

### WELCOME BACK

Hello everyone, we are delighted to see everyone back at school. All of the children have settled back in really well and are enjoying being with their friends again. Thank you for all of your hard work during lock down. This term we will continue to particularly focus on emotional health and well being, physical well being with lots of activities outside, as well as working hard on literacy and numeracy and other areas of the curriculum. All classes continue to operate within their own bubbles and handwashing, sanitizing and cleaning routines remain in place.

### DATES FOR THE DIARY

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May – SCHOOL CLOSED** for the bank holiday

**Mon 31<sup>st</sup> May to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June - SCHOOL CLOSED** for holidays and staff training

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June – SCHOOL CLOSING AT 12:00** for the summer break.

### GET CAUGHT READING COMPETITION

Congratulations to all the winners of the 'Get caught Reading' competition!

- **P4M** - Callum
- **P4T** - Sophie
- **P5AR** - Nicky
- **P5H** - Sophia
- **P6F** - Grace
- **P6M** - Keegan
- **P7G** - Caitlin
- **P7H** - Benjamin



Each pupil won a book of their choice. Well done everyone! Their great pictures are on the website!



### DISNEY PLAYMAKERS FOR P4 GIRLS

Callum from the IFA is coming in each Thursday to take the girls from the two P4 classes for a new programme called, 'Disney Playmakers.' The girls will be learning about football through movement, play and Disney storytelling. The games and activities are based on a particular Disney film and for these sessions it is on the film 'Incredibles 2.' The girls really enjoyed their first session and are looking forward to next week already.

### BEN – OUR OWN CHARITY FUNDRAISING SUPERSTAR!



Ben, a P6 pupil in Ballykeel PS, is football crazy and a huge Manchester United fan. Before the pandemic he trained three days a week for his own team, TW Braga. During lockdown he got frustrated having no football training to attend, so decided to do something active to get fit for when the season began again. It was then, inspired by Manchester United's Marcus Rashford's Free School Meals campaign, that he decided to get fit as well as raise a little money for a local charity at the same time.

Ben spoke to his dad and together they set up a 'Just Giving' page, with a target of £250, for the benefit of the Northern Ireland's Children's Hospice. Ben's challenge was to run a mile a day during the month of March until he had run a total of 26, the distance of a full marathon.

However, it was then that things started to really take off! Word spread throughout social media about Ben's challenge and this was supported and reinforced by a few of the players at Ben's local Irish league team, Larne FC. Before long Ben was contacted by Paul Gilmore, from Sky Sport's News, who set up a zoom call with Ben and his dad. Then, unbelievably, half way through the interview, Marcus Rashford appeared on the call, to show his support for Ben's initiative. Ben wasn't in the least bit phased, and even cheekily asked Marcus for a signed Man. Utd. shirt! After the pandemic restrictions are lifted, Marcus, and fellow superstar player Bruno Fernandes, have promised to give Ben and his family a personal tour of Old Trafford. As well as the above, the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland also wants to mark Ben's achievement by sending him an official letter and meeting up with him when covid restrictions permit.

Ben ran the last mile of his marathon around Larne FC's home pitch, Inver Park, with the entire Larne squad and this was featured on the BBC local evening news. Ben was becoming as big a star as Marcus and Bruno by this point!

In the end **Ben raised an incredible £7265!** We are so proud of him, here at Ballykeel Primary School!