

JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER



Welcome back and happy new year to you all!

Just a reminder that all newsletters, dinner menus and information will be put on our website and uploaded onto the Seesaw app. Please find our website address below.

<https://www.ballysillanpshnursery.com/>

School Gateway App

Our January bookings are OPEN for parents/guardians to book their children's Breakfast Club and dinners for the month. This applies to free and paid dinners. For the dinners you can book daily but this must be done midnight the day before. Breakfast Club can be booked up until 8am in the morning. If you click on "useful links" in the app it will also bring you to our dinner menus. If you pay for a dinner and your child is sick, please message our secretary on the app so we can simply reimburse your account on that day.

Dinners start the first day back to school-Monday 5th January 2026.

Breakfast Club restarts on Monday 5th January 2026.

Enrolment

This is the time of year when parents/carers need to consider and plan for the enrolment of Primary One and Nursery children. Applications for Nursery and P1 open on Wednesday 7th January 2026 at 12 noon. These applications will close on Wednesday 21st January 2026 at 12 noon.

Please note, the EA online portal will not be accessible after this time. Please ensure you read our criteria correctly and ensure you complete all sections of the online form. REMINDER - All birth certificates for P1 and Nursery are uploaded onto the portal along with any other supporting documents.

Help to Apply

Please reach out to the office, P1 or Nursery staff if you have any difficulties at all in completing your application process.

School Meals - Price Increase

Those pupils availing of paid school meals will see an increase from £2.60 to £3.10 for primary pupils and from £2.50 to £3 for Nursery pupils, from this month going forward. Please continue to book these on the app. School meals for all must be booked before midnight the day before taking a dinner.

Packed Lunches

For those parents providing packed lunches, hot food can be brought into school if it has been made at home and in a flask/container - e.g. soup, pasta. Under health and safety regulations, we cannot heat up food nor accept food deliveries.

P7 Residential

All details for the P7 Residential will be sent out in January by Mrs Chambers. Please ensure you read these carefully to secure your spot.

After-School Clubs

Aspire Homework Club - Tuesday 13th January.

MR Sports offer three after-school clubs on Monday, Tuesday and Friday every week. These clubs are led by qualified coaches and specialists.

www.mr-sports.co.uk

Monday: Hip Hop

Tuesday: Gymnastics

Friday: Football

January Tests

Class tests for P1 - P6 and PTE, PTM for P7 will take place this month - full attendance is necessary as revision



will be carried out in the weeks up to the tests. Reports will be given out on Friday 30th January 2026. If the class teacher wishes to see you regarding your child's report, they will contact you via Seesaw to arrange a time the following week - week commencing 26th January. To accommodate these parent meetings, school will close at 2pm for P1 - P7 from Tuesday 27th January to Friday 30th January 2026.



Winter Warning

As the winter months are still ahead and temperatures could drop, the school is taking all necessary precautions to ensure pathways, and the car park are gritted whenever possible. Great caution should still be taken to avoid falls or injuries. The grit/salt used to safeguard you, and your children, is costed through the school budget and therefore must remain on school premises to ensure adequate supplies throughout the winter months.



Sensible Clothing

Please send your child/ren to school with appropriate winter/outdoor clothing e.g. warm waterproof coat, hat, scarf, gloves, non-slip winter footwear/boots, tracksuit bottoms etc. If necessary, indoor shoes could

be brought in to enable your child to change when they get to school or after playtime. We are really enhancing our Outdoor Learning and want all children in the right clothing so they can access their lessons comfortably in the colder weather.



School Funds

May I thank those families who continue to support the school with their regular school fund contributions, much appreciated. This is paid via our School Money App. School Fund money is invaluable in many ways: -

- ✓ Subsidises cost of transport for school trips
- ✓ Pays for many school-based activities
- ✓ Goes towards covering the cost of prizes, badges, weekly certificates and yearly awards etc.

I would encourage you to support our School Fund (£3.50 per child, £6 per family or £35 / £60 paid for the year) as it greatly benefits all the children at school.

P6/7 Titanic Belfast Museum Trip

P6/7 will be studying The Titanic this term and have been lucky enough to secure a visit to The Titanic Belfast Museum on Thursday 29th January 2026. More detail to follow.

Waste Roadshow

P4 - 7 will have a talk about waste from Belfast City Council in the hall on Monday 19th January 2026.

Tec 'N Toast Parent Workshop

Join us for the first of our Tech & Toast workshops for parents/carers. We'll be introducing the basics of Seesaw and answering your tech questions to help you feel confident supporting your child's learning.

The session will take place in the ICT Suite on **Friday 9th January, 8:00-8:40am**. Childcare will be provided. Places are limited, please register via Seesaw.

SEAG Results for P7 pupils

On Saturday 24th January 2026 those P7 pupils who sat the SEAG test in November 2025 will obtain their results via email and onto the child's portal.

Girls' Model Roadshow

On Wednesday 28th January the new Principal of The Girls' Model will be attending school at 3pm to meet any prospective parents of pupils in P6 or P7. This will be held in the P7 classroom. More details to follow.

P5-P7 Swimming Lessons



Primary 5 - Primary 7 swimming lessons will commence on **Tuesday 13th January 2026**.

Swimming is a life skill and a compulsory part of the Key Stage Two curriculum; we are so pleased to be starting these lessons again.

Lessons will take place at Ballysillan Leisure Centre. Children will be walking to and from the Leisure centre and it is important that they have a warm waterproof coat with them.

The times will be as follows:

Primary 5-10am

Primary 6 -10.30am

Primary 6/7 -11am

The lessons will take the place of one of their P.E lessons for the term. Children will need a swimming costume or swimming trunks (no bikinis or Bermuda shorts) a towel, goggles and a swimming cap. The cost of the lessons will be £3.

THIS WILL BE PAID FOR ON THE SCHOOL GATEWAY APP.

If you have any queries or questions, please contact Mrs Chambers on cchambers253@c2kni.net or the class teacher and we will answer any questions or queries.

