



Summer term is here in Ballysillan. We cannot wait to get some lovely weather to be moving lots of our learning outdoors.

End of Year Celebrations

We are excited to end the year with celebrations. Currently we are working hard in the background to ensure that our two key transition year groups (Nursery and P7) are going to have lovely end of year ceremonies. We can confirm that the P7 End of Year Service will be Friday 20th June and the Nursery Graduation will be Monday 23rd June, both starting at 10am in the school hall. More details to follow.

New Academic Year Arrangements

All classes and teachers will be organised in June for the new academic year. Parents will be informed of this when they receive their child's report at the end of June. Nursery parents please see separate information for the P1 transition.

Assessments

Throughout the month of May we are conducting end of year assessments for P3 to P7 pupils. These are PTE (Literacy), PTM (Numeracy) and CAT4 (IQ) which are all computer based. These assessments are incredibly important to inform us on how your child is managing their learning. Assessing your child's academic ability allows the next teacher to create the correct lessons and learning objectives for next year. Please ensure you send your child to school every day in May so they do not miss any revision time or very important testing.

Primary One Transition June 2025

Parents have now been informed if they have been accepted into Ballysillan Primary School. We are absolutely delighted to see our Nursery children transition to the Primary One classroom and additionally, we are also excited to welcome lots of new faces. New P1 parents, for the academic year September 2025, will be finding out who their P1 teacher is very soon! All children will then take part in our fantastic transition process. Children will get to take part in a "Stay and Play Club" in P1 one afternoon a week. The P1 teacher and assistants will also be in the Nursery playing with the children and reading stories. Via Seesaw, parents will also receive lots of information and have time scheduled to speak to the P1 staff to share any extra information.

VE Day Celebration

Victory in Europe Day, known as VE Day, is celebrated on 8th May. This year it will mark 80 years from the day the Allies formally accepted Germany's surrender in 1945; the end of World War Two. This is a major historical milestone and a valuable opportunity to engage pupils in learning about World War Two, remembrance and British history.

In school, we will be celebrating this day by facilitating historical lessons in class and having a special 'street party' style lunch. Lunch will consist of hot dog, skinny chips, ketchup, a fruit drink and decorated biscuit in Union Jack Party boxes. If your child avails of free school meals, please book them in on the school App. If your child would like to pay to have this special dinner on this day, please also book this on the school app. Otherwise, pupils can bring in their normal packed lunch to have. Weather permitting, we hope to celebrate altogether, from Nursery to P7, dining outside in the front playground!

Our wonderful Parent Association would like to pay for a treat for each child on this day too!

Pupils can come into school wearing colours from the Union Jack flag - red, white, blue or a mixture of all. We are very much looking forward to the celebrations!

Ice-Lolly Fridays

'Ice-lolly Fridays' are back!! Every child can avail of a cooling ice lolly treat every Friday starting Friday 2nd May. Please pay £1 on the school app if your child would like this treat. Cash can't be accepted on the day and we can't give any lollies to any children who have not paid as we assume their parent/guardian would not like them to have one on this occasion.

Bank Holidays and School Closures

Just a reminder that school is closed Monday 5th May and Monday 26th May for Bank Holidays. We also have a staff development day on Tuesday 27th May. School will also be closed on this date for pupils.

P5/6 Thriving Families

P5/6 Thriving Families is being held on Wednesday 7th May. Please check Seesaw for all of the details. Our aim is to connect your child with a loved one/familiar adult. Remember any loved one can attend and come along to be with your child.

P6/7 Thriving Families

P6/7 Thriving Families will be held on Wednesday 14th May in our playground. Please check Seesaw for all of the details. Our aim is to connect your child with a loved one/familiar adult. Remember any loved one can attend and come along to be with your child.

P2 Thriving Families

P2 Thriving Families will be held on Wednesday 21st May. Please check Seesaw for all of the details. Our aim is to connect your child with a loved one/familiar adult. Remember any loved one can attend and come along to be with your child.

P7 Post Primary School Notification to Parents

P7 parents will receive an email on the morning of Saturday 10th May 2025 from the Education Authority notifying you of the outcome of your child's application to secondary school. You do not need to log in to EA Connect portal on Saturday 10th May to find out the outcome. We wish every child the best of luck.

P6/7 Football Sessions

Belfast Boys Model School PE teachers will be attending Ballysillan PS to facilitate PE lessons for the Primary 6/7 class as part of their transition programme. These will take place on Thursday 15th and 22nd May 2025. Please ensure your child/ren are in full PE kit and have a water bottle.

Connect and Nurture (CAN) Lessons

Throughout the month of May and into June, all classes will avail of new Nurture lessons facilitated by the Education Authority Nurture Advisory Support Service (NASS). Staff were trained in Connect and Nurture last year which is the new Circle Time initiative and we look forward to bringing these new Nurture lessons into our Wellbeing Wednesday timetables.

Group/Class Photographs

Class photographs will be taken on Thursday 15th May. These will be for the Nursery, Primary 1 and Primary 7 classes. Please ensure your child/ren are in full school uniform.

Nursery Sports Day

Nursery Sports Day will be held in the school grounds on Friday 30th May at 10:30am. Please see the Nursery Newsletter for more details.

P1-P7 Sports Day

This year Sports Day for P1-P7 will be held on Friday 6th June 2025 with a 9:15am start.

In the morning P1-P3 races will be held on school grounds. Once these are completed the P5-P7 will walk to Ballysillan Leisure Centre and Sports Day races will be held in the Leisure Centre. Details will be sent out via Seesaw soon.

School Fair

Our school Summer Fair will be held on Thursday 29th May. Pupils can avail of a 'Grab 'N Go' lunch and will be dismissed from school at 12pm.

Time: - 1pm - 2:30pm

Admission: - £2, Nursery and Primary school aged children = Free

Some of the attractions available at the fair will be: - Tombola, Face Painting, Bouncy Castle, crafts and many more!

N.B - Anybody wishing to book a stall, please ring the school on 02890391668.

Car Parking

We have had recent complaints from Translink about cars being parked in the bus terminal outside the school gates which is causing delays to bus services. Please refrain from parking here at all times.

