

PARENTS' NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2023

With our new Autumn term well under way I wanted to inform you of the following events: -

THANK YOU

All of the staff at Ballysillan want to thank our parents and carers for such a fantastic and smooth start back to the year. The success is due to the support our parents and family members have given staff and we greatly appreciate this.

WEBSITE

We will be uploading our monthly news, parents' letters and updates each month to our school website.

www.ballysillanpsnursery.com

HOMEWORK

Homework is being completed online via our current platforms; Purple Mash, Doodle Maths, Doodle Tables, Nessy and the Seesaw app.



BREAKFAST CLUB

Breakfast Club provides children with a hot nourishing start to the morning. We are delighted to have the ability to offer Breakfast Club to all pupils. The club takes place in the dining hall from 8.10am – 8.30am. The cost is **£1.20** per day or **£6** per week payable on Monday mornings.



SCHOOL MILK AND FUNDS

Milk £3, School Funds £3.50 or £6 per family or £35 for the year for single child family and £60 for multiple children in a family. Many thanks for the prompt payment of all monies to date. November's payments will be due by Friday 20th October 2023. **Milk which is not ordered for by this date cannot be ordered after Halloween.**

DINNERS

The dinner menu is sent out via Seesaw. This runs on a four-week cycle.



HARVEST SERVICE

Wednesday 25th October 2023. We are inviting parents and carers to join us in the celebration of Harvest this year. The service will begin at **10am** and it will be a whole school celebration.

CURRICULUM MEETINGS

Many thanks to those who were able to attend the Curriculum Meetings. We hope this was beneficial.

PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Our Parent/Teacher Interviews will, again, be face to face this year. Please be aware you will still be given a 10 - minute slot on a particular date in October (Monday 23rd Oct. – Wednesday 25th Oct). Your appointment time will be sent via Seesaw by the class teacher so please keep checking for updates. There will be a **1pm** finish time for P1 - P7 from **Monday to Thursday** to facilitate these interviews. **Friday 27th October** is a party day. This will be a **12pm** finish for **P1 – P7**. Please see Nursery Newsletter for separate arrangements.

BUDDY UP PROGRAMME

Primary 7 will be participating in the Buddy Up Programme. Children will be allocated buddies in their partner classes (Shared Education classes) who they will work with during the shared sessions and will have the chance to build meaningful relationships with them. The programme specifically explores the themes of contracting, communication, personal

identity, community identity, culture, conflict management, symbols and emblems, and respect for self and others.

There will be more details to follow from Mrs Chambers.

P2 HEALTHY EATING AND P5 SELF ESTEEM WORKSHOPS

P2 will begin their workshop facilitated by Supporting Families in North Belfast (SFNB) which aims at educating children about the importance of healthy eating. P5 will be learning about healthy self-esteem. These workshops will be on Tuesdays.

RED CROSS FIRST AID WORKSHOP

P5/6 and P7 will be learning about facilitating First Aid on **Tuesday 5th October**.

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM DAY

Outdoor Classroom Day is a global movement to make time outdoors part of every child's day. On two days of action each year, teachers take children outdoors to play and learn. All year round, the Outdoor Classroom Day community campaigns for more daily time outdoors. We are celebrating Outdoor Classroom Day (2nd Nov.) on the **week commencing 23rd October** due to the half term holidays. Each class will be making extra effort to bring one or more of their weekly lessons to the Outdoor Classroom on this week.

SUSTRANS ACTIVE TRAVEL

Beverley from Sustrans will be visiting Ballysillan Primary School to lead some very exciting activities ranging from Puncture Repair lessons to map making. All classes will participate in these on **Monday 9th October, Thursday 12th October, Friday 13th October and Tuesday 14th November.**

We are excitedly looking forward to these 'real life learning' experiences.

HALLOWEEN PARTIES



On **Friday 27th October** we will be having a fun day with Halloween parties in class. This will be a fancy dress/non-uniform day. Please note that any inappropriate costumes/masks are not permitted e.g. over 18 film characters or Huggie Wuggy costumes. Each class will be provided with drinks and parents can send their child with their own snacks. This will be a **12pm** finish for **ALL**.

***Please note there are no lunches/ dinners OR Breakfast Club on Friday 27th October.**

School will then be closed for the half term holidays. There will be **no school** from **Monday 30th October to Friday 3rd November**. School will re-open for term 1B on **Monday 6th November**. Breakfast Club will resume from 8:10am on this date.

SEAG CLUB (formerly AQE)

SEAG Club is well under way, and we greatly appreciate all the support our parents have given Mrs Chambers. SEAG Club gather on the following days and times: Tuesday (8:15-8:50am), Wednesday (3pm-3.45pm), Thursday (8:15-8:50am) and Friday (1-2pm). If you would like to ask Mrs Chambers any questions on your individual child (or to discuss test scores) please send her a message via Seesaw.

BELFAST COFFEE TRUCK

Belfast Coffee Truck will arrive back at school on a Monday this month. Matthew will be serving up treats on **Monday 23rd October 2023**. Start the week off well and enjoy treating yourself and loved ones!

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

For those who have not yet applied for Free School Meals, it is **ESSENTIAL** you apply **online** as soon as possible. To apply go to - <https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants>



FREE SCHOOL MEALS AND UNIFORM GRANTS

- If you have not applied please do so as soon as possible
- It can take up to four weeks for an application to be processed
- If you have not received an email confirming your application please check your junk mail
- For more information please visit: www.eani.org.uk/fsm