

February 2023 Newsletter



Dear Parent/Guardian,

This week marks the start of February but obviously not the end of our winter weather. To ensure the Health and Safety of our children I would be grateful if the following precautions are adhered to: -

- ❖ On icy/frosty/snowy days please use the appropriate pathways around the school.
- ❖ All children need to be sent to school with the appropriate outdoor clothing for this time of year. Coats, hats, scarves, gloves and proper footwear are essential because children are encouraged to play outdoors on dry days.
- ❖ Car access to the school is **not permitted**.
- ❖ **DO NOT PARK** in front of the gates.
- ❖ On very snowy days it is advisable to check the school Facebook page and Seesaw.
- ❖ Alternatively, if in doubt, phone the school and we'll be happy to keep you informed of any unexpected closures, Tel: 02890 391668.
- ❖ Unfortunately, not all closures can be predicted e.g. the failure of the heating boiler, when consequently the indoor temperature of the school can be a health risk to young children. In these unforeseen circumstances, the school endeavours to make the best decision for everyone concerned and regrettably whilst this may cause some inconvenience, we try to act in the best interest of the children. Thank you for your understanding and support on these rare occasions.

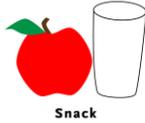


School Reports

Teachers are currently working on the pupil reports. Reports will be issued via Seesaw, along with IEPs, on Friday 10th February before 2pm.

After School Clubs

After School Clubs for P4 - P7 are taken voluntarily by our teachers. Choir finishes on Thursday 2nd February 2022 to make time for the KS2 Spring Musical rehearsals. Mini Make and Bake continues for our P2 group. On Tuesday 28th February, this will swap to group 3 (P3).



School Funds and Milk Money

February payments are due by **Friday 3rd February 2023**.

P7 Transition to Secondary School

Just a reminder that all details regarding P7 Transition have been provided in a detailed note and sent to all P7 parents. Applications to Secondary School are now completed online. The portal opens on 1st February at 12 noon and closes on 23rd February at 4pm. Please check the EA website which guides you through this process - <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/applying-for-a-school-place>



Half Term

School will finish for half term on **Friday 10th February at 12noon**. All children will be dismissed at 12noon. School will be closed from **Monday 13th** until **Friday 17th February** for Half Term. All children should return to school on Monday 20th February.

Strike Action

We are aware that the media are highlighting that all Teaching Unions are voting to strike on Tuesday 21st February which could significantly impact the capacity to open school to children. We are currently waiting for EA guidance with regards to how we move forward.

Dog's Trust Workshop

On Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st February, all classes are participating in a workshop regarding safety with dogs.

Shared Education with Sacred Heart P.S to Greenleaf Forest

Several classes are going to Greenleaf Forest with Sacred Heart P.S where they will be completing lots of exciting activities in their forest school! Please see individual class notes for dates.

P4/5 - Trip to the Linen Museum

On the 6th February 2022, P4/5 will be going to the Irish Linen Museum to do the 'Flax to Fabric Tour' and we will attend a workshop on Ancient Egypt where we will have the opportunity to explore some linen from Tutankhamun's tomb and we will be making some Egyptian themed crafts!

Whole school friendship Photobooth - Friday 10th February

Across the whole school, the children have been learning about friendships and to celebrate our learning, we will be coming together for a friendship photobooth in school!

The children will buddy up with another class and work together for this activity. This will be a nice ending to Children's Mental Health Week!

P3/4 Shared Education

P3/4 are starting our Shared Education programme with our partnering school Sacred Heart Primary School. Upcoming dates are as follows:

Monday 6th February BPS will go to SHPS, a packed lunch is needed (packed lunch will be provided for those who are entitled to free school meals).

Monday 20th SHPS will be coming to visit BPS.

Monday 27th BPS will go to SHPS, a packed lunch is needed.

Then we have our Shared Education trip on Wednesday 22nd February to Green Leaf Forest School, more details to follow.

Little Healthy Me

P1 will be partaking in an Action Mental Health programme 'Little Healthy Me' during the month of February. This is a vibrant and engaging trauma informed, mental health promotion programme aimed at children which explores emotional/mental health, healthy lifestyle choices and pathways to effective support through imaginative and interactive play and song.

Action Mental Health - Parent / Guardian Workshop

Action Mental Health will be facilitating a parent workshop on **Friday 10th February** (9am-10.30am). Open to all parents/guardians - no need to book, just come to Reception. This workshop will be about maintaining your own positive mental health. Remember you cannot look after others without looking after yourself.

P7 Transition Programmes

P7 are continuing their Transition Programme and will be attending The Boys' Model on numerous dates throughout February for Media and Home Economics.

P7 TAMHI

P7 are lucky enough to be involved in these amazing mental health workshops where they learn coping mechanisms for their transition to secondary school. These 'Mindful Play' workshops are: Wednesday 1st February, Wednesday 8th February and Wednesday 22nd February.

P7 Buddy Up Programme

P7 are continuing with this programme. They will be meeting up with partner school (Sacred Heart P.S) and their 'buddies' at the end of February.

P7 Flip your Lid

There are two more weeks left of this workshop. The P7s are enjoying learning how to deal with their emotions.

P7 Hoodies

Leavers' Hoodies will be ordered when all deposits have been paid. Please send the deposit of £5 to Mrs Chambers.

P7 Residential

Please return your permission slip and deposit of £40 to Mrs Chambers by the 3rd February. The balance needs paid by 23rd March.

Reminder - deposits are non-refundable.



P5-7 Swimming Lessons

Swimming lesson continue into February. Please provide £3 (correct change only) each Tuesday morning.

World Safer Internet Day 7th February 2023

Safer Internet Day 2023 will be celebrated on 7th February with the theme 'Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online.' Throughout the week beginning 6th February your child will be completing activities within their classroom to strengthen their knowledge around using the internet and how to use it safely. Why don't you ask your child at home what they have learned at the end of the week? You can also keep an eye out for class activities on our Facebook page and the Seesaw announcements for parent information regarding keeping our children safe on the internet.

Chinese New Year

Classes will be participating in individual Chinese New Year celebrations as part of the 'The World Around Us' curriculum. 2023 is a Year of the Rabbit according to the Chinese zodiac, starting from 23rd January 2023, and lasting until 6th February. On Thursday 2nd February P3/4 - P7 will be sampling some Chinese cuisine!

Notice of Absence

If your child is absent from school, please ensure you either contact the class teacher or telephone to inform us of the reason. The school has to code all periods of absence and it is necessary to apply the correct reason e.g. illness, covid19, medical appointment. If after a week no reason has been received it may be necessary for the school to telephone parents/guardians directly. If you wish to take an agreed family holiday during term time, it is essential, you inform the office / Principal.

Thriving Families Workshops

We are very excited to roll out our "Ballysillan PS Thriving Families" programme whereby every child in the school is going to be 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's workshop.

Thriving Families Workshop

P3/4

In Primary 3/4 we will be hosting our "Thriving Families" hour on Wednesday 1st February between 1.15pm-2.15pm. All children will be dismissed at 2pm once the activities are finished. Our theme is "Close Connections". During this hour you will be participating in fun nurturing activities. These will range from board games, hot chocolate, pizza massage and reading. 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.

P3

In Primary 3 we will be hosting our "Thriving Families" hour on Wednesday 8th February between 1.15pm-2.15pm. Our theme is "Love is in the Air". During this hour you will be participating in Valentine's crafts. 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.

Welcome Team

We aim to have a member of staff out every day from Monday to Friday welcoming our children and parents at the gates of the school accompanied by our Kindness Ambassadors each Friday only. We feel this provides the children with a warm welcome and can encourage enthusiasm and positivity.

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



Ballysillan Primary School and Nursery