

PARENTS' NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2023



Some November information and updates for your calendar.

All outstanding Milk Money (£3 per child) and School Funds (£3.5 each or £6 per family) must be paid by Friday 10th November.

RE-OPENING LOGISTICS

We are very excited to be getting a brand new PE sports floor in our hall. We will also be getting new blinds and curtains. There will be no Breakfast Club Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th of November due to the hall being renovated. Breakfast club will return as normal on Wednesday 8th November. Dinners will be a grab and go on both dates. If you have not placed your order (by Monday 23rd October) please can you send your child with a lunch. Dinners will return to normal on Wednesday 8th November.

OPEN DAY AND EVENING

This year's School Open Day/Evening (Primary and Nursery) will be held on Tuesday 28th November 9.15am – 11.15am and 5.30pm – 6.30pm. Please take this opportunity to view the school, feel the friendly atmosphere and get an insight into your child's learning. Look out for the open day leaflets, all parents welcome! There are special arrangements in place for our Nursery children-please look out on Nursery News for these details.

EXHIBITION AFTERNOON

For the first year we are opening our school and classrooms (P2-P7) at pick up time to all our current pupils and parents on Tuesday 28th November.

Nursery-P1: Closed as preparing for Open Evening

P2-P3: 2pm-2.30pm

P4-P7: 3pm-3.30pm

During this time your child is your host! They will collect you (or any relative) at their normal dismissal door and bring you to their classroom to give you a tour. Your child can also give you a tour of the whole school and you can see any areas you wish e.g. the library, outdoor classroom, the "outreach rooms", ICT suite, hall or music room! We know how excited the children will be to get to "show off" their school to their loved ones.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

The Poppy box will be offered to each class this week and next week. Please bring money in a sealed envelope clearly stating it is for poppies. The cost of donations for merchandise varies from 50p to £1.50.

NOTICE OF ABSENCE

If your child is absent from school, please ensure you either message the class teacher via Seesaw or telephone to inform us of the reason. The **secretary's working hours** are from **8:45am-2pm** so please be aware that the phones are not always manned outside these hours.

The school has to code all periods of absence and it is necessary to apply the correct

reason e.g. illness or appointment. If after a week no reason has been received, it may be necessary for the school to telephone parents/guardians directly.

BELFAST COFFEE TRUCK

Belfast Coffee Truck will be back to serve us delicious hot drinks and tray bakes on Wednesday 29th November. Enjoy an early morning treat!

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2023

As we do every year, we will celebrate Anti-Bullying Week at Ballysillan P.S. Anti-Bullying Week aims to raise awareness of bullying and highlight ways of prevention. This year it will be celebrated the week of Monday 13th – Friday 17th November and the theme will be '**Make a Noise**'. During the week, all pupils will be completing fun, educational tasks.

On **Monday 13th November**, we would like all pupils to wear ODD SOCKS to school to highlight the importance of being unique. We will also celebrate WORLD KINDNESS DAY so watch out for our brilliant Ballysillan pupils sprinkling kindness wherever they go!

P7 SEAG TESTS

Good luck to all P7 pupils sitting tests throughout November and December. The children have been working extremely hard and we are proud of all they have achieved so far! All the best to;

Ethan Currie
Christian Kirk
Autumn Moreland
Noah Millar
Sophie Ward
Madison Montgomery
Arya Carslile
Emily Gamble
Oscar Usher

CLUBS RETURN DATES

Aspire Homework Club (selected KS2 children): Tuesday 14th November

Blue Houses Football: Monday 13th November

Scripture Union: Thursday 9th November

MR Sports: Please look out for new leaflet on Seesaw

Internal Clubs: Our school "Friday Clubs" will restart Friday 10th November.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Our Christmas Fair is Wednesday 6th December. The fair will start at 5.30pm and finish at 7.30pm. This is a fantastic event we hope that all our families will avail of. We will be having Santa's Grotto, toys for sale, Colouring and Arts table, delicious food for sale and lots more! If you are interested in having a stall at our Christmas Fair please email info@ballysillan.belfast.ni.sch.uk. There will be a charge of £15.

KS1 AND KS2 NSPCC SPEAK OUT, STAY SAFE VIRTUAL ASSEMBLIES

The week beginning 13th November, P3-P7 will be participating in Virtual Assemblies facilitated by NSPCC. This is a safeguarding programme for pupils which helps children to understand that they always have a right to feel safe, and that they can speak to a safe adult or Childline if they ever need help or support. Parental letters will be sent out by Mrs Davidson the week beginning 6th November 2023.

P4/5 MY MIND AND ME WORKSHOP

Aware NI will be facilitating a mental health awareness workshop to the P4/5 class on the 9th November, teaching the children about the five ways to wellbeing, developing their language and understanding of feelings and thoughts and signposting where they can go and with whom they can speak to when issues arise.

SPACE CONFERENCE

P5/6 will be taking part in a space conference at the Waterfront Hall on the 22nd of November. We will be attending this conference to explore the wonders of the universe with many schools from across Northern Ireland.

BOYS' MODEL P.E

Primary 7 will be having the Belfast Boys' Model School P.E teachers in to facilitate some gymnastics workshops from Wednesday 22nd November to Wednesday 13th December 2023. These will take place in school. ALL children must wear their PE kits and bring water.

FLU VACCINES

Flu vaccinations will be taking place on Monday 20th November for all children. Please ensure you have returned your form before Halloween or your child/ren will not be able to receive this.

SUSTRANS OUTDOOR LESSONS

We are delighted to have Beverley from Sustrans join us again on Tuesday 14th November. We are looking forward to learning a range of new skills including compass work, following directions and mini

orienteeing around the grounds of Ballysillan Primary School.

OUTDOOR LEARNING-FOREST SCHOOL TRAINING LEVEL 3

As part of our Outdoor Learning focus, Miss McWhirter and Miss Mercer are delighted to be involved in a Forest School Level 3 training. This training will be delivered by the Northern Ireland Forest School Association and the Dufferin Foundation as part of the "Learning Without Walls" initiative within school grounds. Forest School is an exciting and innovative educational experience that has been shown to be hugely beneficial to all those taking part. Pupils from P1 and P3 will take part in Forest School training in November as part of the qualification award. Miss McWhirter will give P1 and P3 more information prior to the events.

INTO FILM FESTIVAL

All classes will be partaking in the Into Film Festival, helping bring learning to life for 5-19 year olds by inspiring young people to watch, understand and make film in new and creative ways. This festival enables all children the opportunity to view a free cinema screening. Please complete your permission form when it is sent and this trip will cost £5. Lunches and times are normal.
P1-P3

Where: Movie House Cinema Cityside

When: 24th November

Screening: Minions – The Rise of the Gru

More details to follow by class teacher
P4-P4/5

Where: Movie House Cinema Cityside

When: 25th November

Screening: Chicken Run

P5/6-P7

Where: Yorkgate

When: 23rd November

Screening: Super Mario Brothers

NURSERY, P1 AND P7 PHOTOS

Dandelion Studio are delighted to be visiting Ballysillan Primary School on 15th November 2023.

All parents (Nursery, P1 and P7 ONLY) who would like their child/rens photographs taken MUST pre-register by using the link below by 12th November by 23:59

No registrations/permissions will be accepted after this date so it is very important to register if you wish for photos to be taken.

To pre-register for your child's photos:

please go to: dandelion.gotphoto.co.uk
enter access code: BAL1511

Then just follow the simple steps to complete registration.

Once the photos are available for sale via the online shop you will receive a notification by email or text. You will then be able to shop online for printed packs, gifts and digital files.

