

# Ballytrea Primary School



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Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024

## RETURN TO SCHOOL!

Dear Parent(s),

How can we be at this stage of the holidays already! I hope that you have had a wonderful summer and that your children have also enjoyed a well-earned break from school. As we begin to prepare for the new school year, I wanted to share with you some important information that will help both you and your children as we return. Please read the information carefully and if there is something I have missed, or there are any further questions that you have, please don't hesitate to contact me via email at [kblack585@c2kni.net](mailto:kblack585@c2kni.net) and I will get back to you asap.

I look forward to welcoming our children and families back to school in a few weeks, particularly those new pupils who are joining the Ballytrea family! See you all soon!

Best wishes,

Keith Black  
(Principal)

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### Key Dates:

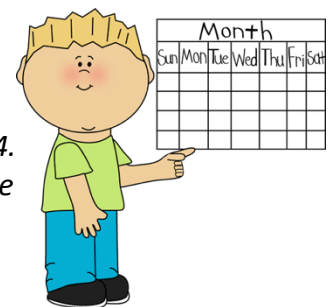
**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2024** - School begins for pupils in P1 - P7.

*(School closes at 12pm for all pupils on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> and Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024. There will not be any breaktime snack, school dinners or transport provided on these days.)*

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024** - Reception pupils 1<sup>st</sup> day.

- P1 - P3 pupils stay to 2.00pm, P4-P7 pupils stay to 3.00pm.
- Breaktime snack, school dinners and transport resume.

**Week beginning Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024** - After-school clubs will begin rolling out. Further information will be shared with parents upon our return to school.



## Key Times:

**8.45am** - Pupils may arrive to school and make their way to their classroom.

*(For the first few weeks, only pupils in Reception/P1 may be accompanied by their parent(s)/guardian to the classroom).*

**9.00am** - Lessons begin for all pupils. *(It is important that all pupils are in class on time each day).*

**10.30am** - Breaktime *(A healthy snack can be purchased in the canteen at a cost of 30p per item).*

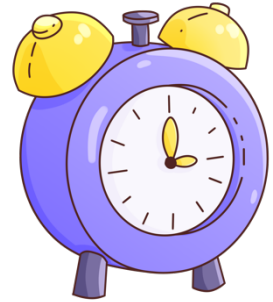
**\*\* Please note that Strawberries, Eggs and Nuts are strictly prohibited in school \*\***

**12.00pm** - School day ends for our Reception pupils. *(Parent(s)/guardian may make their way to the classroom to collect pupils).*

**12.15pm** - Lunchtime *(School dinners cost £2.60 per day and should be paid for in full each Monday. Please pay correct amount in cash/cheque where possible).*

**2.00pm** - School day ends for pupils in P1-P3.

**3.00pm** - School day ends for pupils in P4-P7. *(School bus is in operation at this time).*



## Morning/Afternoon Club:

As you will be aware, Miss Crossett who runs our Morning/Afternoon Club will be off school on maternity leave this year. We are delighted to let you know that Miss Crossett gave birth to a healthy baby boy, called Jack, back in July! Sincere congratulations to Miss Crossett and her partner Dec! The recruitment process for her replacement has been progressing throughout the summer. It is anticipated that a suitable candidate will be in place for our return to school, however there is a possibility that this will not be the case. I will communicate with parents prior to our return to school with further information, however, please be aware that we will not be able to run our morning/afternoon club until an appointment is made.

Morning Club - 8.00am - 8.45am

Afternoon Club - 2.00pm - 4.30pm

## School Uniform **\*Please ensure that all items of uniform are labelled with your child's name!**

**Reception Pupils** - Reception pupils may wear navy jogging bottoms/leggings along with their school polo shirt and jumper. There is no requirement to wear school trousers/skirt/pinafore, however they may do so if you wish. Trainers may be worn by our reception pupils.

**P1/P2 Pupils** - Pupils in P1/P2 may wear navy jogging bottoms/leggings/trainers to school on their dedicated PE days. These days will be shared with parents upon our return to school. On all other days, pupils in P1/P2 must wear full school uniform, including black school shoes.

**PE Kit for P1/P2** - Navy shorts and plimsoles may be left in school for our pupils to change into on PE days.

**P3-P7 Pupils** - Pupils in P3-P7 must wear full school uniform each day, including black school shoes. Jogging bottoms/leggings/trainers should not be worn to school. Trainers may be changed into at break and lunchtime by those who wish to play football.

During the Autumn/Winter months it is important that ALL children bring a coat to school each day.

## Parent Support Group (PSG):



PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

Our PSG are the lifeblood of our school and each year run fantastic events for our children and raise vital funds for our school. The PSG will hold their first meeting in early September, and I would encourage parents, particularly new parents, to join up and lend a hand to the PSG. It is a great way to support your children at school, but also to meet new people and share in the community centred ethos of our school.

School Social Media / Website:



[www.ballytreaps.com](http://www.ballytreaps.com)

We love to share what the children have been getting up to at school on our social media and website. If you use social media but don't already follow our pages, I recommend checking out our pages and keeping an eye on what's happening at school. These resources also provide us with an opportunity to share our school life with the wider community and they really showcase the wonderful experiences that our pupils have at Ballytrea. As such, it is important to use social media as a positive, promotional tool for our school and to refrain from negative commentary.

## Parent Support

At school we are fortunate to have parents and families who take a keen interest in their child(ren)'s school life and who encourage learning and celebrate success. As we start back at school, I want to remind our parents and families about the importance of the role in which you play in your children's educational journey. This cannot be underestimated and the impact that you have is vital to progress.



At home, take time to ask your children how their day was and what they got up to at school. Encourage learning and inquisitive minds and set aside time each day to ensure that your child is completing all of their homework to the best of their ability. Read to and with your child and spend time together outdoors. These are all things that will ensure your child is getting the best help with their learning and development.

## Handle with Care



At school, your child(ren)'s happiness and safety are of paramount importance to us and as such we would like to introduce this new parent/teacher communication method of providing support to our pupils. If your child is coming to school after a difficult night, morning or weekend at home, we want to be able to provide support in a discrete and confidential manner. By sending the teacher a message/note with the words **'Handle with care'**, we will ensure that your child is given extra time, patience or help through the school day, with nothing else being said or asked. This will allow us the opportunity to better serve our pupils.

We look forward to working with all our children, parents and families again this year, and can't wait to welcome you all back next week! Let's continue to work together to ensure that all our pupils get the best start in life and the opportunities and support to reach their full potential!

**See you soon!**

