

February 2020 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.
- ❖ Drive very slowly and safely into the school grounds and car park area. Car access to the playground area is **not permitted**.
- ❖ **DO NOT PARK** in front of playground as this prevents access for our School Meals transport.
- ❖ On very snowy days it is advisable to check the BBC News tweets on: BBC News NI: @bbcnewsni, or their BBC News NI Facebook page, regarding any planned closures, or our Facebook page (search Ballysillan Primary School and Nursery) or The Education Authority's website: **www.eani.org.uk**.
- ❖ 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

Please note reports will be sent home on Friday 7th February 2020.

Open Interview Arrangements

All parents, Nursery and P1-P7, if they want, will have the opportunity before Mid-Term to discuss their child's progress to date, on **Wednesday 12th February between 2-3.30pm**. These are drop-in interviews and operate on a first come first seen basis.

Any timetabled/scheduled interviews will take place on **Tuesday 11th February**. If you are allocated a place, please ensure you do your best to attend.

To accommodate these parent/teacher interviews school will operate the following closing times:

Nursery -> P3

Monday-normal finishing

Tuesday - Thursday: 1.30 pm

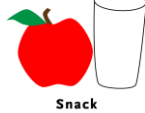
Friday: 12noon finish

P4 -> P7

Monday-normal finishing

Tuesday - Thursday: 2pm finish

Friday 14th: 12noon finish



School Funds and Milk Money

February payments are due by **Monday 3rd February 2020**.

School Website Info

We are aiming to now update our website every half term. Parents will be able to read a review of what has happened and what learning their children can look forward to. Please keep a look out and thank you for your patience with regards to this new development.

P7 Transfer Interviews

Please ensure that all forms are returned by **Monday, 3rd February 2019**. For any parent having difficulties completing the form the Principal will be available to give assistance, please contact the office to arrange a suitable time.

*Please note, Transfer Forms can be completed by Parents without an interview.

No Clubs

Due to Parent Interviews and the Half Term Holiday there will be **NO** clubs from **Monday 10th February to Friday 14th February 2020**. All clubs will resume week beginning 2nd March 2020.

Half Term

School will be closed on **Monday 17th** until **Friday 21st February** for Half Term. All children should return to school on **Monday 24th February** at the normal time.



Scottish Dancing

Every Wednesday evening there is a Scottish Dancing class held in the school hall taken by Emma Gormley. There are three groups; Beginners from 6-7pm, Advanced from 7-8pm and Competition from 8-8:30pm. If anyone is interested, or would like a free trial, please feel free to call in any Wednesday evening and speak to Emma.

YOUNG AT ART

P4 are getting the opportunity to visit the Mac Theatre with Young at Art on Monday 10th February. This is to see the "Colour of Sound and Exhibition". A note will be sent home to all parents with prompts that help you discuss what the children have seen.

P6 - Competition Winners are off to see The Belfast Giants!

Thanks to our participation in the NICCY 30 year celebration of the Rights of the Child at W5 in November 2019, P6 pupils won tickets to see The Belfast Giants play at The Odyssey Arena. On Saturday 1st February P6 pupils along with a parent / guardian are going to see The Belfast Giants 'V' The Cardiff Devils. Go Giants!

Time To Talk Community & School Bun Sale - Friday 7th February, Parents' Room, 9:30-11am

On Friday 7th February 2020 we are opening up our Friday Bun Sale to the community to celebrate 'Time To Talk' Day which is on Thursday 6th February 2020. Time To Talk Day is set up to encourage active conversation about mental health with your family, friends,

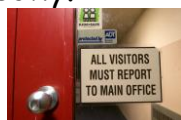
community, colleagues and peers. Our amazing PTA have kindly agreed to donate part of their profits from our February Bun Sale to the 'Time To Talk' charity. Please come up to school for a chat and a cupcake. Chatting is good and cupcakes are good so we are combining both! Why not invite and bring along an elderly neighbour, a friend from the community or a family member; everyone is welcome in Ballysillan P.S!

After School Clubs

Clubs held before and after normal school times should be seen as a bonus/privilege and not a right. Teachers and volunteers give up their time to supervise/coach these clubs, consequently children who misbehave during club time may miss taking part in various club activities or ultimately be suspended/expelled from the club. The children know that all actions have consequences and clubs should be seen as rewarding activities and experiences.

Notice of Absence

If your child is absent from school, please ensure you either send a note to 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. If after a week no reason has been received it may be necessary for the school to telephone parents/guardians directly.



Visitors to School

Under advisement from The Education Authority parents must report to the office if bringing in forgotten lunches, P.E Kits, dinner money etc. Parents will **not** be permitted to take these items to their child's classroom. School staff will ensure that items reach the child's class.

For Child Protection, can we remind Parents that they are permitted in the **Foyer and Parents' Room only** while classes are in operation. If using the Parents' Room all parents/guardians must remain in the room and not make contact with the children during the school day.

Reminder of pickup points -

Nursery and P1 - Nursery door
P2, P3 and P4 - P4 playground door
P5, P6 and P7 - Main/front door

Thank you in advance for adhering to this requirement.

Home Time

A number of children are not being picked up from school on time. Under advisement from The Education Authority we will be updating current practice in line with good child protection procedures. At present children who are not picked up at the correct time, will be taken to a KS2 classroom. The parent/guardian who comes to collect the child/children should ask the secretary which classroom they have been taken to, go to that classroom and collect the child/children in person. If these measures fail to work and lateness persists we may have to get children to report to the office and wait in the reception area. Parents/child-minders etc. will then have to sign the child/children out of school. This record will be kept in school.

WELCOME TEAM

We aim to have a member of staff out every day welcoming our children and parents at the gates of the school. We feel this provides the children with a warm welcome and can encourage enthusiasm and positivity.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY FEBRUARY 2020

Monday 3 rd February	Transfer forms to be returned
Wednesday 5 th February	P2 Shared Education at Sacred Heart
Thursday 6 th February	P5 Shared Education at B.P.S
Friday 7 th February	Reports Out Bun Friday (Time to Talk)
Monday 10 th February	Normal day and finishing times P4 Young at Art Trip to Mac Theatre
Tuesday 11 th February	P5 Shared Education Trip to Lorne Estate Scheduled Parent Teacher Interviews Nursery- P3 1.30pm finish P4 - P7 2pm finish
Wednesday 12 th February	Parent Interviews (drop in) Nursery- P3 1.30pm finish P4 - P7 2pm finish P2 Shared Education at BPS
Thursday 13 th February	Nursery- P3 1.30pm finish P4 - P7 2pm finish
Friday 14 th February	12 noon finish
Monday, 17 th - Friday 21 st February	MID TERM HOLIDAY
Monday, 24 th February	Return to school *Clubs will recommence Monday 2 nd March*

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



Ballysillan Primary School and Nursery