

# PARENTS' NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2024

With our new Autumn term well under way I wanted to inform you of the following events: -

## **THANK YOU**

All of the staff at Ballysillan want to thank our parents and carers for such a fantastic and smooth start back to the year. The success is due to the support our parents and family members have given staff and we greatly appreciate this.

## **WEBSITE**

We will be uploading our monthly news, parents' letters and updates each month to our school website.

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

## **HOMEWORK**

Homework is being completed online via our current platforms; Purple Mash, Doodle Maths, Doodle Tables, Nessy and the Seesaw app.



## **BREAKFAST CLUB**

Breakfast Club provides children with a hot nourishing start to the morning. We are delighted to have the ability to offer Breakfast Club to all pupils. The club takes place in the dining hall from 8.10am – 8.30am. The cost is **£1.20** per day or **£6** per week and must be uploaded onto the School Comms App.



## **SCHOOL MILK AND FUNDS**

Milk £3, School Funds £3.50 or £6 per family or £35 for the year for single child family and £60 for multiple children in a family. Just to make parents aware that the nursery is separate and cannot be counted in family school funds. Many thanks for the prompt payment of all

monies to date. In line with our new cashless policy please upload all payments onto the School Comms App. November's payments will be due by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024. **Milk which is not ordered for by this date cannot be ordered after Halloween.**

## **DINNERS**

Dinner information has been sent via Seesaw, uploaded onto the Website under "Dinners" and sent via our School Comms app with a link to the Website.



## **HARVEST SERVICE**

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024. We are inviting parents and carers to join us in the celebration of Harvest this year. The service will begin at **10am** and it will be a whole school celebration. Children can leave straight after the service has finished. Please amend your dinner booking on the app to ensure the kitchens know if you are staying for a dinner on this day.

## **CURRICULUM MEETINGS**

Many thanks to those who were able to attend the Curriculum Meetings. We hope this was beneficial.

## **PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS**

Our Parent/Teacher Interviews will, again, be face to face this year. Please be aware you will still be given a 10 - minute slot on a particular date in October (Monday 21<sup>st</sup> Oct. – Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> Oct). Your appointment time will be sent via Seesaw by the class teacher so please keep checking for updates. There will be a **1pm** finish time for P1 - P7 from **Monday to Thursday** to facilitate these interviews. **Friday 25<sup>th</sup>**

**October** is a party day. This will be a **11.30am** finish for **Nursery – P7**. Please see Nursery Newsletter for separate arrangements.

## **P5-P7 SAFEGUARDING WORKSHOPS**

Safeguarding workshops for all P5-P7 children will continue into October unless you have asked for your child to opt out. This will focus upon staying safe online and modern slavery.

## **FIRE SERVICE**

Fire service will be coming in to visit P1 on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October. This is part of their World Around Us topic, People Who Help Us.

## **STAND BY ME**

“Stand By Me” is a programme which comes into schools across Northern Ireland to educate children on the world around them and the challenges others face. They love being able to inspire pupils in the difference they can make. They will be visiting our school and talking to the P1-P3 children in assembly on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October.

## **HALLOWEEN PARTIES**



On **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October** we will be having a fun day with Halloween parties in class. This will be a fancy dress/non-uniform day. Please note that any inappropriate costumes/masks are not permitted e.g. over 18 film characters or Huggie Wuggy costumes. Each class will be provided with drinks and parents can send their child with their own snacks. This will be a **11.30am** finish for **ALL**.

**\*Please note there are no lunches/ dinners OR Breakfast Club on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October.**

School will then be closed for the half term holidays. There will be **no school** from **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 1st November**. School will re-open for term 1B on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November. Breakfast Club will resume from 8:10am on this date. Please ensure to book your dinners and breakfast club when returning after the half term break.

## **SEAG CLUB (formerly AQE)**

SEAG Club is well under way, and we greatly appreciate all the support our parents have given Mrs Chambers. SEAG Club gather on the following days and times: Tuesday (8:15-8:50am), Wednesday (3pm-3.45pm), Thursday (8:15-8:50am) and Friday (1-2pm). If you would like to ask Mrs Chambers any questions on your individual child (or to discuss test scores) please send her a message via Seesaw.

## **FREE SCHOOL MEALS**

For those who have not yet applied for Free School Meals, it is **ESSENTIAL** you apply **online** as soon as possible. To apply go to - <https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants>



### **FREE SCHOOL MEALS AND UNIFORM GRANTS**

- If you have not applied please do so as soon as possible
- It can take up to four weeks for an application to be processed
- If you have not received an email confirming your application please check your junk mail
- For more information please visit: [www.eani.org.uk/fsm](http://www.eani.org.uk/fsm)