

PARENTS' NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2021



Some November information and updates for your calendar.

All outstanding Milk Money (£3 per child) and School Funds (£3 each or £5 per family) must be paid by 5th November 2021.

CAR PARKING

Improvements to Ballysillan P.S never end and during the Halloween break, we were getting our front gates widened for pedestrians and staff car parking. The work is still continuing so please be vigilant when walking into school. Please be aware that **only STAFF vehicles are permitted into the school car park.**

To ensure the safety of everyone (including pupils) parking at the front and back gates of school please remember/abide by the following rules -

1. Drive very slowly and carefully when entering and exiting Clare Glen.
2. If parking at the back gates, please **do not park in the cul-de-sac**; park further back and walk your child to school (or an

older sibling can walk a younger sibling into school) as the back gate is a pedestrian gate.

3. If parking at the front of school, please do not block the school entrance nor the view of the lollypop lady.
4. Do not block any entrance/exit routes at any time.
5. If you live close by walking is a healthy option instead of driving - **Join the Walking Bus!**

DO NOT PARK ON THE FOOTPATH AS IT OBSTRUCTS THE PATROL LADY.

Many thanks with your co-operation.

OPEN DAY

We are currently unsure if we are going to be able to hold an Open Day or an Open Evening. Our plans are on hold under the current guidance. We will keep parents and the community updated. Please look out for our Open Day video.

MEALS REMINDER

We are still operating a **one** choice menu for the Primary 1 to Primary 7 pupils. This helps speed up service and minimise food wastage in the current circumstances! Please ensure you look at the menu on the website, Facebook and via Seesaw to ensure your child will eat what is being served. If they do

not like the menu choice, please send a pack lunch as an alternative.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Our Breakfast Club is currently full. If you would like your name on the waiting list, please contact reception.

SCHOOL CLASS & FAMILY PHOTOS

School individual photos will take place on Wednesday 3rd November. The provisional date for Family Portraits is also Wednesday 3rd November from 3:30pm. If you are interested in this please contact the secretary before 10:30am on Tuesday 2nd November.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

The Poppy box will be offered to each class this week and next week. Please bring money in a sealed envelope clearly stating it is for poppies. The cost of donations for merchandise varies from 50p to £1.50.

P6 & P7 SHARED EDUCATION TRIP TO THE ULSTER MUSEUM

P6 and P7 Shared Education trip to the Ulster Museum is **Friday 12th November 2021**. P6 will be going to an Egyptians workshop and P7 will be attending a workshop on Animal Adaptations.

DOGS' TRUST WORKSHOP

This month, we are very lucky to have The Dogs' Trust visiting us! P3-P7 will be having workshops to learn about all the amazing work that guide dogs and their trainers do on Wednesday 3rd November. Look out for some photos on our school Facebook!

NOTICE OF ABSENCE

If your child is absent from school, please ensure you either message the class teacher via Seesaw or email, or telephone to inform us of the reason. The **secretary's working hours** are from **8:45am-2pm** so please be aware that the phones are not always manned outside these hours.

The school has to code all periods of absence and it is necessary to apply the correct reason e.g. illness, covid19 isolation. If after a week no reason has been received it may be necessary for the school to telephone parents/guardians directly.

BUBBLED EVENTING

CHRISTMAS

Christmas is not cancelled at Ballysillan P.S! We are aware that we cannot hold our normal busy Christmas Fair, however, we are planning for each class to come into school one evening in December to have a cosy Christmas night with fun festive activities and movies. Children will stay in their bubbles and remain with their class teacher and assistant. More details to follow.

CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES (Nursery-P7)

Due to Covid19 restrictions, the normal Nursery, KS1 and KS2 performances will not be happening live this year, however, we plan for each class (P1-P7) to perform a small scene or a song. This will then be edited together to create a whole school performance. We will be updating parents on the title and performances throughout this month. Nursery will be performing their own nativity play and this will be uploaded by Mr Kailanathan and Mrs Fuller.

World War II DAY IN P5

P5 will be celebrating our WAU topic, with a WWII themed day, on Thursday 11th November. We will be going back in time, to what it was like during wartime. Primary 5 children will be allowed to dress up as evacuees for the day and to learn what life was like for children during the war. There will be lots of fun activities for the children to immerse themselves in throughout the day.

P6 & P7 PEACEPLAYERS PROGRAMME

P6 and P7 will begin their Shared Education journey this month - with an initial visit by the PeacePlayers team into their classroom. PeacePlayers is a programme that offers basketball, peace education and builds resilience

in young people. All Covid19 precautions will be adhered to when the PeacePlayers facilitators are in the classroom. We will not be meeting up with our Shared Education partnership school due to Covid19. If any parent/guardian would not like their child to participate in this activity, please let the teacher know via Seesaw.

P3/4 MUSIC MORNING

P3/4 music morning is scheduled for Tuesday 16th November. The children will be going to the Belfast School of Music and will be singing and performing the songs they have been working hard to learn along with 4 other schools.

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2021

As we do every year, we will celebrate Anti-Bullying Week at Ballysillan P.S. Anti-Bullying Week aims to raise awareness of bullying and highlight ways of prevention. This year it will be celebrated the week of Monday 15th - Friday 19th November and the theme will be '**One Kind Word**'. During the week, all pupils will be completing fun, educational tasks. Additionally, we will have a zoom session with our Shared Education Partnership school to show each other what we have been up to, to celebrate Anti-Bullying Week.

On **Monday 15th November**, we would like all pupils to wear **ODD SOCKS** to school to highlight the importance of

being unique. We will also celebrate **WORLD KINDNESS DAY** so watch out for our brilliant Ballysillan pupils sprinkling kindness wherever they go!

BELFAST COFFEE TRUCK

Belfast Coffee Truck will be back to serve us delicious hot drinks and tray bakes on Wednesday 24th November. Enjoy an early morning treat!

P7 AQE AND GL TESTS

Good luck to all P7 pupils sitting tests throughout November and December. The children have been working extremely hard and we are proud of all they have achieved so far! All the best to; Evie Boyd, Jamie-John Kennedy, Mitchell Stewart, Corey-Thomas Doherty, Ellie McKeown, Christian Moreland and Hannah Graham!

Key November Dates

Tuesday 2nd and 9th November: P6 and P7 PeacePlayers

Wednesday 3rd November: School Individual and Family Photographs

Wednesday 3rd November: P3-P7 Dogs' Trust Workshops

Thursday 11th November: Remembrance Day & WW2 Day in P5

Friday 12th November: P6 and P7 Shared Education Trip to Ulster Museum

Saturday 13th November: GL Examination

Monday 15th -Friday 19th November: Anti-Bullying Week

Monday 15th -Friday 19th November: Nursery Parent / Teacher Interviews

Monday 15th November: Odd Socks Day and World Kindness Day

Tuesday 16th November: P3/4 Music Morning

Saturday 20th & 27th November and 4th December: AQE Examinations