

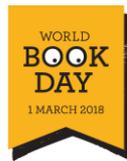


# March 2024 Parents' Newsletter

Welcome, Spring!

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 gritted pathways around the school.
- ❖ All children need to be sent to school with the appropriate outdoor clothing for this time of year. Coats, hats, scarfs, gloves and proper footwear (plus change of shoes) are essential because children are encouraged to play outdoors on dry days.
- ❖ On very snowy days it is advisable to check any planned closures, or our Facebook page (search Ballysillan Primary School and Nursery) and Seesaw.



## World Book Day

World Book Day is almost here again! We are celebrating it on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2024**. It's going to be another page turner.

The Big Outdoor Learning Week - 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> March

We are linking World Book Day and Outdoor Learning together by creating a week full of fun filled activities. Each class will work with a partner class from a different Key Stage and explore a story through the outdoors. Stay tuned for updates on our socials!!

The World Book Day website ([www.worldbookday.com](http://www.worldbookday.com)) is a great website with loads of ideas, live readings, author interviews and resources.



## Book Fair

Our annual Book Fair takes place the week beginning **11<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March**. Children will be taken to the book fair when it arrives by their class teacher. Children will then be able to purchase books and stationery at lunchtime (every day) or after school from 2pm - 2.15pm (Primary 1-3) and 3pm - 3.15pm (Primary 4-7). There will be separate arrangements for Nursery.

There are also book tokens available (one per child) which will be given to the children when they buy a book. This entitles the children to £1 off.

## **P1 Trip to Young At Art**

**Date:** Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March

**Time:** 12:15 pm

**Show:** BULLYBULLY

**Venue:** The Lyric Theatre, Naughton

**Duration:** 40 mins

### **Show Info:**

What do a toddler and the average world leader have in common? Do some presidents throw fits in the middle of a supermarket? Or scream furiously until they get their own way?

In BullyBully, two world leaders meet in no man's land. What follows is an awkward encounter between two childish but powerful adults who gradually get used to each other and learn to meet in the middle.

This is a madcap musical about childish grown-up men, featuring two performers, songs, funny quarrels, a bit of bickering and eventually, a happy ending.

## **P5/6 Trip to Young At Art**

P5/6 are heading on a trip courtesy of Young at Art. We will be heading to the Crescent Art Centre to watch 'A call to Mind' as part of the Creative Arts Festival 2024. *Call to mind explores themes of memory, perspective, and the past's influence on the present through interpretive dance and sound.*

## **P5/6 Aware NI - Paws B Programme**

P5/6 Will be completing their 6-part workshop with Paws B. We have our last two Mindfulness workshops after which we will have mastered our minds and receive certificates to prove it.

## **School Closure Days**



School will be closed on **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March** for St Patrick's day as a school holiday.

## **Nursery Enrolment 2024/25**

Letters advising parents/guardians of acceptance for Ballysillan Nursery will be posted on **25<sup>th</sup> April 2024**.

## **Primary One Enrolment 2024/25**

Letters advising parents/guardians of acceptance to Ballysillan Primary will be posted on **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024**.

We look forward to welcoming these pupils next year.

## Punctuality



The school day starts at 8:55am and all pupils need to be in line at 8:50am to ensure they are ready to go into school on time. Starting late means that they are missing valuable learning time.

## Sickness

Please note that if your child has vomiting, diarrhoea or running a temperature they must be kept off 48 hours after the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting. This will help stop the spread of infection/sickness throughout the school.

It is extremely important that you inform the class teacher via Seesaw if your child will not be in school, the reasons for this absence or if your child needs out for a medical appointment.

## Thriving Families Parent Workshops

P1: Please look out on Seesaw for details regarding P1's Thriving Families workshop. This will be held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March between 1pm and 2pm. P1's theme is "The Garden".

P2: Please look out on Seesaw for details regarding P2's Thriving Families workshop. This will be held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March between 1pm and 2pm. P2's theme is "Easter Extravaganza"

## Homework

Just to make parents aware that homework is compulsory. Working in partnership between home and school is essential. Teachers can introduce and implement key concepts within the curriculum, but it is the parent's job to reinforce this at home. Working collaboratively between school and home is what will ensure educational success for your child. Teachers also work hard to put together the homework for your child and spend a lot of time ensuring that the resources are sent home for you to reinforce the learning.

## Uniform

Just a reminder that uniform is also compulsory every day. Please ensure to send your child in full school uniform. PE days are the only exception unless it is a party day and it has been stated to wear ordinary clothes. We are encouraging parents to also purchase the PE uniform for PE days. You can buy our uniforms at Sewing Solutions.



## P7 Residential

A residential has been arranged for the Primary 7 children from **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April to Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May** to Ardaluin run by Belfast Activity Centre. They will leave school on the Monday morning and return on the Wednesday morning - more details to follow. There will be a

full programme of activities for the three days. If you are interested, please return your permission note, if not already done and balance by **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024**.

## **Foundation Stage/KS1 Easter Service**

Nursery - Primary 3 - Easter Service - Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 10am.

Come and join children from Nursery to Primary 3 as they celebrate Easter through prayer, story and song. Everyone welcome!



## **Easter Fun Day**

On **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March** we will be having an Easter fun day. This is a non-uniform day and children can bring in a few treats/sweets for their class party and their usual water bottle. There are no dinners on this day. Breakfast Club will run on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

**ALL CHILDREN WILL BE DISMISSED AT 12PM - PROMPT PICK UP PLEASE.**

## **Easter Egg Competition**

We are running an Easter Egg colouring competition to raise money for the school. Each child will be given a blank template of an Easter egg. Please be as creative as possible and return your child's colouring sheet by Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March. This competition will cost £1 per child payable via the School Comms app. Please do not send cash. Winners will be announced on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. There will be one winner per class and the prize is a chocolate Easter egg.

## **Spring Musical P4-P7**

We are very excited about our Spring Musical this year- The Lion King. The musical will be performed on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March during the day and the evening. Day time will be at 10.30am-11.30am and parents can pay £2 at the door. The big performance in the evening will be from 5.30pm-6.30pm and tickets will go on sale 9am on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March via our School Comms App. Once parents pay their money on the app we will send home tickets with their child. The App lists the order of payment so staff will configure seating based on a first come first served basis.

Please look out on Seesaw for play logistics regarding timings and arrangements. To support the school, we are also sending home amazon links and costume requests for children who are acting on stage. We greatly appreciate your financial help and support.



**VIP SEATING - IN IT TO WIN IT!**



This year we are launching our VIP seating for the play. This will involve parents getting front row seats, comfy sofa seating with golden cushions, shloer in prosecco glasses, unlimited top ups with table service, popcorn and snacks. This is a big treat for parents to sit back, relax and enjoy the show. A photo will go on Facebook today to show parents the wonderful set up!

To enter this fabulous competition please buy a raffle ticket priced at £2 per entry via our School Comms App. This will go live today and will close on Wednesday at 9am before tickets go on sale.

