

DATES FOR DIARIES: JANUARY

- P5-7 Activity Days Resume W/B 17th January.
- P4 Swimming starts 18th January.
- P7 Victorian Day: 24th January.
- Anti-bullying Week in school P1-7 W/B 24th January.
- BLUE Day (all come dressed in blue) Friday 28th January.
- P6 Viking Day: 27th January.
- Parent Interview Calls letters will be sent out on 27th January via Seesaw.
- P1 Digital Admissions ends. 28th January, 12:00. Please ensure all applications are in by this date, if your child is starting P1 in 2022.

READING

We continue to stress the importance of reading with our pupils, for success in all areas of school life. This is supported heavily by parents/family members in P1-3 and then encouraged in P4-7. We have many children in Key Stage 2 progressing and reading to a high standard.

Never underestimate the importance of spending a little time with your child reading and them seeing you reading yourself, when time permits. Please see the attached Reading Information.

P1 ENROLMENT

Portal for applying for places in P1 for August/September 2022 opened on Monday 10th January at 12 noon. All parents need to complete this online process to ensure their child gains a place in Nursery or Primary School this coming year. The portal remains open from 10th – 28th January.

www.eani.org.uk/admissions

Should you have any difficulties, contact our school office staff who will be happy to assist you. Our school website has information to guide you there also.

MEDICATION

If your child requires use of an inhaler for asthma/chest problems, please ensure an up to date inhaler is deposited with the class teacher.

CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT

Our school has been involved with pupil continuous assessment this year again. Thank you to all parents who have engaged with their children and staff in helping to build improvement on areas needing additional support at home, particularly in this Covid time.

Prior to your Parent Interview call in February, you will receive an update on your child's ability so far this year in class. Please have this available on your interview call for discussion.

P7 PARENTS

As you are aware, the application to Post Primary Schools is also completed in a digital way again this year. You will be receiving some new information from us on Seesaw about this process.

All P7 teachers will be talking to you in February to guide and support your thinking for Year 8 and beyond.

Should you need any further help do not hesitate to get in touch with us. We are more than happy to help.

THANK YOU!

To all parents who have been so vigilant re: illness and the Omicron/COVID virus for us in school. Your cautious and proactive support and approach has really helped our return to school so far. Whilst a number of our families have been affected, the spread in our classes and school as a whole has been minimised. We do not take this for granted and we appreciate it very much.

SCHOOL NEEDS

We are still in need of your help in school for additional cleaning and classroom assistant duties should you have the time or experience relevant for these duties. Email me if interested: kmulligan818@c2kni.net

GOOGLE FORM

All parents have been issued with a Google Permission form on Seesaw.

Please complete this for us and return it to your child's class teacher by tomorrow – Friday 14th January.

Thank you.

HEALTHY MINDS PROJECT (P4)

The Government has funded DE to offer a programme in schools to pupils, free of charge. This project is all about building self-esteem and developing Happy Healthy Minds.

We are focusing on our P4 year group pupils to start this programme and we hope to develop it from there, as the funding permits.





BALLYCLARE PRIMARY SCHOOL LOVES TO READ!

Why is reading so important?

- It's a life skill that we all need!
- It helps to increase our understanding.
- It develops language and communication skills.
- Reading is fun- it fosters our imagination and creativity.
- It helps us learn more about our world.
- It allows us to escape.
- It helps us to relax- it is proven that as part of an evening ritual, reading promotes sleep.



How can YOU help your child with reading?

- Encourage your child to prioritise reading homework. It isn't just an add-on but the MOST important part.
- Make time to read with your child. Children love to hear our voices read to them and the bonding experience is beneficial for both us and them. Life is very busy but a few minutes at the end of a day can help to regulate moods and emotions as well as the development of reading skills.
- Talk to your child about books you loved as a child.
- Take your child to visit the town library. It's free as well as fun! To register you just need proof of address.



HOW CAN YOU HELP OUR BPS FAMILY WITH READING? (Tick as appropriate)

We would love it if some willing parents could support us in any of the following ways -

- Talk to your child's class about your favourite childhood book.
- Talk to a Key Stage assembly (or Miss Campbell and her camera 😊- this could be shown to our assemblies) about how reading has helped you with your job.
- Email us a recording/ video of you talking about your favourite book or how reading has helped you.
- Assist us with fundraisers where we may raise funds to purchase new reading resources.

In a digital age where so often adults and children alike are neglecting the pleasure of reading and opting for a screen instead, let's get back to recapturing and celebrating the joy of books and stories!

We believe we will all enjoy it and that our Literacy levels overall will improve as a result.

Child's Name: _____ Class: _____

Signed: _____ Parent/Guardian

Reading sparks our imagination

I met a dragon face to face
the year when I was ten,
I took a trip to outer space,
I braved a pirate's den,
I wrestled with a wicked troll,
and fought a great white shark,
I trailed a rabbit down a hole,
I hunted for a snark.

I love reading
because it creates
pictures in my
head to imagine
what's happening.



I stowed aboard a submarine,
I opened magic doors,
I travelled in a time machine,
and searched for dinosaurs,
I climbed atop a giant's head,
I found a pot of gold,
I did all this in books I read
When I was ten years old.

I love reading
because it
helps me
to escape
from real life.



By: Jack Prelutsky

I love reading because it helps
me picture myself as a
character and dream
about life as them.

