



March 2020 Parents' Newsletter

Moving swiftly from February to March and each month brings with it information regarding new events, updates and diary dates.

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 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**.
- ❖ 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. We will also send a Text Service message.
- ❖ Alternatively, if in doubt, phone the school and we'll be happy to keep you informed of any unexpected closures, Tel: 02890 391668.



World Book Day

World Book Day is almost here again! We are celebrating it on **Friday 6th March, 2020**. It's going to be another page turner.

All children are free to come dressed as their favourite character from a book or a story. We are also asking children to bring their favourite book into school with them. At break time we are going to run a "**Reading Buddy**" scheme where KS2 and KS1 will pair up with Foundation Stage and Nursery children to read to each other. Throughout the day children will have opportunities to share their favourite book and talk to their friends about their favourite stories. This World Book Day we are linking Literacy with art to inspire lots of writing and creative ideas.

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

We ask for a voluntary £1 donation on World Book Day.

This money helps fund the resources needed for our Book as a Hook activities. Many thanks for your generous support as always!

Book Fair



Our annual Book Fair takes place next week. All children will be taken to look at the books on Monday 2nd, they will also be taken by their teacher to purchase books between 12-12:15pm each day. The children will take home a leaflet which shows a selection of books which will enable you to order the book you would like - alternatively, the book fair will be open at the following times -

Tuesday -	12noon - 12:30pm 1:30pm - 2:15pm 3:00pm - 3:15pm
Wednesday -	1.30pm - 2.15pm 12noon-12.30pm 3:00pm - 3:15pm
Thursday -	12noon - 12:30pm 2pm-2.15pm 3:00pm - 3:15pm
Friday -	12noon - 12:30pm 1:00pm - 1:20pm 2:00pm - 2:15pm

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.

School Closure Days



The school will be **closed** for a School Development Day on **Monday 16th March 2019**. School will be closed on **Tuesday 17th March** for St Patrick's day.

Children In Crossfire

On Friday 20th March P5 and P6 will be participating in a workshop facilitated by Relax Kids called; 'Kindful Kids' from

9:15-11:15am. This workshop will cost £3 with all proceeds going to the charity; 'Children In Crossfire'.

Nursery Enrolment 2019/20

Letters advising parents/guardians of acceptance for Ballysillan Nursery will be posted on 28th April - more details regarding home visits, meetings etc. will follow.

Primary One Enrolment 2019/20

Letters advising parents/guardians of acceptance to Ballysillan Primary will be posted on Tuesday 28th April 2020 - more details to follow.

We look forward to welcoming these pupils next year.

Tables for Summer Fair

Our Summer Fair will be held on Thursday 18th June 2020. Anyone wishing to get a table, please contact the office.



Punctuality

The school day starts at 8:55am and all pupils need to be in line at 8:50am (on the first bell) to ensure they are ready to go into school on the second bell. Starting late means that they are missing valuable learning time. Coming to Breakfast Club would ensure a timely start each day as the children are collected and escorted to class on time.

Sickness

Could parents please note that if your child has vomiting, diarrhoea or running a temperature they must be kept off for 24

hours. This will help stop the spread of infection/sickness throughout the school.



P7 Residential

A residential is being arranged for the Primary 7 children from the 1st to the 3rd June to the Lorne Estate, Bangor. They will leave school on the Monday morning and return on the Wednesday afternoon. There will be a full programme of activities for the 3 days including zip-line, archery, gorge walking, crate challenge, gladiator challenge, team building activities and much more. If you are interested, please return your permission note and deposit by **Friday 13th March**.

Health and Safety

To ensure the safety and correct supervision of all pupils, no children and/or parents will be permitted onto the school premises before the first bell (except for those participating in Breakfast Club). On dry days it is expected that all pupils wait outside, until the second bell rings, supervised by the teacher on duty.



Easter Service

This year's Easter Service will be held on Monday 6th April at 11am, all are welcome. Children can be taken home directly after the service (if staying for lunch **ALL** children will be dismissed at 1pm).

KS2 (P5-P7) Half Termly Homework Project

Along with one piece of Literacy and one piece of Numeracy homework a week, plus daily spellings and tables, the KS2 class receive a Homework Project at the beginning of every half term. These projects centre around each year group's WAU topic or current global learning interests. This project is **COMPULSORY** and from feedback from pupils and parents, it is an extremely enjoyable experience for all involved. We are always impressed with the outcome of each pupil that showcase their project - 'Ballysillan Has Talent!'

This term's KS2 Homework Projects are due to be handed in to the class teacher on **Thursday 2nd April**.



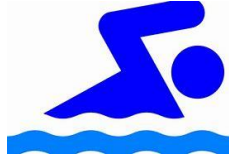
Bun Sale Friday

Reminder that the first Friday of the month is 'Treat Friday! Buns will be on sale Friday 6th March, £1 per bun ☺

Swimming

Swimming will continue for Primary 5-7 on Tuesdays from 1-2.30pm until Easter. This is **compulsory** and **all children** are expected to attend. If for any reason your child cannot attend you must contact the class teacher or Mrs Chambers directly. Children will only be excused from swimming under exceptional circumstances.

Swimming is a 'Life Skill' and it is essential that all children are given a chance to learn this skill!



Easter Hunt/Fun Day



On Tuesday 7th April 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.

NO DINNERS OR BREAKFAST CLUB WILL BE SERVED AND ALL CHILDREN WILL BE DISMISSED AT 12PM - PROMPT PICK UP PLEASE.

Dates for your diary - March and April 2020



Mon 2 nd March	Start of Book Fair week
Wednesday 4 th March	Full class pictures
Thursday 5 th March	P4 Shared Education-Sacred Heart
Friday 6 th March	Bun Sale Day World Book Day
Tuesday 10 th March	Nursery and P1 Stay and Play (1.30pm-2.30pm)
Thursday 12 th March	P4 Shared Education-Ballysillan Primary School
Monday 16 th March	Staff Development Day
Tuesday 17 th March	School Closed
Wednesday 18 th March	P5 trip to Ulster Museum
Friday 20 th March	P5 and P6 children in cross fire event.
Thursday 26 th March	P4 Shared Education- Sacred Heart
Thursday 2 nd April:	P4 Shared Education-Ballysillan Primary School
Friday 3 rd April	Bun Sale Day
Monday 6 th April	Easter Service-11am: 1pm finish No Breakfast Club
Tuesday 7 th April	Easter Party Day/ Non-uniform Day No Breakfast Club/ No Dinners - NOON FINISH
Wednesday 8 th April	Staff Development Day
Monday 20 th April	School Re-opens: Term 3
Thursday 23 rd April	P4 Shared Education-Sacred Heart

