

BALLYCLARE PRIMARY SCHOOL



WELCOME TO P5

This year the Primary 5 classes continue working on the Northern Ireland Curriculum. One of the aims is to encourage the children to become confident, independent learners and develop their own thinking skills.

When pupils move into Key Stage 2 parents will notice an increase in their workload and the levels of concentration and effort required. They are now old enough to take advantage of the many after school activities and the extended schools' programme. We would encourage all pupils to find at least one club or activity that they would enjoy and commit to. Many of the clubs can help improve their fitness levels and encourage a positive attitude to sport. It is an enjoyable way to make new friends, all part of growing up.

During the year we have many special events. These include our Early Man and Ancient Egypt workshops and our trip to a local Bird Sanctuary to study the birds and wildlife. We either visit a theatre or a theatre company comes to the school at Christmas time.

Parents often ask, "What can we do to help?" It is important that they show an interest in their children's studies and offer support and encouragement. The areas the children are studying at any given time are reflected in their homework. It is important that parents encourage 'best effort' and sign these homeworks.

Reading is still one of the most important areas of the curriculum. The P5 pupils will be reading from a wide variety of texts, mainly from the Ginn and Oxford Reading Tree schemes. Reading is set each night and requires parental supervision. Most Thursday nights the children are given 'Free choice reading' where they can choose to read a novel they are enjoying at home for at least 20 minutes. They will also be reading a variety of novels and information books. Authors such as Michael Murpugo and Sam McBratney are enjoyed. The author they study in more depth is Roald Dahl. To encourage more independent reading and a love of books the children are encouraged to choose books from the school and town libraries and from book clubs. Pupils who require extra help will receive additional support.

We are continuing with a phonic spelling scheme in Key Stage 2. The emphasis of the programme is on the teaching of spellings based on the recognition of visual patterns and frequency words. We would appreciate your support in helping your child to learn his/her spellings and also to talk about their meanings. A useful aid to learning is the 'Look, Visualise, Say, Cover, Write and Check' method.

Throughout the year pupils will study all areas of the Northern Ireland Curriculum; Language and Literacy, Mathematics & Numeracy, The World Around Us, UICT, The Arts, R.E. and Personal Development for Mutual Understanding. Below are some of the main World Around Us topics the children will learn about on a cross curricular basis.

TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3
IT'S A SMALL WORLD	ECO ENERGY	
EARLY MAN	ANCIENT EGYPT	FEATHERED FRIENDS

P5 pupils explore the balance of good physical and emotional health through PDMU units. We will discuss the effects of maintaining a balanced diet and encourage the children to comply with the school's healthy eating policy. The Heartstart programme is run in the third term and gives children basic skills in resuscitation and a few basic first aid techniques.

P5 pupils go swimming in the first term and their residential Scripture Union trip is in November.

P.E.

P.E. kit - white tee-shirt, navy/black shorts/track bottoms, school sweatshirt and trainers. Please send a note stating the reason if your child is not doing P.E./swimming. Swimming day is always Tuesday.

During the year there are two dates set aside in October and February for formal parent/teacher interviews. These are opportunities for an exchange of information about your child's progress. If you have any problems or issues you want to discuss at other times, please contact the school and make an appointment to see the class teacher.

Teaching your child is a partnership between the parent and the teacher and we appreciate and value your support.

HOME LIAISON FOLDERS

Periodically, throughout the year, samples of your child's class work will be sent home in a folder for you to see how they are doing in school. These folders are normally sent home on a Friday and must be returned for the next school day.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment of your child's learning will take place formally and informally throughout the year. Details of his/her progress will be given to you at interview times and in annual reports. Please contact Mrs Mulligan or your child's class teacher should you need any further information.

Formal written assessments are undertaken twice a year, in January, when you will receive a short report on their grades, and in May. The end of year report is comprehensive and will be sent home in the last week of the school year.

HOUSE COMPETITION

As part of our Positive Behaviour Policy, pupils in KS2 are divided up into four school Houses, namely Cunningham, Girvan, McIlroy and Percy. Throughout the year pupils can be awarded House Points for aspects of positive behaviour such as good manners, helping others, great attitudes, representing school at events, attendance at after schools activities etc. House Certificates are awarded to pupils in Key Stage assemblies. In June the House with the most points is awarded the Gawn Trophy.

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GUIDANCE NOTES FOR PRIMARY 5 HOMEWORK

1. Details of homework are written in your child's homework diary each day.
2. Spellings and tables to be written out and learned each evening.
3. Usually four written homeworks per week.
4. Reading each evening as per homework diary.
(free choice reading on some evenings)
5. It is essential that parents check and sign their child's diary and written homework every night. This helps maintain standards between school and home.



P5 'BACK TO SCHOOL' CHECKLIST



To be ready for the P5 year ahead you will need...

- HB pencils
- Sharpener
- Rubber
- 30cm ruler (no flexible rulers please)
- Colouring pencils
- Pritt stick (labelled please) x 2
- Box of tissues
- Homework folder
- Whiteboard marker

- ★ These items need to be replaced during the school year, as and when required.
- ★ All items of school uniform, and belongings, must be clearly labelled with the pupil's name.



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USEFUL INFORMATION

- (A) If you have a concern about anything in school, please follow these procedures:
- (i) Speak to your child's class teacher.
 - (ii) Vice-Principal - Mr McAuley
 - (iii) Speak to (Principal) - Mrs Mulligan
- (B) Should your concern not be resolved then:
You may have a concern that should involve the Board of Governors of the school. Please put this in writing to the Secretary of the Board of Governors. This will be discussed at the next meeting with the chairman and a response made by him concerning the issue. Dr. J. H. MacConnell (Chairman).
- (C) If you have a concern about a Child Protection matter in or out of school; please contact:
- (i) Mrs Mulligan - Designated Teacher for Child Protection.
- or*
- (ii) Mr McAuley - Deputy Designated Teacher.

The Designated Teachers will ensure the matter is completely investigated with support from EA and the appropriate outside agencies.

- * If you ever suspect your child is being bullied at school – please contact the class teacher or Mrs Mulligan immediately.

BALLYCLARE PRIMARY SCHOOL UNIFORM CODE



FOUNDATION STAGE P1-2

White polo shirt

Red school sweat shirt (or red school cardigan - girls)

Grey trousers for boys

Grey skirts for girls

Black shoes (low heel)

White socks/plain black tights for girls

Grey socks for boys

Summer Alternative

Grey tailored long shorts for boys

Red gingham dress for girls

(red cardigan/school sweat shirt
may be worn with dress)

★ Black or white plimsoles - PE

KSI P3-4

White short or long-sleeved school shirt

School tie - elasticated

Red school sweat shirt (or red school cardigan - girls)

Grey trousers for boys

Grey skirt for girls

Black shoes (low heel)

White socks/plain black tights for girls

Grey socks for boys

Summer Alternative

Grey tailored long shorts for boys

Red gingham dress for girls

(red school cardigan/school sweat shirt)
may be worn with dress)



Top button in collar should be fastened so ensure collars are of an appropriate size.

No 'slack' knots please on ties.

KSII P5-7

White short or long-sleeved school shirt

School tie - elasticated/self-tying

Red school sweatshirt (or red school cardigan - girls)

Grey trousers for boys

Grey skirts for girls

Black shoes (low heel)

White socks/plain black tights for girls

Grey socks for boys

Summer Alternative

Grey tailored long shorts for boys

Red gingham dress for girls

(red school cardigan/school sweat shirt,
may be worn with dress
- supplier Sport N' Sound)



Top button in collar should be fastened so ensure collars are of an appropriate size.

No 'slack' knots please on ties.

PE Uniform is for P4-7 pupils. This consists of a plain white t-shirt/polo shirt, navy or black shorts or tracksuit bottoms and school sweatshirt.

To maintain our school standards, to ensure all pupils are treated equally by each other and to encourage respect for our school community:

- ♦ All pupils are expected to come to school in the appropriate set uniform every day.
- ♦ No jewellery should be worn. No earrings to be worn by either boys or girls.
- ♦ All hair should be tied back from face, if long.
Boys should have hair no longer than collar length.
Shaving of heads/designs and hair dye is not welcomed for any pupil.

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MEDICAL ISSUES

Please ensure you follow our medical procedures guidelines if your child has a medical condition.

- (i) Ensure the school is fully aware of the condition and its implications in school.
- (ii) Ensure a yellow medical form is completed for any medication being requested to be administered in school.
- (iii) Ensure inhalers etc are provided for the class teacher, should an emergency arise.

Contact Mr McAuley (Head of Pastoral Care) for any further advice.

CARE REQUESTS

It is parental responsibility to ensure the school office/teachers are aware of any changes to collecting arrangements for your child in the afternoon.

Phone calls to change arrangements at the last minute are not welcome unless in an absolute emergency.

Please ensure your child knows who is collecting him/her at the end of the day. This provides comfort and stability for the school day.

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ANTI-BULLYING PROCEDURES

As a school, we are very pro-active concerning the issue of bullying. All classes are taught not to engage in such behaviour, but also what to do, should it unfortunately still occur. When an incident is reported, the following will take place:

- (i) The class teacher will speak to the person displaying bullying behaviour and the target involved. Bystanders may also be involved in this discussion. Clear guidance will be given that this type of behaviour should cease immediately. If a child (target) is distressed at this level – parents will be informed. The parent of the person displaying bullying behaviour will be contacted immediately to ensure the incident is dealt with at home.
- (ii) Should this type of incident continue, the class teacher will inform the Head of Year/Vice Principal/Principal. The person displaying bullying behaviour will be punished in line with our Positive Behaviour Policy and parents will be invited into school for a meeting. No child will be permitted to persistently annoy/upset another child in our school.
- (iii) The positive ethos encouraged helps to eradicate the need for this type of behaviour but when it occurs, both the target and the bully get help to ensure it does not continue. A person displaying bullying behaviour often has other issues and these will be investigated to ensure this behaviour pattern stops.