



Ballylifford PS

www.ballyliffordps.com

January & February 2022



TERM 2 DATES

Wednesday 5th January –
Thursday 14th April 2022

MID TERM BREAK

Monday 14th February –
Friday 18th February 2022
inclusive

ST PATRICK'S DAY HOLIDAY

Thursday 17th and Friday
18th March 2022

Staff Development Day –

Tuesday 4th January 2022
Monday 14th February 2022
Friday 18th March 2022

UPCOMING EVENTS

Catholic School's Week – including St. Brigid's Day

Monday 31st January –
Friday 4th February

Shared Education with Coagh PS

Begins Monday 10th January
via online meetings

Internet Safety Day – Tuesday 8th February 2022

Happy New Year

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 were able to return to school safely after the break.

As Covid, particularly the new variant, remains high in the Mid Ulster area, we ask all parents to continue to be extra vigilant and keep your child at home if they are unwell or display any Covid symptoms. If someone in your household has currently tested positive, we ask that you regularly check your child using a Lateral Flow test before sending them to school. We appreciate your support and co-operation and we will do our best to continue to keep everyone in our school community safe.

A New Year's Prayer

Lord, You make all things new
You bring hope alive in our hearts
And cause our Spirits to be born again.

Thank you for this new year
For all the potential it holds.
Come and kindle in us
A mighty flame
So that in our time, many will see the wonders of God
And live forever to praise Your glorious name.

Amen

'Nurturing Potential, Achieving Together'

KS2 Swimming

On Thursday 6th January, all children in KS2 began swimming in Greenvale leisure centre. The children were extremely excited to be returning to the swimming pool and a little nervous too. Tracey and Emmett will be our swimming instructors for this term and they have already commented on the children's lovely manners. 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 31st January – Friday 4th February 2022

This year we will be celebrating Catholic School's week from Monday 31st January to Friday 4th February. We will begin each day with a short prayer service. Children will engage in activities in class to promote Catholic School's week. We hope to organise something for all our Special Grandparents during this week. We hope to have John Wilson in school on St. Brigid's day to make crosses with our KS2 children.



**Catholic Schools
Week 2022
January 30–February 5**

Accelerated Reader

In January, all children in P.3 to P.7 completed their second STAR test in Accelerated Reader. This has been 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.

**Accelerated
Reader®**



Internet Safety Day

On Tuesday 8th February, we will be promoting Internet safety day in all classes. Mrs Kelly (ICT Co-Ordinator) 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.

Head Lice

We remind parents/carers of the importance of checking children's hair regularly for Head lice and treating it appropriately. Head lice can be common throughout the school year.

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.



Primary 1 Enrolment 2022

The portal for P.1 admissions opened on Monday 10th January 2022 at 12noon and closes on **28th 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

SOFT programme for KS2

As part of our Health & Well-Being initiative this year linked to the COVID pandemic, we are delighted to welcome Tara and Kim from 'SOFT' to deliver a 4 week 'THINK' programme to our P5-P.7 children. The programme started on Tuesday 11th January from 1:15pm – 2:15pm.

The 4 sessions will cover the themes:

WEEK 1 – Getting to know you and 'All about me'

WEEK 2 – Making friends and dealing with difficulties

WEEK 3 – Independence skills

WEEK 4 – Worries and managing my feelings

We are delighted we can provide the programme based on 'Social and Problem-Solving skills' for our KS2 children and we are confident that they will thoroughly enjoy it gaining a positive experience.



Fresh Little Minds Grow+ Programme for FS and KS1

We are excited to welcome Loretta O'Hara back to Ballylifford PS to deliver the GROW+ programme to our children in P.1 to P.4. Loretta visited school last year to involve children in the GROW programme and the children really benefited from Loretta's visits. The GROW+ programme is also part of our Health and Well Being initiative this year.



Outdoor Area

We got our new large Sand pit added to our Outdoor Learning area during the Christmas Holidays. We have ordered lovely new buckets, spades, diggers and trucks for the children to use in the sand pit. We look forward to using this as part of our Outdoor play in Foundation stage and Key Stage One. We also received a number of large chalk boards for the fence outside. Children can use these to practice letter/number formation and to be creative.

Health & Well-Being Days

Each month this term we hope to have a 'FEEL GOOD' day at the end of each month. On this day all children are encouraged to wear their own clothes, they can bring a sweet treat for Break time and they will get an extended break outside. **In January, we will have our 'FEEL GOOD' day on Friday 28th January.**

A primary focus for all schools this year is promoting positive mental health and well-being among children and staff. We hope that having a 'FEEL GOOD' day every month will help remind children that we are rewarded for all the hard work we do in school. All classes will engage in well-being activities on these days, such as, mindfulness, yoga, song and dance.



Friends of Ballylifford secure £1500 funding

We would like to say a huge thank you to our Friends of Ballylifford who helped us secure a council grant for £1500. The money has been used to order bikes and scooters for our new Outdoor area. A special thanks to Fiona McCusker for all her hard work to ensure we were successful in being awarded this grant.



'Nurturing Potential, Achieving Together'

