

Tuesday 27th August 2024



Dear Parents/Guardians

Welcome back! I hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable summer break! A special welcome to our new Nursery and P1 pupils and parents. We hope Ballydown will be an exciting, fun and interesting place for your children to learn.

Dinner Money

School dinners will cost £2.60 per day (£13.00 per week) Nursery £2.50. Ezipayment will continue to be the app used for paying for dinners. Parents of new nursery or P1 pupils will need to download the app. You will receive instructions on how to do this and your child's UPN number. Dinners should be booked in by 8.30am each day so that system is updated for the start of school. Dinners begin Monday 2nd September.

Teaching Staff

Nursery	Mrs Walker	P5	Mrs Barnard/Mrs Wright
P1	Mrs Dillon	P6	Mrs Hetherington
P1	Mrs Russell	P6/7	Mrs Blair
P2	Miss White/Mrs Ervine	P7	Mr Russell VP
P2/3	Mrs Harrison	SEN	Mrs Wright
P3	Mrs Irvine	Principal	Mr Murphy
P4	Mrs Glass		
P4/5	Mrs Duke		

School Times

The school doors open at 8:45am (Please be aware that there is no supervision before this time). School begins at 9:00am. If you arrive after this time please use the front door.

Nursery and P1 please follow specific times/dates for the settling in period

New Staff

Mrs Lindsay P2/3 and Mrs Coulter P6 retired at the end of June. Mrs Harrison will be taking over in P2/3 for this year and Mrs Hetherington will be taking over as full time in P6. We welcome both ladies to our Ballydown team.

Miss White has been recovering from long term illness and hopes to return in October. Mrs Ervine will be covering P2 until then.

Healthy Breaks

We are continuing to encourage healthy snacks for break and lunch time. No fizzy drinks will be permitted in school, but I would encourage each child to have a labelled bottle of **still water** to sip throughout the day. We are a **NUT FREE** school and have a number of children with severe nut allergies in both the nursery and main school. Please do not send any items to school containing nuts/nut traces. We greatly appreciate your support in helping to keep your child/children healthy and in developing healthy eating habits at an early age.

School Uniform

At Ballydown we pride ourselves on the smart appearance of our pupils. Wearing a uniform helps to create a structured and respectful environment and it helps to set a very high standard for visitors and when we are on trips. The uniform list is available on our website. Black shoes should be worn. Trainers may be changed into for playtimes. Please take note of the correct PE uniform, black shorts/leggings and white t-shirt. Athletics kit may be worn on Fridays. *Remember to make use of our uniform swap/sale shop.

Illness, absences, appointments and / or changes to transport arrangements

Please remember that any absences from school or changes to transport arrangements require a **written note** from the parent or legal guardian. Please make a phone call to the office if your child is going to be off for more than a day. If your child becomes ill during the school day we will monitor them and inform you if they need to be sent home.

For safety reasons children **must not leave** the school premises without the Principal's or class teacher's permission. **Please contact the office** before you collect your child and sign them out.

Nursery-P3 Collectors

In the interests of child protection and keeping your child safe can I ask that you complete a named collectors' sheet for nursery-P3 children. If someone different will be collecting your child, please let the teacher know that morning by speaking directly to the teacher or the office. Children **cannot** be sent with other parents unless permission has been given and school has been informed.

Hometime

Parents/carers of P1-P3 children should approach the class teacher to collect their child and let the teacher know. Please remind your children that we exit onto a busy car park and to always be aware of road safety and not to use this area as a playground. Parents please **BE VIGILENT! In the interests of safety children should not be playing on the front steps/pump.**

Finishing times from Monday 2nd September:

P2	1:50pm
P2/3	1:55pm
P3	2:00pm
P4 & P5	2.55pm
P6-P7	3:00pm

Buses will resume from Monday 2nd September

School will finish **early on Fridays** for all pupils with a staggered finish beginning at 1:45pm.

Car Parking

We understand that our car park is very busy and not really big enough for the number of people who use it. We wish we could make it bigger! Can I please ask you to be mindful of **safety** and to help keep the traffic moving. Please do not leave cars unattended for long periods of time. Allow buses a clear entrance and exit. Please leave the disabled spaces free. On Fridays the back playground will be open to allow for parking. Please avail of this.

Teacher meetings

At Ballydown Primary we hope to make parents feel welcome and all staff wish to be approachable. If you wish to discuss your child's progress or have any concerns at all about your child, please feel free to make an appointment to speak to the class teacher or principal after school. Mr Murphy aims to be out at the front of school most mornings, so feel free to ask him if you have any questions.

School Website www.ballydownprimary.org.uk

Our school website will keep you up to date with upcoming events and keep you informed on what has been going on in school. If you cannot find what you are looking for on the website, then do not hesitate to call into the school office.

Information Afternoon

Each Teacher, P2-P7, will be holding a parent information afternoon on **Tuesday 3rd September** 2pm-4:30pm (times for each year group to be confirmed).

Holiday List

Please find a copy of this year's holiday list on our website. Don't worry you will receive a reminder before each school closure.

Finally, I would like to wish you and your children a happy and successful year at Ballydown Primary School. If you require any advice or have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Kind regards
Mr B Murphy
Principal

Ballydown Primary School

Holiday List 2024/2025

School Returns after Summer	Thurs 29 th August	Half Day
	(Staggered finish from 11:45am beginning with nursery)	
	Fri 30 th August	Half Day
	(Staggered finish from 11:45am beginning with nursery)	
	Mon 2 nd September	Full Day
Mon 28 th October - Fri 1 st November	Half Term	
Mon 23 rd December - Fri 3 rd January Mon 6 th)	Christmas (Half Day Fri 20 th - Return	
Mon 10 th February - Fri 14 th February	Half Term (Return 17 th)	
Mon 17 th March	St Patrick's Day	
Mon 14 th April - Fri 25 th April	Easter (Half Day 11 th - Return 28 th)	
Mon 5 th May	Bank Holiday	
Mon 26 th May	Bank Holiday	
Fri 27 th June	End of Term - Half Day	

SCHOOL UNIFORM

We have a uniform, which we prefer children to wear. Please encourage your child to take a sense of pride in their appearance and to dress smartly for school each day.

BOYS

Grey trousers/shorts
Grey Ballydown Sweatshirt
Red Shirt
Dark socks
Black shoes

GIRLS

Grey skirt/pinafore
Grey Ballydown Cardigan
Red Polo Shirt
White socks/Grey/red tights
Black Shoes

(White shirt & tie for formal occasions and school photos)

(Girls may wear red gingham summer dresses in September & term 3)

P.E. UNIFORM

White polo shirt

trainers (which are suitable for doing P.E.)

Athletics kit for Fridays- Plain black Shorts/leggings/track bottoms, red polo shirt or athletics top, school jumper or red Ballydown hoodie, trainers. Please dress appropriately for all weathers, as we try to go out in all but extremes.

Labelling

It helps everyone; parents, teachers and children if children can easily recognise their own belongings. Please help by putting your child's name on every item brought to school, especially coats, jumpers and ties.

Jewellery

In the interests of safety jewellery is not encouraged in school. If earrings are worn they should be a simple stud earring.

We understand that uniform is expensive and children grow quickly. We provide a uniform swap/sale where you can obtain items of uniform. It is so good to see uniforms being reused. Not only does it save us all money but it cuts down on waste.

Please ask if you have any concerns over uniform costs and require some support. Remember to make use of our used uniform shop. There are always items available.