

February 2024 Newsletter



Dear Parent/Guardian,



School Reports

Teachers are currently working on the pupil reports. Reports will be issued via Seesaw on Friday 9th February after 1pm. If you would like to book to speak to your class teacher regarding your child's report please do so via the Seesaw app.

After School Clubs

- Please contact Burns Afterschool Club via their website to book into one of their fabulous afterschool activities; www.burnsskillsschool.co.uk
- Monday football club will recommence Monday 26th February.
- Aspire Homework club will recommence Tuesday 27th February.
- Scripture Union club will recommence Thursday 29th February



School Funds and Milk Money

February payments are due by **Thursday 1st February 2024**. Please can parents pay via our new School Comms App.

Dinners

We want to firstly thank all our parents for getting on board with our new School Comms App. Please ensure to book your child's dinner via our School Comms App. You can block book your dinners ahead of time.

Please be aware that all dinners need ordered midnight the night before. If your child is absent or you have any issues regarding your dinners, please message the App to speak to the school secretary. You can also cancel the dinner yourself. Either way your account will be credited the money. However, if you do not cancel or do not message the app to let us know the same day we cannot credit your account.

P7 Transition to Secondary School

Just a reminder that all details regarding P7 Transition have been provided in a detailed Seesaw to all P7 parents. Applications to Secondary School are now completed online. The

portal opens on 30th January at 12 noon and closes on 22nd February at 12noon. Parents will be informed on the 18th May via email or letter. 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 9th February at 12noon**. All children will be dismissed at 12noon. School will be closed from **Monday 12th** until **Friday 16th February** for Half Term. All children should return to school on Monday 19th February. Breakfast club will still happen on Friday 9th February.

Dog's Trust Workshop

All classes are participating in a workshop regarding safety with dogs this term. Dates to follow.

P7 TAMHI

Primary 7 have been selected again to take part in the TAMHI Mind-Full Play P7 Leadership programme. This programme consists of practical games aimed at Mental Health. The children will be taught these games and then will pass on what they have learnt by teaching it to the Primary 4/5 children. This programme will run for 5 weeks.

Aware NI-Mindfulness

P5/6 and P7 will be participating in 6 sessions with Aware NI to focus upon developing their mindfulness skills.

Healthy Me

P7 will be partaking in an Action Mental Health programme '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.

P1 Health Appraisals

These will take place in school on Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th February. Please ensure to return your form to Miss McWhirter. If your form is not returned your child will not receive their appraisal.

P7 Residential

Please pay your residential deposit via our School Comms App. You will also provide your consent via this method. Mrs Chambers will be in touch with P7 parents regarding the details of this year's residential.

Reminder - deposits are non-refundable.

P5-7 Swimming Lessons



Swimming lesson continue into February. Please pay £3 via our School Comms App

Safer Internet Day 2024

As part of this KS1 and Foundation Stage will be completing lessons in class aimed to improve their understanding of staying safe online.

The aim is to teach the children:

1. How to create a safe space online.
2. How the internet and technology can change peoples feelings.
3. How to get help from a trusted adult.

KS2 will also be taking part as they join hundreds of other schools in the BBC digital lesson on Safer Internet Day.

The aim of lesson is to:

1. Know the importance of keeping personal information private.
2. Understand the impact of positive and negative content online on mental and physical wellbeing.
3. Identify a range of ways to report concerns about content and contact.
4. Be aware of how to keep themselves safe and secure.
5. Use digital technologies to search, access and retrieve information and be aware that not all this information will be credible.
6. Identify and assess risks and take steps to reduce them.
7. Know how to ask for help when they need it from people they trust.
8. Explain the importance of accurate and reliable data to ensure a desired outcome.

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 or 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

In **Primary 3 we will be hosting our "Thriving Families" on Wednesday 7th February between 1.15pm-2pm.** Our theme is "Love is in the Air". During this time 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.

P4/5

In **Primary 4/5 we will be hosting our "Thriving Families" on Wednesday 28th February between 2pm-3pm.** Our theme is "Big Ballysillan Quiz". During this hour the children will be serving their family member refreshments and then everyone will participate in a big quiz game. Please come at 1.55pm 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