

## JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER



Just a reminder that all newsletters, dinner menus and information will be put on our website and uploaded onto the Seesaw app. Please find our website address below.

<https://www.ballysillanpsnursery.com/>

### **School Gateway App**

Just a reminder that our January bookings are now OPEN and all parents need to book their children's Breakfast Club and dinners for the month of January. This applies to free and paid dinners. For the dinners you can book daily but this must be done midnight the day before. Breakfast Club can be booked up until 8am in the morning. If you click on "useful links" in the app it will also bring you to our dinner menus. If you pay for a dinner and your child is sick, please message school or the app and let us know and we can simply reimburse your account on that day.

Dinners start the first day back to school-Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

Breakfast Club restarts Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

### **Enrolment**

This is the time of year when parents/carers need to consider and plan for the enrolment of Primary One and Nursery children. Applications for Nursery and P1 open on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 12 noon. These applications will close on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January at 12noon.

**Please note, the EA online portal will not be accessible after this time.**

Please ensure you read our criteria correctly and ensure you complete all sections of the online form. REMINDER - All birth certificates for P1 and Nursery are uploaded onto the portal along with any other supporting documents.

Please see our "Help Sheet" at the bottom of the Newsletter which provides key steps and contact numbers.

### **Help to Apply**

We will be opening our ICT Room to all parents who would like help to apply for Primary 1 and Nursery. This will be on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January from 1.30pm-2.30pm. You do not need to book, please just come to the main reception doors.

## After-School Clubs

All after-school clubs will recommence week beginning Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January.

Football with Pete - Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January

Aspire Homework Club - Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January

Scripture Union - Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January

## Burns Skills School

Just a reminder to parents that Burns Skills School are offering four after-school clubs from Tues. - Fri. every week. These clubs are led by qualified coaches and specialists. Look out on Facebook for any updates and promotional videos.

[www.burnskillsschool.co.uk](http://www.burnskillsschool.co.uk)

Tues. - Musical Theatre

Weds. - Hip Hop

Thurs. - Gymnastics

Fri. - Tag Rugby



## Milk Money

Reminder - £3 per child. January milk money needs to be paid A.S.A.P. This is paid in cash to the teacher or office. We are hoping to move our milk money to the app but this is not possible at the moment.

## National Story Telling Week

Throughout all our history and across every culture, people have told each other stories for a variety of reasons - to inspire others, to share important morals and lessons or simply to pass the time. National Storytelling Week is a yearly event run by the Society for Storytelling that celebrates the tradition of storytelling and aims to inspire a whole new generation of storytellers.

Finding the time to read with children can often be difficult, but National Storytelling Week provides a wonderful opportunity for you to highlight the importance of reading and storytelling.

No matter whether they're keen readers or they're a bit more reluctant, there's no better time to get everyone together and appreciate the magic of a great story. This coincides nicely with the start of a new year, so why not take the chance to encourage pupils to build a positive new habit and make reading a part of their daily routine?



## January Tests

Class tests/assessment work for P1 - P7 will take place this month - full attendance is necessary. Reports will be given out on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Parents will have the full half term holidays to digest any

information. If you have any concerns about your child's report then you can send a message to your child's class teacher via the Seesaw App, to make an appointment the week commencing 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024.



## Winter Warning

As the winter months are still ahead and temperatures could drop, the school is taking all necessary precautions to ensure pathways and the car park are gritted whenever possible. Great caution should still be taken to avoid falls or injuries. The grit/salt used to safeguard you and your children is costed through the school budget and therefore must remain on school premises to ensure adequate supplies throughout the winter months.



## Sensible Clothing

All pupils must be sent to school with appropriate winter/outdoor clothing e.g. warm waterproof coat, hat, scarf, gloves, non-slip winter footwear/boots, tracksuit bottoms etc. If necessary indoor shoes could be brought in to enable your child to change when they get to school or after playtime. We are really enhancing our Outdoor Learning and want all children in the right clothing so they can access their lessons comfortably in the colder weather.



## School Funds

May I thank those families who continue to support the school with their regular school fund contributions, much appreciated. This is paid in cash to the teacher or office. School Fund money is invaluable in many ways: -

- ✓ Helps fund our Healthy Break Policy
- ✓ Subsidises cost of transport for school trips
- ✓ Pays for many school based activities
- ✓ Helps cover the cost of School Clubs
- ✓ Goes towards covering the cost of prizes, badges, weekly certificates and yearly awards etc.

I would encourage you to support our School Fund (£3.50 per child, £6 per family or £35 / £60 paid for the year) as it greatly benefits all the children at school.

## P5/6 Mental Health Workshop

P5/6 will be taking part in a mental health workshop from "Aware" on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January.

The Aware workshop called 'Paws b' aims to give students Mindfulness as a life-skill and use it to help them:

feel happier, calmer and more fulfilled, get on better with others, to concentrate, cope with stress and anxiety and support performance, such as; music and sport.

### **NSPCC - Speak Out and Stay Safe**

P3, P6 and P7 will all be taking part in a workshop run by the NSPCC as part of the 'Speak out and Stay safe' initiative on the 17<sup>th</sup> January, following on from the virtual assembly last November.

### **P5/6 BEAM Workshop**

P5/6 will be taking part in an anti-social behaviour workshop run by BEAM on the 11<sup>th</sup> January. BEAM provide outreach educational-based workshops that focus on exploring life and social issues through art.

### **New Year New You**

As we start a new term and a new year, many of us like to begin with good habits and at Ballysillan P.S we are the same. This year we are setting a challenge to help get us started, especially while the weather is cold and often dark.

From the 8th to the 12th January 2024, we are running a 'New Year New You' week in school - as well as activities in school focusing on getting active/mental health and looking after the world around us. We are encouraging everyone - parents and carers as well - to take a healthy step

by walking, cycling or scooting to school during the week.

Remember, if you live further away from school, find a safe place to park then walk the last part of your journey. Alternatively, you can join us on our Walking Bus meeting at Clare Glen at 8.20am.

### **P4/5-7 Swimming Lessons**



Primary4/5 - Primary 7 swimming lessons will commence on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024.**

Swimming is a life skill and a compulsory part of the Key Stage Two curriculum; we are so pleased to be starting these lessons again.

Lessons will take place at Ballysillan Leisure Centre. Children will be walking to and from the Leisure centre and it is important that they have a warm waterproof coat with them.

The times will be as follows:

Primary4/5-10am

Primary 6 -10.30am

Primary 7 -11am

The lessons will take the place of one of their P.E lessons for the term. Children will need a swimming costume or swimming trunks (no bikinis or Bermuda shorts) a towel, goggles and a

swimming cap. The cost of the lessons will be £3.

**THIS WILL BE PAID FOR ON THE SCHOOL GATEWAY APP.**

If you have any queries or questions, please contact Mrs Chambers on [cchambers253@c2kni.net](mailto:cchambers253@c2kni.net) or the class teacher and we will answer any questions or queries.



**All Nursery and P1 applications are completed online! These applications open on the 9th January at 12 noon and will close on the 26th January at 12 noon.**

## **How to Apply to Nursery or Primary 1...**

- 1) Please go to <http://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions>
- 2) Select **Nursery** or **Primary**
- 3) Register to receive a username and password. (if you registered to apply for nursery-please use these details)
- 4) Login with username and password. (if you applied to Nursery last year it should be the same details)
- 5) Register your child's details.
- 6) Select your first choice of either Nursery or Primary School.
- 7) You must select and fill up all other choices (make sure they are in order of preference 1,2,3,4)
- 8) You must upload all supporting documentation-birth certificates and benefit forms.

**Supporting Email Addresses:** [preschooladmissions@eani.org.uk](mailto:preschooladmissions@eani.org.uk); [primaryadmissions@eani.org.uk](mailto:primaryadmissions@eani.org.uk);

**Contact Number:** 02895985595