



# Ballydown Times

## May/June Newsletter 2024

### Mr Murphy's Blog

May and June have been so busy! We have had so many fun activities going on. We will all be ready for the holidays by the end of June. Let's hope there is some good weather arriving.

### Stars of the month

I am delighted to announce our May winners for **most helpful pupil** are:



Nursery Joel Martin, P1D Noah Wilson, P1R Molly McGrath, P2 Freddie McClintock, P2/3 Ollie Greenwood, P3 Kate Cosgrave, P4 Penny O'Hare, P4/5 Jamie Brown, P5 Lily Smith, P6 Anna McPolin, P6/7 Will McCandless, P7 Annie Brown. **Best Manners** Nursery Georgie & Ruby Shaw, P1R Parker Proctor, P1D Charlotte, P2 Lucy Mackey, P2/3 Georgie McCreedy, P3 Kate Cosgrave, P4 Harrison Hughes, P4/5 Joshua Wright, P5 Regan Close, P6 Matthew Hughes, P6/7 Hannah Bowman, P7 Bella Derby. Very well done.

with Mr Murphy.

### Ballydown Fun Run

The PTA Fun run was a great success! Thank you so much for raising a massive **£3916!** Thank you so much for your support.



### Balmoral Show

It was great to see lots of pupils from Ballydown competing at Balmoral Show. Well done.

### Netball

Our Netball team took part in a tournament at Banbridge Leisure Centre. They played very well and thoroughly enjoyed the event, coming home with a silver medal.

### Rugby

Our girls rugby team attended a girls tournament at the Kingspan Stadium. The girls played really well against some tough competition and had great fun, finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Thank you to Ulster Rugby for their support and coaching this term.



The boys teams took part in a tournament at Banbridge Academy. They played some super rugby finishing in second place. Thanks to all the coaching from Mr Russell and Banbridge Rugby Club. The boys also attended the tournament at Kingspan Stadium.

### Cricket

Our P5-P7 children have been receiving rugby coaching over the past 5 weeks from Waringstown Cricket Club. A team of 10 P6 children were invited to attend a tournament at Waringstown Cricket Club.



They had a great day and learned a lot about cricket. Hopefully we can build upon this, next year, with some more coaching.

### Football

Our P6 football team took part in a tournament at Rathfriland High School. The team played really well despite the very wet conditions. They finished runners up in their section. Thank you to Mr Morrison our parent coach from Banbridge Town for his coaching and support.

### 'Pirates of The Curry Bean!'

P7 pupils and teachers have been working very hard over the past weeks preparing for their performance of 'Pirates of The Curry Bean. What a performance they put on! We were all very much entertained and had lots of laughs.



Thank you so much to all staff involved.

### Assessments

It has been a busy month for Standardised tests and class tests for our boys and girls. Everyone, especially the teachers, are glad to have them finished! Well done to everyone for working so hard.

### Uniform Sale

We will be holding a uniform sale/swap next week beginning **24<sup>th</sup> June**. If you have any items of uniform which your child has outgrown, you may wish to send them into



school. Please ensure uniform is clean and in good condition. Uniforms will be available in the outdoor classroom. There will be a small voluntary contribution of £1 per item sold for the eco team to use towards buying plants etc. Thank you.

### Reports

Reports will be issued on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June. The report will contain details of next year's class teacher. Each year children will be mixed. Please be aware that teachers consider very carefully the placement of children each year. They will take into consideration a mixture of friendship groups, academic ability and the class and teacher they believe will best meet the needs of each child. Sometimes your child may be separated from some of their friends. This can be difficult but please try to be positive with your child and encourage them with the opportunities to meet new friends. All year groups play together as a whole at playtimes and mix as much as possible through

afternoon classes, after school activities, performances, etc.

### Retirement

We have been very sad to announce the retirement of 2 long standing teachers at Ballydown, Mrs Lindsay and Mrs Coulter. These ladies have taught at Ballydown for over 50 years between them. We thank them for their dedication and commitment to the children of Ballydown. Thank you so much for all of the contributions to the parent gift and your kind messages/gifts to the ladies. They will be presented with the

**'The influence of a good teacher can never be erased.'**



What a beautiful morning we had for Sports Day. It was such a lovely morning in the sunshine and great to see so many parents and grandparents joining us for our sports day. Well done to all our medal winners.

### PTA Ballydown Does Balmoral

What a fantastic evening we had! We were overwhelmed by how well supported our event was. Such a fun, community spirit. Thank you so much to everyone from our school community who donated, helped, sponsored and made this such a fun evening. Our PTA worked so hard to make this event the success that it was. Thank you all for your commitment, energy, enthusiasm and expertise! The event raised an amazing £7371!!! Since September our PTA have helped fundraise £14,438- congratulations. We cannot thank you all enough for the support you all give our school. We now have enough money to purchase our mobile computer station and charging trolley. This will allow classes to book a slot on the timetable and each child can have their own iPad for the lesson.



### Diary Dates June:

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|---------------------------|---|
| Monday 24 <sup>th</sup>   | P7 Party  |
| Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup>  | P7 Leavers Assembly and final day for P7 9:45am     |
| Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> | Ice Cream treat and new class introductions reports |
| Friday 28 <sup>th</sup>   | FINISH FOR SUMMER HOLIDAYS (half day)               |



