



Ballylifford PS

www.ballyliffordps.com

November & December 2024



TERM 1 DATES

Thursday 31st August –
Friday 20th December 2024

Friday 20th December –
children finish early for
Christmas Holidays

CHRISTMAS BREAK

Monday 23rd December 2024
– Friday 3rd January 2025
inclusive.

Staff Development Day –
Friday 3rd January 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Friendship Friday/Odd
Socks Day** (Friendship
Week) – Friday 15th
November

**Ditch the Dark Day (Road
Safety Week)**– Friday 22nd
November

**Christmas trip to Panto in
Grand Opera House** –
Tuesday 3rd December

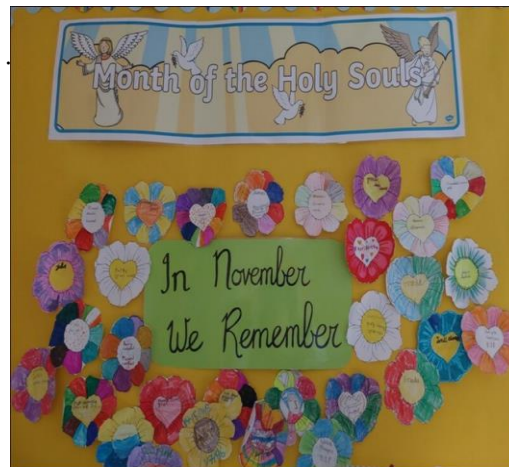
Daily Mile Santa Run –
Friday 13th December

**Christmas Dinner and
Christmas Jumper Day** –
Friday 13th December

Christmas Carol Service –
Wednesday 11th December at
7pm

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 heart enclosed (add name of loved one to heart in large or bubble writing and decorate). We ask that all hearts are returned to school by Friday of this week so that we can create our 'In November, We Remember' display. 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.

Remembering the Sick in our school community

We continue to pray for all those in our school community who are sick and need our prayers at the minute. We especially remember Mrs Sweeney, Brigid Ann and Jessica. Padre Pio, pray for them.

Christmas trip to Panto

On Tuesday 3rd December, all children and staff will travel to the Grand Opera House in Belfast to see the Panto 'Peter Pan'. More details about the day of the Panto will follow in due course.



‘Nurturing Potential, Achieving Together’

Welcome Miss Wilson and Miss Lennon

We would like to welcome Miss Wilson to P.5/6/7 for her teaching placement in Ballylifford – Miss Wilson will be engaging in Observation days this half term. Miss Wilson will complete 4 weeks of her block placement in P.5/6/7 from 17th February to Friday 14th March and then 3 weeks in P.1/2 from Tuesday 18th March to Friday 4th April.



Miss Lennon will complete her Observation Day on Friday 29th November in P.3/4 and start her block placement on Monday 17th February. We hope both Teacher students will be very happy in our school and gain a wealth of experience.

SEAG Entrance Assessment

The SEAG Entrance Assessments will take place on Saturday 16th November and Saturday 23rd November. The second Mock Transfer test in Ballinderry Hub will take place on Wednesday 6th 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 27th March 2025 at 5pm.

Sacrament of First Holy Communion for our P.4 children – Saturday 10th May 2025 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 Wednesday 2nd October. Thank you to Fr Donnelly, Philomena McGuckin and Geraldine Mullan for leading this programme. The next two masses for our P.4 children and their parents/carers will take place on Sunday 24th November and Sunday 8th December at 10am.



Ballylifford Mystery Box/100 Draw 2 and 3/4

Our Friends of Ballylifford draw 'Ballylifford Mystery Box' will continue this term. Winners will be announced at the end of each month. There will be 2 draws in the month of December. Good luck everyone!

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 in Ukraine and across Eastern Europe this Christmas. Your kindness and generosity are much appreciated. Please send Shoe Box into school on or before Friday 8th November if possible.



European Week for Waste Reduction – Monday 18th November to Friday 22nd November

During this week 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 correctly for recycling and closing the doors on the way outside. They will also be checking for healthy breaks in all classes. The Eco Council will be working towards renewing our Eco Flag this year. Our action plan is focusing on the following areas – Outdoor Learning, Waste and Healthy Living.



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. The Eco Council will be checking Healthy breaks on a regular basis.**



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 every day.**

Mass for P.5/6/7

Our P.5/6/7 children will be attending mass on the first Friday of every month in St. Patrick's Church, Ballinderry. Dates for this term are Friday 8th November and Friday 6th December.

Friendship/Kindness Week – Monday 11th November – Friday 15th November 2024

The Friendship/Kindness Week 2024 theme is '**Choose RESPECT**'. During this week, children in all year groups will be highlighting the importance of being a good friend to each other and showing **RESPECT** to all children and adults within our school. '**RESPECT**' is one of our School Values and our pupils and staff show high levels of respect at all times.



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

Friendship Friday and Odd Socks Day – On Friday 15th 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 with high levels of RESPECT.

Road Safety Week – Monday 18th November – Friday 22nd November 2024

This year the Road Safety Week 2024 theme is 'After the crash – Every road victim counts'. 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 Day

On Friday 22nd 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

This year we will be working towards achieving our Take 5 Award Level 2. Ms. Hurl along with our Take 5 ambassadors will be promoting the 5 ways to Well-Being, particularly on our 'Feel Good Friday' days each month – CLANG – **C**onnect, **K**ee **L**earning, **S**tay **A**ctive, **T**ake **N**otice and **G**ive.



Feel Good Friday – Our next Feel Good Friday will take place on Friday 13th December. All children can wear their own clothes (Christmas jumper for Daily Mile Santa Run) and bring a sweet treat for extended break.

Being Well, Doing well

This year we are delighted to be part of a new programme developed by EA called 'Being well, Doing well'. The programme focuses on continuing to create a whole school approach to Emotional Health and Well-Being. Pupils, parents/carers, staff and BOGs will be asked to complete a short survey during this half-term.



Ballylifford Tots and Tea

Our toddler mornings 'Ballylifford Tots and Tea' will begin on Tuesday 5th November – everyone welcome. Thank you in advance to all those who have volunteered to help.

Gymnastics

Stephanie from Inspire will be running a 4-week block of Gymnastics After School sessions from 3-4pm. More details in separate letter.

Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day

Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day for all children will be on Friday 13th December. Children can wear their Christmas jumper to school to join in the festive celebrations. **All children will go home at 1pm.**



Daily Mile Santa Run

On Friday 13th 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.



Carol Service and Nativity

Our Christmas Carol Service and Nativity will take place on Wednesday 11th 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.

Golden Rules Reminder

Thank you in advance to all parents/carers for attending Parent Teacher Meetings this week. We ask you to please share all positive feedback with your child and any areas for improvement following meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday. 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.



Primary 1 Enrolment 2025

Admissions criteria will be available before Christmas for children starting P1 in September 2025. All forms are published on the EA website. www.eani.org.uk
The portal opens on Friday 10th January 2025 at 12 noon and closes on **Friday 24th January 2025 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 2025 on a date early in December (Date to be confirmed).

The children from Ballinderry Playgroup and Ballyronan Playgroup will visit our school in December for a morning of Christmas activities.



Staff Christmas Presents

We are fully aware of the pressures all families continue to be 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.



Christmas Raffle

We hope to have our Annual Christmas Raffle in December – more details will follow in due course.



