



EMAIL: [info@ballykeelps.ballymena.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@ballykeelps.ballymena.ni.sch.uk)  
 WEBSITE: [www.ballykeelps.org.uk](http://www.ballykeelps.org.uk)  
 CHILD PROTECTION -  
 Designated Teacher: Mrs J Thompson (VP)  
 Deputy Designated Teachers: Mrs J Thompson (P2),  
 Mrs K McGuckin (Nursery)

## Ballykeel Bulletin - Mar 26



### Dates for the Diary

- **Fri 13<sup>th</sup> March and Mon 16<sup>th</sup> March** - School closed for staff training
- **Tue 17<sup>th</sup> March** - School closed for the Bank Holiday
- **Tue 24<sup>th</sup> and Wed 25<sup>th</sup> March** - Madagascar Production Nights - 7:00pm 
- **Tue 31<sup>st</sup> March at 9:15** - Easter assembly taken by the children in P5 - Parents and friends of these children are welcome to attend
- **Wed 1<sup>st</sup> April** - School closes for the Easter holidays - (non-uniform day)
  - P4 to P7 finish at 12:00pm
  - Nursery to P3 finish at 12.15pm
- **Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> - Wed 15<sup>th</sup> April** - School closed for the Easter break
- **Mon 4<sup>th</sup> May** - School closed for the Bank Holiday



## Parent Morning

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February, Paddy from Savage Martial Arts came along to run a 'Be Active' session for parents and carers. We were joined by some P7 children from Miss Kane's class too! After a quick warm-up, we practised some kicking and punching combos. We enjoyed having time after the session to enjoy some food and have a chat together. It is always a great opportunity to discuss school matters and gather valuable feedback from you, the parents and carers. Thanks again to those who were able to make it this morning!



## Cancer Focus



On 27<sup>th</sup> January, our Primary 6 pupils participated in an online 'Smokebusters' workshop taken by Cancer Focus NI, which focused on the harmful effects of smoking and why we should never start it.

We discussed different types of cravings we might have and took part in role play scenarios showing how we can resist temptation by thinking of healthier alternatives. We learnt about not only cigarettes and the dangers of smoking these, but also about the dangers posed by using vapes.

The workshop was very informative and really made us think about how smoking and vaping are bad for us in lots of ways, and gave us useful ideas to help 'say no to smoking'.



## Pupil of the Month

- |                          |                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>P1KH</b> - Kade       | <b>P4AC</b> - Myles   |
| <b>P1MM</b> - Tommy      | <b>P5MA</b> - Jayden  |
| <b>P2JT</b> - Khaleesha  | <b>P5RM</b> - Cillian |
| <b>P2AM</b> - Lucas      | <b>P6BE</b> - Jaxon   |
| <b>P3HJ</b> - Lydia Rose | <b>P6BM</b> - Mason   |
| <b>P3CMc</b> - Noah      | <b>P7LK</b> - Emily   |
| <b>P4LJ</b> - Lydia      | <b>P7JH</b> - Promise |

## Class of the Month

**Attendance:** P5MA

**Uniform:** P1KH

**Playground Awards:**

P1-P4 - P4LJ

P5 -P7 - P6BM



## Shared Education

The Primary 7 classes have been enjoying Shared Education lessons with our friends from St Brigid's. We are following the 'Take 5 steps for Wellbeing' programme, looking at one of the following areas each time: Connect, Be Active, Keep Learning, Give, and Take Notice.

So far, we have had a lot of fun taking part in team games and challenges, and we are looking forward to our dancing session as well as working together to create some collaborative art.



## Young Enterprise

P2T have just finished their four sessions of Young Enterprise with Mrs Bonar, who volunteers in this role as a mentor. Mrs Bonar has been coming to Ballykeel PS for years and the children always really enjoy the way she tells the stories and completes the activities with them. Mrs Bonar is also really good at adding in a few very interesting facts as well! The programme focuses on different areas of money such as saving, different jobs we can do and fundraising, all in a very child friendly way. Many thanks go to Mrs Bonar for her continued commitment to our school.



## Online Safety

The PSNI visited our school to deliver an engaging online-safety session for our KS1 pupils. Using the cartoon characters Kim and Lee, the officers helped the children learn how to make safe choices when using tablets, phones and computers. Through stories and discussion, pupils were reminded to keep personal information private, ask permission before going online, and always speak to a trusted adult if something doesn't feel right.

It was a fun and informative visit, and the children really enjoyed learning how Kim and Lee stay safe online!



## Netball Tournament

On Wednesday 25th February, the P7 netball girls took part in a tournament at the Leisure Centre. They played five exciting matches against strong competition. Although we didn't come away with a win this time, the girls showed outstanding teamwork, determination, and impressive netball skills in every game. Their positive attitudes, encouragement of one another, and resilience throughout the tournament made us incredibly proud. Well done girls!



## Drama Club

'The Drama Club has had a fantastic start this term, with children growing in confidence each week as they explore acting, movement and voice work. Through games, improvisation, and short performances, they are learning to collaborate, express themselves, and support one another. We are now beginning to plan our end-of-year performance, Time at the Musicals, and the excitement is already building. The children have shown wonderful creativity and enthusiasm as they experiment with songs, characters, and storytelling. They are making excellent progress, and we are incredibly proud of all they have achieved so far!'



## Fire Service Visit

The fire service came to visit Primary 1 as it was part of our 'people who help us' topic. They told us all about their important job and how they help keep everyone safe. The best part of all was getting to see all the equipment and even having the opportunity to sit in the fire truck!



## Farewell Mrs Holmes

We were very sorry to say goodbye to Mrs Holmes who has been with us for the past 5 years teaching small groups. We wish her all the very best in the future.

