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CHILD PROTECTION -

Designated Teacher: Mrs J Thompson (VP)

Deputy Designated Teachers: Mrs J Thompson (P2),
Mrs K McGuckin (Nursery)

Ballykeel Bulletin - Feb 26



Dates for the Diary

- **Mon 9th Feb** – School closed for staff training
- **Tues 10th - 13th Feb** – School closed for the mid-term break
- **W/B Mon 16th Feb** – Parent/Teacher Interviews - school will finish early each day of this week:
 - Nursery to P3 finish at 1pm
 - P.4 to P7 finish 1.15pm
- **Mon 16th Feb** - Online Safety Week
- **Mon 16th March** - School closure and staff training
- **Tue 17th March** - School closed for the bank holiday
- **Tue 24th and Wed 25th March** - Madagascar Production Nights - Times TBC
- **Thurs 2nd - Wed 15th April** - School closed for the Easter break
 - Nursery to P3 finish at 12.15pm
 - P.4 to P7 finish 12pm

Woodhall

On the week beginning 12th January, the P7 children embarked on their residential trip to Woodhall OLC in Kilrea. The trip began with lots of team building activities, which encouraged the children to listen to each other and work as a team while solving various practical problems. The children were encouraged to step out of their comfort zones while attempting new challenges such as a high ropes course, a 'Leap of Faith', canoeing, archery and 'Human Jenga'. We are so proud of the P7 children, because for many they took the opportunity to learn new skills, overcome fears, face new challenges and work as a part of a team. Woodhall is a fabulous experience and we are delighted to see the positive impact it had on the children.



Zootropolis 2

On Friday 23rd January, P1 to P4 pupils excitedly set off to the cinema to watch Zootropolis 2. The film was action-packed, very funny and really enjoyed by everyone. Of course, the popcorn and treats added to the experience too!

Pinocchio

All classes from P5 to P7, had a brilliant trip to see the pantomime Pinocchio at the Opera House Belfast.



The show was full of laughter, colourful costumes, and catchy songs that kept everyone entertained from start to finish. We loved joining in with the audience shouting and cheering, and the actors were absolutely fantastic. It was a fun and exciting day that everybody will remember for a long time.

Pupil of the Month



P1KH - Mason

P4AC - Kade

P1MM - Alaya

P5MA - Layla

P2JT - Leo

P5RM - Jacob

P2AM - Sally

P6BE - Lexi

P3CM - Antoni

P6BM - Alexa

P3CMc - Vanessa

P7LK - Lewis

P4LJ - Jack

P7JH - Noah

Class of the Month

Attendance: P7JH

Uniform: P3McC

Playground Awards:

P1-P4 - P2AM

P5 -P7 - P6BE



Women's aid

On Tuesday 20th January, Wendy and Julie from Women's Aid came in to speak to our P7 children. They delivered a lovely PDMU based lesson, focusing on the themes of self-esteem, friendship, goals for the future, healthy boundaries. The children had the opportunity to discuss their strengths, goals for the future and accomplishments that they are proud of. After their trip to Woodhall, the children had great responses to share during discussion time. The 'Red Flag/Green Flag' game was the most popular activity of the session, where the children raised a flag to reveal their thoughts and opinions on a range of given scenarios. The children really benefited from discussing this content and had great fun while learning too.



Spanish Club

In Spanish Club, we've been learning all about colours through exciting games, interactive whiteboard activities, and fun challenges that help everyone stay engaged. Each session builds our confidence as we practise new vocabulary in creative ways. Soon, we'll be exploring topics like food, drinks, greetings, numbers, Spain, and much more. It's a fantastic opportunity to learn the language, discover new cultures, and enjoy learning together in a lively environment.

P6/7 Digital Leaders



In Primary 3, the children experience going to the computer room for the first time. For one of their ICT tasks, they have to create and design an invitation to the P3 Nativity. The P6 and P7 digital leaders helped the P3 children to log onto the computer and to type up their invites. The digital leaders were brilliant with assisting the children.



Football

The football team visited a sunny Harryville MUGA on Friday 16th January to take part in the 7 a-side qualifiers. The boys set out their stall from the very first match and recorded a series of excellent results, finishing top of the qualification group and qualifying for the finals.

Well done to all who took part today, especially Alfie, Promise, and Johnny, who made their first appearance for the team.



Results and scorers:

Ballykeel 2-0 Camphill (Kade, Ryan)

Ballykeel 1-0 Braidside (Klay)

Ballykeel 1-0 Harryville (o.g.)

Ballykeel 1-0 St Colmcille's (Tom)

Ballykeel 5-0 Ballymena (Tom 4, Klay)

The Great Outdoors Club



The Great Outdoors Club has started again in Term 2. As the name suggests, we spent out time outside and focus on environmental issues, such as litter, energy waste or wildlife conservation. So far, we have had fun cleaning and tidying our school grounds, planting bulbs in our school polytunnel, and taking part in the Big Garden Birdwatch organised by the RSPB. Please keep an eye out on what we do by checking our school website!



Uniform

The school has updated its Uniform Policy to comply with the legal requirements of the upcoming School Uniforms (Guidance and Allowances) Bill. While this Bill is mainly aimed at addressing the expense associated with post-primary uniforms, it also relates to primary schools. Our updated policy seeks to continue to place affordability at the centre of our uniform requirements, meaning our parents are not obliged to purchase an expensive range of branded items. The policy has been added to the school website (www.ballykeelps.org.uk) under the Parent area. If you have any comments or questions about the policy, please contact your child's teacher via Seesaw by 20th February 2026.

