



Ballydown Times

November Newsletter 2023

Mr Murphy's Blog

Children have been busy preparing for their Christmas performances over the past few weeks. We are really looking forward to seeing their performances over the next couple of weeks. Always my favourite time in school and nothing beats school for creating the Christmas spirit.

Banbridge Speech & Drama Festival

It was a very successful year for Ballydown Primary School. Many medals and certificates were won at the individual competition on Monday 13th Nov. Lugh Harper Simmance and Orla Smith won the best overall boy and girl. Our choral speaking group took part in the group competition on Wednesday 22nd November, winning 1st place with a tremendous score of 91%. Our winners were invited to the Champion of Champions on Friday 24th November and had great success. Lugh won the Festival trophy for the best primary school performance. Our Choral group won the INTO trophy and bursary for the school which appeals the most in group work.

Congratulations must go to all the children who enthusiastically and successfully participated and to the staff, Mrs Lindsay and Miss Gowdy, who diligently prepared the children for this year's festival. We also had a number of children taking part in the private classes. Well done to all of these pupils, who brought home lots of medals and congratulations to Oliver Dowds who won the overall prize in this section.

Inter-Schools Showjumping

Mark Brown P4 represented Ballydown at the Interschools Show Jumping competition held at The Meadows Equestrian Centre.



Cross Country

Our Cross-Country Team took part in the 2nd round of the Flahavan's League, today. It was a cold and frosty run at Lurgan park. We had some super results and top 10 finishes. A special mention to Patrick Smith who finished 5th out of 94 runners in the boys fun-run race. Well done to everyone who took part.

Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week had the theme of 'Make a Noise'. Children took part in lots of activities in class about how to be a good friend and how to help others or seek help yourself. We had a poster competition, with winners receiving awards at the Friday assembly. If you have any concerns about your child, please feel free to contact the class teacher, or speak to Mrs Irvine (designated teacher for child protection) or to myself.

Remembrance Day Assembly

We held a special Remembrance Day assembly led by our P7 pupils. Two of our P7 pupils, James and Eden, also represented the school at the Banbridge Remembrance wreath laying ceremony.

SEAG

P7 have had a very busy term preparing for and sitting their SEAG tests. We are very proud of all our P7 pupils. They all deserve a well-earned rest over the Christmas period.

"Reach for the moon, even if you miss, you'll land among the stars."



Big Bedtime Read

Our Nursery children enjoyed their day in school wearing their pyjamas to the Big Bedtime Read; an initiative designed to raise awareness of the importance of reading to and with your child.

PTA Christmas Hampers

Children can buy a square from their class 100 square and a chance to win a hamper in each classroom. Send money to class teachers. Our PTA greatly appreciate your support. This year we are working towards building up a class set of iPads and charging dock. This will allow for a mobile computer zone to be brought to classrooms.



Christmas Trees

Our Christmas tree sale was a great success. We were very kindly been donated a number of beautiful trees to sell to raise money for school funds. Thank you to all those who bought trees.

Nursery and P1 Applications

Online applications open for nursery and P1 **9th-26th January**. Remember our Open afternoon next Monday 13th December. 2:30-4:00pm.

Christmas Performances

The children have been working hard practising for their Christmas performances. Thank you for practising words and lines at home. Remember ALL P1-P3 to be dropped at church Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. Children go home with parents after Wednesday performance to rest for the evening show.

Safeguarding Memo

Please ensure P1-P3 children are clear each day where they are going after school. Teachers must have written confirmation of any activities your child will be attending. Any changes to routines or buses must be passed directly to the class teacher. We would advise contacting the office on the morning of a change to confirm this. Please do not rely on email, as teachers do not pick these up during the school day or evenings.

Diary Dates:

Wed 6 th Dec	P1-P3 & KS2 Choir Nativity
Mon 11 th Dec	Open Day 2:30-3:30pm (P1) and 3-4pm (nursery)
Tues 12 th Dec	P4 Christmas Play
Thurs 14 th Dec	Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumpers
Fri 15 th Dec	Nursery Nativity 9.30am
Wed 20 th Dec	Santa fun run
Thurs 21 st Dec	school finishes for Christmas ½ day.
Thurs 4 th Jan 2024	Term 2 starts
9 th -26 th Jan 2024	Online Applications for Nursery and P1 open



Website & App

Please remember to visit our website www.ballydownprimary.org.uk regularly to see what our children have been up to. Download the NI Schools app so you can receive messages and updates.





Banbridge Performing Arts Festival

Speech and Drama
1975 - 2024



I performed at the annual Banbridge Festival in the Belmont Hotel

The complex block contains a title, a subtitle, a photograph of three young boys holding trophies, and a caption. The title is "Banbridge Performing Arts Festival" and the subtitle is "Speech and Drama 1975 - 2024". The photograph shows three boys in school uniforms, each holding a different trophy. The caption reads "I performed at the annual Banbridge Festival in the Belmont Hotel". There are also small logos on the left and right sides of the text area.

