

February 2026 Newsletter



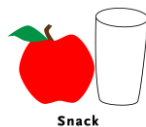
After School Clubs

Please contact MR SPORTS to book into one of their fabulous afterschool activities; info@mr-sports.co.uk, Tel: 02896005058, 07835618730

- Monday = Hip Hop
- Tuesday = Gymnastics
- Friday = Football

Ballysillan P.S After School Clubs

- Aspire Homework Club is every Tuesday from 3-4pm
- Doodle Club is on Monday - Thursday from 3-3:15pm
- Choir is on Wednesday at 8:30am



School Funds and Milk Money

Milk is paid for the year but if you would like your child to be added onto the milk list at any stage, please pay on the app. School funds for the month of February are due on 13th February.

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.

P7 Transition to Secondary School

Applications to Secondary School are open and now completed online via EA Connect. The portal opened on Tuesday 27th January at 12 noon and **closes on Thursday 19th February** at 12 noon. Parents will be informed on Saturday 9th May via email.



Half Term

School will finish for half term on **Friday 6th February at 11:30am**. All children will be dismissed at 11:30am. School will be closed from **Monday 9th** until **Friday 13th February** for Half Term. All children should return to school on **Monday 16th February**. Breakfast Club will still happen on **Friday 6th February**.



P5-7 Swimming Lessons

Swimming lessons continue into February. Please pay £3 via our School Comms App. Swimming is cancelled on **Tuesday 3rd February** due to adverse weather.

Safer Internet Day 2026

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. The school SIMs register of attendance is a legal document. If after a week no reason has been received, it may be necessary for the school to telephone parents/guardians directly for a pastoral check-in. 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 via Seesaw and the school will follow the procedures directed by the Education Welfare.

Thriving Families Workshops

We are very excited that our "Ballysillan P.S 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' workshop.

Thriving Families Workshops - February

P4

In Primary 4 we will be hosting our "Thriving Families" on **Wednesday 18th February** between 1:15pm-2pm. Our theme is "Close Connections". During this time you will be participating in reading, massage, chit chat whilst sipping a warm hot chocolate. 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 25th February** from 1-2pm. This will take place in the ICT and P6 room that afternoon. Please come to the main reception at 1pm. 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.

Shared Education

This year our Shared Education partners are St. Vincent De Paul. The **Nursery** have been chosen to participate and their first session will be on **24th February** in St. Vincent De Paul. More details in the Nursery Newsletter.

P6/7 Titanic Trip

P6/7 will be attending Titanic Belfast on **Thursday 19th February** to learn more about their topic on Titanic.

P6 TAMHI Trip to Girdwood

P6 will be travelling to Girdwood to take part in 'Mental Wealth Games' along with other North Belfast schools on **Wednesday 4th February**.

Children's Mental Health Week

Children's Mental Health Week aims to give a voice to all children and young people, and to raise awareness of children and young people's mental health. The theme for this year is "This is My Place," encouraging a sense of belonging for children and young people. Each class will participate in different activities to nurture, empower and educate on emotional literacy and mindfulness.

KS2 Beauty and The Beast School Production

Well done to everyone who auditioned for a role in our school production! The standard was excellent and we cannot wait to perform to you all on **Wednesday 25th March**.

All children from P4-P7 will form our production choir and song words will be sent home, please practise these with your child and sing along with them.

Miss Mercer will send separate details for cast rehearsals each week via SeeSaw.

Tickets for the play will be released soon and are at a cost of £5.

Autism NI Impact Award

Another award for 'Team Ballysillan'! We have recently achieved Autism NI's Impact Award for Education, demonstrating our commitment to inclusion for autistic and neurodivergent students, and their families.

Staff received tailored training from Autism NI and implemented a bespoke action plan of adjustments across the school, to build a more inclusive environment.

Autism NI's Director of Development, Christine Kearney said, "We are delighted that Ballysillan Primary School has achieved the Impact Award. Through their training and action plan, the school has implemented a range of practical and meaningful changes to

promote accessibility. By achieving the Impact Award, they have shown a clear commitment to building an inclusive culture for their students and will strive to continue building positive accessible options for their students."

Pancake Day

We're excited to celebrate Pancake Day on **Tuesday 17th February** with a range of fun activities for all pupils! Children will enjoy delicious pancakes and take part in fun activities. Primary 1-3 will take on a Pancake escape Room, working together to crack clues and solve challenges! Primary 4-7 will test their knowledge in a fun Pancake Day Quiz, full of teamwork and surprises. P1-7 will also take part in school-wide competition to test their art skills!

Chinese New Year

We are so excited to celebrate Chinese New Year. We will be celebrating on **Wednesday 25th February**. Children will try a selection of Chinese foods to explore new flavours and learn about Chinese culture. They will also be taking part in fun activities and crafts to further their knowledge on Chinese New Year!

P5 and P2 Young at Art Workshop

P5 and P2 will be taking part in a *Young at Art* workshop on **Thursday 19th February** as part of the *Resilient Child* programme within the Belfast Children's Festival. This will be **Workshop two of four**, delivered in partnership with *Young at Art*.

These sessions are designed to strengthen children's resilience through **creative drama and art-based activities**, helping them develop confidence, emotional expression, and problem-solving skills in a fun and engaging way.

Finishing Times - Monday 2nd - Friday 6th February

- Monday - normal finish times
- Tuesday to Thursday - **2pm** finish for P1-P7
- Friday - **11:30am** finish for all, Nursery to P7

*There will be no Aspire Homework Club on Tuesday 3rd February

*MR Sports is an independent company, not associated with the school - they contact parents/guardians regarding their club times, dates, cancellations. If you have any queries, please contact MR Sports on - 028 96005058 or 07835618730. Unfortunately, our school staff will not be able to answer any queries about MR Sports' after school clubs.

School is closed for the half term holidays from Monday 9th February to Friday 13th February. We look forward to seeing everyone return to school on Monday 16th February for the start of term 2B.

New Dinner Menu

There will be a new dinner menu starting on Monday 16th February. Carr's Glen Kitchens are still working on this. As soon as we receive the new menu, we will send it out via Seesaw.

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



Ballysillan Primary School and Nursery