



# Ballylifford PS

September & October 2024



## TERM 1 DATES

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August – Friday  
20<sup>th</sup> December 2024

## Term 1 SCHOOL CLOSURES

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September –  
Staff Development Day

## HALLOWEEN BREAK

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October–  
Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024  
inclusive

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Active Kids PE sessions** –  
every Wednesday in Term 1

**Fundamental Skills  
Sessions with Aidy** – every  
Friday in Term 1 from Friday  
20<sup>th</sup> September

**School Photographer** -  
Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024

**Maths week** – Week  
beginning 14<sup>th</sup> October

**Flu Vaccine** – Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>  
October 2024

**Parent Teacher Meetings** –  
Please note change of dates in  
Newsletter

**Halloween Dress Up day** –  
Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October (All  
children home at 2pm)

## A NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

We have enjoyed welcoming all children back into school during the first few weeks of September. We would like to give a special mention to our 12 new P.1 children, who have settled in very quickly and are able to follow the P.1 classroom routine. We hope they will all be very happy and enjoy their primary school journey in Ballylifford PS over the next 7 years. We are all looking forward to a fun and successful school year ahead and ask God to bless all staff and pupils. Fr Donnelly celebrated our Beginning of New School Year mass on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September in St. Patrick's Church, Ballinderry at 10am. **We remembered Brigid Ann very especially in our prayers and as a school community we will continue to pray for Brigid Ann and hope that she makes a full recovery.**

## SCHOOL TIMES



### DROP OFF 8:30am - 9am.

Children can arrive at school any time between 8:30am and 9am. Children go directly to the school hall and remain there until 8:45am. Children then go to their classroom to get organised for the school day. Children can draw in their 'Busy/Doodle' books, complete AR quizzes or read as they wait for rest of the children to arrive.

### Morning/Breakfast Club

Our Morning/Breakfast Club resumed on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September 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, pancake, muffin, and apple/orange juice.

### New Modular Unit/Additional Classroom at Ballylifford PS

We are delighted to finally have been approved a new modular unit/additional classroom at Ballylifford PS. The classroom, which includes toilet facilities, will be for our KS2 children. Work will commence at the start of November and hopefully will be completed early in Term 2.



**'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 is available on the school website monthly. We dearly miss Brigid Ann in our canteen and continue to keep her in our prayers daily. We would like to express our sincere thanks to Orla for her hard work in the kitchen during this difficult time. We hope to have a cook onsite very soon. Thank you for your patience and support.

## 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 ensure to send a healthy break, for example, pancake, brioche, fruit, yoghurt, and a healthy lunch box.

**Children only need ONE snack for break time.** All children are also encouraged to bring a clean, filled water bottle to school each day. NI Water have assured us that the water in school is safe to drink and that it is continuously and robustly tested.

## 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.



## Ballylifford Box

Friends of Ballylifford are delighted to announce their Fundraiser for Term 1 'Ballylifford Box'. A draw will take place on the last Friday in every month with the chance to win £100 or a Mystery box prize. The first draw will take place on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October. In December, we will have 2 winners of £100 or Mystery box prize. As always, we really appreciate your generosity and support towards school funds.

## School Photographer

The school photographer will be in school on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October. All children will receive an individual and family photo. Photos with younger siblings can be taken from 8:45am on this date.

## European Day of Languages

All children will celebrate European Day of Languages on **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September**. Each class will be learning about the language and culture of different European countries. Children can come to school dressed in the colours of the following country flags.

**P.1/2 – France (Blue, white and red)**

**P.3/4 – Italy (Green, white and red)**

**P.5/6/7 – Ireland (Green)**

## PE with David Mulgrew from Active Kids

We are delighted to welcome back David from Active Kids every Wednesday from Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September - 1pm to 3pm. David will be taking all classes for P.E sessions in Term 1 focusing on Games for the first 6 weeks followed by Gymnastics for the next 5 weeks. Cost £11 for Term 1.



## Fundamental Skills with Adrian Moran

Adrian (Aidy) returned on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September to provide all classes with Fundamental Skills sessions each Friday in Term 1. Our PTA secured a Grant to fund these sessions for all our pupils – thank you Friends of Ballylifford in advance. Children can now wear their PE uniform every Wednesday and Friday in Term 1.

## Transfer After School Club – SEAG

### Entrance Assessment

P7 Transfer After School Club will take place every Monday from 3pm to 4pm and Friday afternoon with Mrs Conway from 2-3pm. SEAG Entrance Assessment will take place on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2024.

## Flu Vaccine

Flu Vaccines will be distributed by the school nurses on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October. If you do not wish your child to get this vaccine, a form still needs to be completed and returned to the school. We ask that all forms are returned by Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October.

## Credit Union

The Credit Union Savings Scheme has resumed every Tuesday morning. The children are asked to use the clear plastic wallet provided by the Credit Union and we thank Philomena for collecting and returning books on a weekly basis.

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.



## Maths Week Ireland – 14<sup>th</sup> October to 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024

This year we will be celebrating Maths Week from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> 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. The focus this year is ‘Problem Solving and Mental Maths Strategies’.



## Friends of Ballylifford Halloween Fun Night

On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October, we will be having a Halloween Fun Night for all children organised by our Friends of Ballylifford. More details will follow in due course.

## Halloween Dress Up – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October

On Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October, children can come to school in their Halloween costume. Children will be participating in fun activities for Halloween on this day. All pupils will go home at 2pm.



## October – Month of the Rosary

Throughout the month of October, we will come together as a whole school to say the Rosary every Friday morning. Children will be invited to lead us in our Rosary and Mrs Philomena McGuckin and Fr Donnelly will join us at some of our weekly assemblies. We encourage all children to bring their rosary beads to school throughout the month of October.



## Parent Teacher Meetings – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November

All children will go home at 12pm on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November so that Parent/Teacher meetings can be completed on both afternoons. Please note change of date – more details to follow.



## Ballylifford Tots and Tea

We hope to trial a new ‘Ballylifford Tots and Tea’ session for the 4 Tuesdays in November. We are seeking donations of any unused or preloved toys for children aged 0 – 3 years old. If any parents/carers would be willing to assist with these toddler mornings, please contact the school office.



## Asda Cashpot for Schools – a new PTA initiative

We would be delighted if you could all sign up to Asda Cashpot for schools and help raise money for all the wonderful children at Ballylifford PS. Please continue to use Asda Cashpot for school's app to gain rewards for our school.





## Newsletters/School Information

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

**Seesaw will also be used for class reminders when necessary – please ensure you are connected to your child’s seesaw account through the Seesaw Family App.**

We ask all parents and family members to also ensure you have downloaded/refreshed the ‘**SCHOOLS NI**’ APP to view all school updates. Messages will be sent via the SCHOOLS NI app weekly. Most letters and permission slips will also be sent via our Schools NI App. If you are having problems accessing the app, please contact the school office and we will be happy to help get it sorted for you.

## 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, 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 sent home with pupils for parents to sign.



Welcome  
Learning Respect  
Nurture Achievement  
Empathy

**‘Nurturing Potential, Achieving Together’**

## 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 and school safety net. 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.

**Safer Schools NI app** – remember to download the **Safer Schools NI App**. This provides school staff, parents, carers, and pupils with the information they need to know so that they can protect children online.

**NSPCC** will be completing a workshop with all children from P.3 to P.7 on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

## New Eco and School Council Elections

P.3 to P.7 pupils have been busy over the last few weeks creating their manifesto for why they would like to be elected for our new Eco and School councils for 2024 – 2025. New Council members will be our new ‘Pupil voices’ for this school year and will be announced at our assembly on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September. We wish all new members every success in this leadership role, and we know they will do a wonderful job.



## Important Dates for your Diary

**All God’s Children** – Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 7pm in Ballylifford PS for all Parents/Carers of P.4 Pupils

**P.4 Sacrament of Penance** – Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 10am

**P.4 First Holy Communion** – Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 11am

**P.7 Ceremony of Light** – Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 10am

**P.7 Confirmation** – Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 5pm

