



# Ballylifford PS

[www.ballyliffordps.com](http://www.ballyliffordps.com)

**November & December 2023**

# November



## TERM 1 DATES

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August –  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December –  
children finish at 11am for  
Christmas Holidays

## CHRISTMAS BREAK

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023  
at 11am – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>  
January 2024 inclusive.

Staff Development Day –  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024

## All Saints and All Souls

In the month of November, we remember all our loved ones who have passed away and whose memory is still very dear to us. This week we are creating a whole school display to remember our loved ones – if you would like someone to be remembered, please complete the leaf enclosed (add name of loved one to leaf in large/bubble writing and decorate). We ask that all leaves are returned to school by Friday of this week so that we can create our 'Tree of Remembrance'. We will share our display on the school website when it is completed.



## Prayer for All Souls' Day

Merciful Father,  
hear our prayer and console us.  
As we renew our faith in Your Son,  
who You raised from the dead,  
strengthen our hope that all our departed  
brothers and sisters  
will share in His resurrection,  
who lives and reigns with You  
and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine upon them.  
May they rest in peace.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Odd Socks Day** (Friendship  
Week) – Monday 13<sup>th</sup>  
November

**Bright Day/Ditch the Dark  
Day (Road Safety Week)**–  
Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November

**Daily Mile Santa Run** –  
Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December

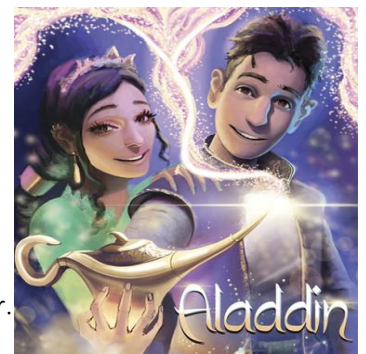
**Christmas trip to Panto** –  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December

**Christmas Dinner and  
Christmas Jumper Day** –  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December

**Christmas Carol Service** –  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at  
7pm

## Christmas trip to Panto

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December, all children and staff will travel to the Market Theatre place in Armagh to see the Panto 'Aladdin'. We decided to try a cheaper option this Christmas due to the increase in current cost of living. We have heard extremely positive reviews about Pantos in the Market Place Theatre so hopefully children and staff will enjoy it. We plan to return to the Grand Opera House next year. See separate letter sent home for more details about Panto trip.



**'Nurturing Potential, Achieving Together'**

## Welcome Miss Clements and Miss Lee

We would like to welcome Miss Clements to P.5/6/7 for her teaching placement in Ballylifford. Miss Clements is currently completing her Observation days every Monday and her block placement will begin on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February.

Miss Lee will complete her Observation day on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November in P.1/2 and start her block placement on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February. We hope both Teacher students will be very happy in our school and gain a wealth of experience.



## Shoe Box Appeal



Our new School Council will be responsible for promoting the Blythswood Care Shoe Box appeal again this year. One small shoebox can help make a difference to the lives of vulnerable communities across Eastern Europe this Christmas. Your kindness and generosity are much appreciated. Please send Shoe Box into school on or before Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November.

## European Week for Waste Reduction/Energy Saving Week – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December

During both these weeks our new Eco Council will be reminding the classes about 'Reduce, Reuse and Recycle'. The Eco Council will be checking our classrooms throughout the week to ensure we are switching off lights/computers, using our paper bins and closing the doors on the way outside. The Eco Council will soon be starting to feed the birds for the Winter. We are still collecting Cash for Clobber – date for collection of all items will take place in December.

## Transfer test

The Transfer tests will take place on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November and Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November. The second Mock Transfer test in Ballinderry Hub will take place on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November. We wish all our P.7 children sitting the Transfer the very best of luck and they will be in our thoughts and prayers.



## Important Dates for your diary

Sacrament of Confirmation for our P.7 children – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 5pm.

Sacrament of First Holy Communion for our P.4 children – Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 11am.



## All God's Children

A parish meeting for the parents of P.4 children from both Ballylifford PS and Derrychrin PS took place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October. Thank you to Fr Donnelly, Mrs Philomena McGuckin and Mrs Geraldine Mullan for leading this programme. The first mass for our P.4 children and their parents/carers will take place on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 10am.



## Reminder – Healthy Break

We would encourage all children to bring a healthy snack to school every day, such as, pancake, plain biscuit, yoghurt, fruit, vegetables.

**Reminder – we are a NUT Free school.**



## School Uniform

**Reminder** – full school uniform must be worn every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. PE uniform can be worn every Wednesday and Friday. We ask that children do not wear shorts until the warmer weather returns. **Over the Winter months, all children must have a coat to school.**

## Mass for P.5/6/7

Our P.5/6/7 children will continue to attend mass on the first Friday of every month in St. Patrick's Church, Ballinderry. Dates for this term are Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November and Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December.

## 'Ballylifford 100' Draw 3 and 4

Our Friends of Ballylifford draw 'Ballylifford 100' will continue this term. Winners of £100 will be announced at the end of each month. Good luck everyone!

## Friendship/Kindness Week – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023

The Friendship/Kindness Week 2023 theme is **"Let's make a noise about Bullying"**. During this week, children in all year groups will be highlighting the importance of being a good friend to each other.



Congratulations to our new Anti-Bullying Ambassadors for this year. We know they will do a super job and help all children in our school to feel happy and safe.

**Odd Socks Day** – On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November, all children are encouraged to come to school wearing odd socks to celebrate Friendship/Kindness Week. It is the responsibility of everyone in our school to set positive examples of being a good friend and create kinder communities. **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November will be 'Friendship Friday'**.

## Road Safety Week – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023

This year the Road Safety Week 2023 theme is **"Let's talk about SPEED"**. During this week, children will be learning about the importance of keeping safe on the roads to make our journeys safer for everyone.



## Ditch the Dark/Bright Day

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November, we are encouraging all children to come to school in their **BRIGHT** clothes (fluorescent, neon, reflective) to promote the importance of wearing bright colours on the roads especially over the Winter months.

## Accelerated Reader

In September, all children in P.3 to P.7 completed the STAR test in Accelerated Reader. This was used to set all children with a target to work towards achieving within Term 1. Continue to encourage your child to read AR books and quiz regularly. We look forward to celebrating our target and certificate winners in December.



## Mental Health and Well-Being

**Fitness Freddy** - As part of our Health & Well-Being initiative this year 'Fitness Freddy' will visit school again on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November. All children will learn new, fun ways to keep your body and mind healthy. Remember the 5 ways to well-being – GIVE, STAY ACTIVE, KEEP LEARNING, TAKE NOTICE and CONNECT.



**Feel Good Friday** – Our next Feel Good Friday will take place on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December. All children can wear their own clothes (Christmas jumper for Daily Mile Santa Run) and bring a sweet treat for extended break.

## Daily Mile Santa Run

On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December, we will be taking part in the Daily Mile Santa Run. All children can wear their Christmas jumper and/or Santa hat to join in the daily mile.



## Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day

Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day for all children will be on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December. As always, Brigid Ann and Orla will prepare a fantastic Christmas dinner for all children and staff. Children can wear their Christmas jumper to school to join in the festive celebrations. **All children will go home at 1pm.**



## Carol Service and Nativity

Our Christmas Carol Service and Nativity will take place on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December in St. Patrick's Church, Ballinderry at 7pm. In the coming weeks you will begin to hear your child singing songs for our Carol Service. We ask you to practice these with your child regularly. **P.3 to P.7 children must also practice their tin whistle for 15 minutes daily. Only children who practice and can play the Christmas tunes will be playing on the night of the Carol Service.**

## Golden Rules Reminder

Thank you to all parents/carers for attending Parent Teacher Meetings before the Halloween break. We ask you to please share all positive feedback with your child and any areas for improvement.

We continue to expect a high standard of behaviour from all our children at all times. Please remind your child of our Golden Rules and listening rules. A behaviour note will be sent home if these rules are broken. Thank you for your continued support and co-operation.



## Christmas Popping Balloon - £1

Our school council will be selling tickets in December for a Christmas Popping Balloon – tickets cost £1 each.

## Primary 1 Enrolment 2024

Admissions criteria will be available before Christmas for children starting P1 in September 2024. All forms are published on the EA website. [www.eani.org.uk](http://www.eani.org.uk) The portal opens on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 12 noon and closes on **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 12noon.** Admissions can be completed online using a smartphone, tablet, laptop or computer.

## Open Night

An Open night will take place for all Parents and children considering starting Ballylifford PS in September 2024 on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. We have been working on a promotional video for our school and hope to have it published on the website this week.

The children from Ballinderry Playgroup will visit our school in December for a morning of Christmas activities. 2 of our P.7 pupils will also visit Ballyronan Playgroup with a Christmas treat.



## Staff Christmas Presents

We are fully aware of the pressures all families are under at the minute due to the current cost of living. Please do not feel that you have to purchase a Christmas gift for staff. We are always very grateful for parents' generosity; however, with the current financial situation we do not expect anyone to be buying gifts. Just a simple thank you or words of gratitude is enough. It is our privilege to be able to teach your child/children and make a difference each day.





