

February 2025 Newsletter

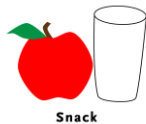


School Reports

Teachers are currently working on the pupil reports. Reports will be issued via Seesaw on Friday 7th February after 11:30am. If you would like to book to speak to your class teacher regarding your child's report please do so via the Seesaw app.

After School Clubs

- Please contact MR SPORTS to book into one of their fabulous afterschool activities; info@mr-sports.co.uk, 02896005058, 07835618730
 - Monday = Hip Hop, Tuesday = Gymnastics, Friday = Football
- Ballysillan P.S After School Clubs
- Aspire Homework Club is every Tuesday from 3-4pm - this returns on Tuesday 25th February
 - Doodle Club is on Monday - Thursday from 3-3:15pm
 - Choir is on Wednesday at 8:30am



School Funds and Milk Money

February payments are due by **Wednesday 26th February**. Please pay via the School Comms App.

Dinners

Please ensure to book your child's dinner via our School Comms App. You can block book your dinners ahead of time.

Please be aware that all dinners need ordered midnight the night before. If your child is absent or you have any issues regarding your dinners, please message the App to speak to the school secretary for your account to be credited. If you do not message the app to let us know the same day, we cannot credit your account.

P7 Transition to Secondary School

Just a reminder that all details regarding P7 Transition have been provided in a detailed Seesaw to all P7 parents. Applications to Secondary School are completed online. The portal opened on Tuesday 28th January at 12 noon and closes on Thursday 20th February at 12 noon. Parents will be informed on Saturday 10th May via email.

Don't forget:

Half Term

School will finish for half term on **Friday 7th February at 11:30am**. All children will be dismissed at 11:30am. School will be closed from **Monday 10th until Friday 14th February** for Half Term. All children should return to school on **Monday 17th February**. Breakfast Club will still happen on **Friday 7th February**.



P5-7 Swimming Lessons

Swimming lesson continue into February. Please pay £3 via our School Comms App.

Belfast City Council Trash Talk

P4 - P7 have a Belfast City Council Trash Talk Roadshow visit on **Thursday 6th February**.

PeacePlayers Programme

Primary 6/7 will be participating in the PeacePlayers Programme with St. Columban's P.S, formerly Sacred Heart Boys P.S. This will begin on **Monday 17th February 2025**. More details will follow from the class teacher.

Safer Internet Day 2025

Safer Internet Day will be celebrated on **Tuesday 4th February** this year, focusing on the theme "Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online". This day focuses on promoting safe and responsible online behaviour among children and young people. As a school, we will be looking at the importance of collaboration between parents, educators, and children to create a positive digital environment. This day aims to raise awareness about online risks and empower families with the tools they need to navigate the internet safely.

Notice of Absence

If your child is absent from school, please ensure you contact the class teacher via Seesaw and/or telephone to inform us of the reason. The school must code all periods of absence and it is necessary to apply the correct reason e.g. illness or medical appointment. If after a week no reason has been received it may be necessary for the school to telephone parents/guardians directly. The Education Authority have taken out codes of absence for 'Agreed Family Holiday' therefore we can no longer approve any holidays during term time. If a pattern of absence is noted for your child or your child's attendance is falling below 85%, you will be contacted by the class teacher and/or Principal and the school will follow the procedures directed by the Education Welfare.

Young At Art - P1 and P4

P1 and P4 will have their second drama and art workshops with Young at Art on **Thursday 27th February**.

Thriving Families Workshops

We are very excited that our "Ballysillan PS Thriving Families" programme is running again whereby every child in the school is given an opportunity to invite a parent/grandparent/aunt/uncle into school for one hour. The purpose of this programme is for your child and a close family relative to spend time together, connect and enjoy an activity. As a parent/guardian you will enjoy getting to see your child thrive and take part in the planned activities. It is important that every child has a close family relative attend on their day/time so as they can fully participate in this special programme. Every class will host their activity for close family relatives on a Wednesday to tie in with our "Wellbeing Wednesday" theme. It is important for all children's wellbeing to feel connected to their family and experience a sense of closeness and fun.

Your teacher will be in touch with dates for each class's workshop. Thank you to those who attended to support their child in the P4 class.

Thriving Families Workshops - February

P3

In Primary 3 we will be hosting our "Thriving Families" on **Wednesday 5th February** between 1.15pm-2pm. Our theme is "Love is in the Air". During this time you will be participating in Valentine's crafts. Please come at 1.10pm to the main reception of the school ready to meet your child. These activities will be conducted in the hall.

We are asking parents to contact the teacher via Seesaw and let us know which family member will be attending ASAP.

P5

P5 will be hosting their "Thriving Families" event; 'Excite with ICT' on **Wednesday 26th February** from 1:15-2pm. This will take place in the ICT and P6 room that afternoon. Please come to the main reception at 1:10pm. The children will get to show off their incredible ICT skills using the online platform of Purple Mash. Together with their parents and guardians, they will be designing a poster.

We are asking parents to contact the teacher via Seesaw and let us know which family member will be attending ASAP.

Welcome Team

We aim to have a member of staff out every day from Monday to Friday welcoming our children and parents at the gates of the school accompanied by our Kindness Ambassadors each Friday only. We feel this provides the children with a warm welcome and can encourage enthusiasm and positivity. Miss G Murray will be taking over from Mrs Davidson during the Friday Kindness Ambassador Welcome Team each Friday!

Staff Changes

Mrs Kelly will be leaving at half term to begin her maternity leave. We wish her all the best! Mrs Davidson's role will change from Co-Principal one day a week to full time Acting Principal five days a week until Mrs Kelly's return.

We would like to welcome our new P2 teacher, Miss Paton, who was the successful candidate at our recent interview. Miss Paton will be starting in Ballysillan on or before Monday 10th March 2025.

Please visit our Facebook page to see the latest information and pictures



Ballysillan Primary School and Nursery