friday from 3pm to 4pm. Cost £1 per week. Camogie will begin on Friday 11th March – we hope to change to a Monday afternoon in April.

St. Mary's win MacRory Cup Final

What a fantastic achievement for our past pupil Ruairi Forbes to be part of the winning St. Mary's team in the MacRory Cup final. We are extremely proud of Ruairi as well as Niall and Eunan Past pupils from Derrychrin PS. We look forward to welcoming the boys into school with the cup and wish them every success in the next stage.



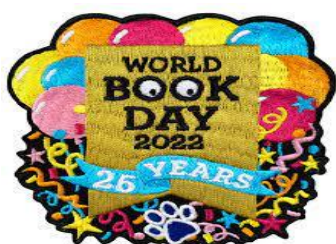
Eco-School Book Sale/Swap

The Eco Council are organising a Book sale to give children the opportunity to have new books. If you have any books at home that your children no longer read, please send them in to school on or before Friday 25th February. Please ensure all books are in good condition. The book sale will take place on Tuesday 1st March to celebrate Book week. All books cost £1.



World Book Day - £1 donation

On Thursday 3rd March we will be celebrating World Book Day in school. All children can dress up as their favourite character from a book. Please do not buy a new costume – homemade costumes are perfect and if you have no costume, children can just wear their own clothes and bring their favourite book to school. Throughout the day we will be participating in fun activities to celebrate World Book Day.



Active Kids Multi Sports

After School Club



P.3/4 children are enjoying our new Multi Sports After school programme with Caolan from Active Kids on Tuesday afternoons from 3pm to 4pm. The children will be participating in a range of different sports over the 6 weeks – football, tennis, uni-hockey, basketball, dodgeball. The cost of the club is £2 per week. P.5/6/7 will begin their 6 weeks on Tuesday 5th April.

Calm Kit After School club

P.5/6/7 children have been enjoying our new After Schools club with Katie from the Calm Kit. The children participate in yoga, mindfulness, arts & crafts and P.E games. The club will run for 6 weeks on a Monday afternoon from 3pm to 4pm and the cost is £3 per week.



Lego therapy



Conor from Activity NI began Lego therapy sessions with all classes last week for the next 8 weeks. The half hour sessions will run every Tuesday between 9:15am and 11:30am. Lego Therapy promotes social interaction, turn-taking skills, sharing and problem-solving skills in a fun way.

Thank you Miss Mayo

Mrs Sweeney will be returning to P.1/2 on Monday 28th February and we will be delighted to have her back in school. A huge thank you to Miss Mayo for teaching P.1/2 for the last few months – the children have loved her and she has done an amazing job. Miss Mayo will be covering P.5/6/7 Mon to Wed as Mrs Kelly will be out of the classroom until Easter before going on Maternity leave.

Travelling Book Fair

The Book fair will arrive to school on Wednesday 30th March and will remain in school until Tuesday 5th April. More details will follow.



Easter Raffle

We will be organising an Easter Raffle to take place Monday 11th April. The prize is an Easter popping Balloon bunny. Tickets cost £1. Thank you to Diamond Occasions for donating this fantastic prize – balloons contain Easter treats.



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

On Monday 4th April, P.5/6/7 will be travelling to Belfast to visit the Titanic Centre as part of their Shared Education Programme with Coagh PS. Both schools will travel on separate buses and meet up in groups at the Titanic Centre. All children are enjoying our World Around Us Titanic topic this term and the regular Online meetings with the children in P.6/7 in Coagh PS. More details about the trip will follow in due course.



Ceremony of Light

The Ceremony of Light for our P.7 children will take place on Wednesday 6th April at 10am in the chapel. Only one parent from each household can attend due to Covid regulations within the chapel. More information will follow prior to the Ceremony of Light

Important Dates for your Diary

Ash Wednesday – Fr Donnelly will visit school to distribute ashes to all children and staff to mark the start of Lent

Confirmation – Saturday 30th April

First Holy Communion – Saturday 14th May



Confirmation Retreat

The P.7 children will participate in a Confirmation Retreat with Derrychrin PS in the new Ballinderry Community hub on Tuesday 12th April. The retreat will run from 9am to 2:45am. All children must bring a packed lunch and we ask that children are dropped off at the Community Hub at 9am on this date.



Covid

We will continue to encourage regular Handwashing throughout the school day, daily cleaning/fogging of classrooms and well ventilated rooms by keeping the windows open. We can assure you that the heating is on in school throughout the school day despite the windows being open to ensure children feel warm and comfortable. We hope everyone keeps safe and well throughout Term 2.

‘Nurturing Potential, Achieving Together’

