

PARENTS' NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2022

With our new Autumn term well under way I wanted to inform you of the following events: -

THANK YOU

All of the staff at Ballysillan want to thank our parents and carers for such a fantastic and smooth start back to the year. The success is due to the support our parents and family members have given staff and we greatly appreciate this.

WEBSITE

We will be uploading our monthly news, parents' letters and updates each month to our school website.

www.ballysillanpsnursery.com

HOMEWORK

Homework is being completed online via our current platforms; Purple Mash, the school website, Doodle Maths and Doodle Tables, Nessy and the Seesaw app.



BREAKFAST CLUB

Breakfast Club provides children with a hot nourishing start to the morning. We are delighted to have the ability to offer Breakfast Club to all pupils. The club takes place in the dining hall from 8.10am – 8.30am. The cost is £1 per day or **£5** per week payable on Monday mornings.



SCHOOL MILK AND FUNDS

Milk £3, School Funds £3 or £5 per family. Many thanks for the prompt payment of all monies to date. November's payments will be due by Friday 21st October. **Milk which is not ordered for by this date cannot be ordered after Halloween.**

DINNERS

The dinner menu, which is sent out via Seesaw. This runs on a four-week cycle.



Harvest Service

Wednesday 26th October 2022. We are inviting parents and carers to join us in the celebration of Harvest this year. We are very excited to welcome everyone back to school for our first live performance in 3 years! The service will begin at 10am and it will be a whole school celebration.

CURRICULUM MEETINGS

Key Stage curriculum meetings are happening on October 7th in the school hall. We are encouraging all parents to attend. You have the opportunity to hear about the curriculum, meet your child's teacher and become familiar with important learning opportunities. Teachers will also be covering how you can educate and help your child at home. Each meeting will be 30-45mins long.

- KS1: 2.15pm
- KS2: 3.15pm

PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Our parent/teacher interviews will be face to face this year. Please be aware you will still be given a 10 - minute slot on a particular date in October (Mon 24th Oct - Thurs 27th Oct). Your appointment time will be sent via Seesaw so please keep checking for updates. There will be a **1pm** finish time for P1 - P7 from **Monday to Thursday** to facilitate these interviews. **Friday 28th October** is a party day. This will be a **11:45am** finish for **P4 - P7** and **12pm** finish for **P1 - P3**. Please see Nursery Newsletter for separate arrangements.

P3 SHARED EDUCATION

This month P3 will be meeting with Sacred Heart on the dates below. Please find more information via Mr Kailanathan on Seesaw.

3th October: Sacred Heart

10th October: Ballysillan Primary

17th October: Sacred Heart

24th October: Ballysillan Primary

ECO CLUB FILMING

We have been learning many new skills through our Polytunnel and outdoor learning resources. Through The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) we have received TCV Hero Award: **'Skills and Learning Hero of The Year 2022'** award and will be featuring in a film, giving an insight to what happens each week at Eco Club. This video will be published across our wider community and on the TCV website <https://www.tcv.org.uk/heroes/>. We are delighted to have won this award and are super proud of how much our children have learnt.

Eco Club are very thankful for our TCV who provide BPS with the opportunities to learn about their natural environment.

P1 TRIP TO W5 - JOURNEY TO THE LOST PLANET WORKSHOP

Through our Shared Education Programme, Primary 1 will be going to W5 to partake in the Lost Planet workshop on the 20th October 2022. This is a multi-sensory activity zone where dinosaurs orbit space and exploration is everything. Our children will discover fun facts about the universe all through play.

PRIMARY 7 TRIP

Primary 7 Shared Education Trip is on the 13th October 2022. We are very lucky to be going to W5 with our friends from Sacred Heart PS. While there, we will be participating in a 'Fizz, Bang, Pop' workshop. Keep your eyes peeled for the pictures on Facebook!

BUDDY UP PROGRAMME

The Primary 7 class has been very lucky to be chosen to participate in the 'Buddy Up'

programme. This is carried out with our partner school, Sacred Heart Boys. We hope to start in the coming weeks. There will be more details to follow.

RISE FOR P2

Attention and Listening delivered by Angie from RISE NI. P2 will be continuing their 6-week attention and listening programme. The children will learn strategies that they can use in class when they are going 'too slow' or 'too fast'. These strategies help warm up our brains and bodies so that we can be super learners!

HEALTHY EATING

P2 will be continuing their workshop facilitated by Supporting Families in North Belfast (SFNB) which aims at educating children about the importance of healthy eating.

WORLD SPACE WEEK

As part of World Space Week P6 will be taking part in an online coding zoom on the 7th of October. We will be using Scratch Junior to create their very own space Frogger style game, learning core Computational thinking skills.

ACTION MENTAL HEALTH - BETTER TOGETHER PROGRAMME

P6 will have various workshops as part of the Better Together programme in October. This programme will aim to develop skills and confidence to improve well-being within their communities as well as building peace for future generations. This programme will run from the 11th - 27th of October on a weekly basis.

NM SPORTS

All classes are very lucky and now have professional coaches from NM sports taking us for our PE lessons on a Monday afternoon. This is a six-week programme from September 26th until October 24th and every week the coaches will pick a player of the week. Keep an eye out on Facebook to see the coaches put us through our paces.

BOYS' MODEL FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

The annual Boys Model P6 football tournament will be taking place in October of this month. Ballysillan have been asked to select 11 students to represent our school on the 18th of October. It is the first the tournament has been able to take place since the pandemic. The students will be picked up at 9.30am and returned to school for 1.30pm.

TAMHI

Tackling Awareness of Mental Health Issues are back in Ballysillan and are providing P5 & P6 with a number of fantastic workshops with the aim of building up our mental resilience. Through a number of games such as netball and tag students will not only learn to cope with their emotions but have fun doing so. The next two sessions will be on the 5th and 12th of October. Keep an eye out to see what they get up to.

HALLOWEEN PARTIES



On **Friday 28nd October** we will be having a fun day with Halloween Parties in class. This will be a fancy dress/non-uniform day. Please note that any inappropriate costumes/masks are not permitted e.g. over 18 film characters or Huggie Wuggy costumes. Each class will be provided with drinks and parents can send their child with their own snacks. This will be a **11:45am** finish for **P4-7** and **12pm** finish for **P1-7**.

***Please note there are no lunches/ dinners OR Breakfast Club/After School Stars on Friday 28th October.**

AFTER SCHOOL STARS

We are delighted that we can run our After School Stars! This is open from **Monday-**

Thursday from 1-4pm and Friday from 1-3pm. If you are interested in sending your child to this, please contact the school office for more details. In September we have had a very low intake for our After School Stars. For this provision to continue we need to increase our numbers.

AQE

AQE club is well under way and we greatly appreciate all of the support our parents have given Mrs Chambers. AQE will continue on a Tuesday (8:15-8:50am), Wednesday (3pm-3.45pm), Thursday (2-3pm) and a Friday (8:15am-8:50am). If you would like to ask Mrs Chambers any questions on your individual child (or to discuss test scores) please send her a message via Seesaw.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

For those who have not yet applied for Free School Meals, it is **ESSENTIAL** you apply **online** as soon as possible. To apply go to - <https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants>



FREE SCHOOL MEALS AND UNIFORM GRANTS

- If you have not applied please do so as soon as possible
- It can take up to four weeks for an application to be processed
- If you have not received an email confirming your application please check your junk mail
- For more information please visit: www.eani.org.uk/fsm