

Holidays/Closures 2018/2019
(all dates are inclusive)

Staff Training	Mon 29 th Oct
Mid Term Break	Tues 30 th Oct – Fri 2 nd Nov
Christmas	Fri 21 st Dec – Tues 1 st Jan
Staff Training	Wed 2 nd Jan
Mid Term	Mon 18 th Feb – Fri 22 nd Feb
Easter	Mon 15 th Apr – Fri 26 th Apr
2 Bank Holidays	Mon 6 th May & Mon 27 th May
Staff Training	Fri 24 th May
Staff Training	Tues 28 th May – Wed 29 th May

**IMPORTANT DATES**
For Your Attention**OCTOBER****Fri 5th Oct** – School Council Elections.**Mon 8th Oct** – P1 Pyjama Party at 6.00pm-7.00pm**Tues 9th Oct** - P3LK away to St. Brigid's, P3CM stay in Ballykeel**Wed 10th Oct** Young Enterprise visiting P4JDT**Tues 16th Oct** - Activity Based Learning at Ballykeel (All P3s from both schools)**Wed 17th Oct** Young Enterprise visiting P4CC**W/B Mon 22nd Oct** – Nursery to P.7 Parent/Teacher interviews.**SCHOOL CLOSES AT 1.30PM FOR ALL CHILDREN THIS WEEK.****Tues 23rd Oct** - P3CM to St. Brigid's, P3LK stay in Ballykeel**Wed 24th Oct** – 9.15am Harvest Service taken by P6 pupils, parents/friends are welcome to attend this Assembly**Thurs 25th Oct** - DISCO. **P4** from 5.45pm to 6.45pm. **P5-P7** from 7.00pm – 9.00pm**Fri 26th Oct** - Breakfast Club Open Morning - parents of Nursery children come along and enjoy eating a healthy breakfast with your child**Mon 29th Oct to Fri 2nd Nov** – **Staff Training & MID TERM BREAK.****MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING – A BIG ‘THANK YOU’**

We really appreciate all the parents and friends who came to our Macmillan Coffee morning last Thursday. The final total collected was **£551.23!** So a special thank you for your generous giving.

**DATES YOU MIGHT LIKE TO KNOW!****NOVEMBER****Mon 5th NOV**– Photographer (Tempest) + Family Afternoon/Evening session**Sat 10th NOV + Sat 24th NOV and****Sat 1st DEC** – AQE TESTS**W/B 12th NOV** – Anti Bullying Week (more details to follow)**Fri 16th NOV** – Nursery Open Afternoon**Tues 20th NOV** -P1KM to St Brigid's P1KH have St Brigid's here**Tues 27th NOV** - Flu vaccine - whole school.**W/B Mon 26th NOV** – Last week of clubs (except 2-3 & Mad 4 Maths)**DECEMBER****Thurs 6th DEC** – Nursery Nativity & Open Morning (am) **SCHOOL STARTS at 11.30am and FINISHES at 2.00pm****Fri 7th DEC** – Nursery Christmas Fair. 6.30 - 8.30pm**Mon 10th DEC** – Choir to Radio Cracker**Tues 11th & Wed 12th DEC** – P1/P2 Nativity(am)**Thurs 13th DEC** – P3 Nativity (am)**Fri 14th DEC** – Nativity and Coffee Morning for Senior Citizens**Mon 17th DEC** - P1-P3 Christmas Party from 1.30 - 3.00pm. Also P4-P7 Movie Night from 7.00-9.00pm**Wed 19th DEC** – 9.30am Carol Service lead by P4 & P5 children**Thurs 20th DEC** – **SCHOOL CLOSES AT 12noon****JANUARY 2019****Wed 2nd JAN** – **SCHOOL CLOSED** for Staff Training**Thurs 3rd JAN** – whole school trip to cinema**MILK MONEY***Primary School Pupils Only*Milk money to cover from Monday 5th November - Wednesday 19th December is - **£6.93****THIS MUST BE PAID to the class teacher on or before WEDNESDAY 17th NOVEMBER as late orders cannot be made.****SCHOOL FUND – A BIG ‘THANK YOU’!**

A huge thank you to the significant majority of parents who have now paid school fund for their children. To date 268 families out of the 276 families have contributed (97%). This has raised a fantastic £1614 so far for school funds this year.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Please ensure that your child is wearing the correct uniform. Please note the following:

BOYS

- Yellow or black polo shirt
- Red school sweatshirt
- Grey trousers (**not black**)
- Dark grey or black socks
- Sensible black shoes (P.4 to P.7 boys can wear plain black trainers – **no coloured stripes or markings**)
- P.4 to P.7 boys can change their footwear at lunchtime if playing football

GIRLS

- Yellow or black polo shirt
- Red school sweatshirt
- Grey skirt or pinafore or trousers (**not black**)
- Grey tights (**not black**) or white knee socks (**not grey**)
- Sensible black shoes
- P.4 to P.7 girls can change their footwear at lunchtime if playing football

SMARTIES FUNDRAISING

This year our school fundraising will be raising money towards school funds to buy resources to equip our classrooms and support learning. Each family will receive a Smarties tube and the aim is to fill it up with **20ps**. To celebrate the pupils' hard work on **Friday 26th October, the last day of half term, we will host a whole school Smarties Party where pupils can attend in COLOURFUL NON UNIFORM, classes will play party games and do some colourful art activities and lessons.** We are very grateful to the various shops who kindly donated Smartie tubes to us, in particular a huge **THANK YOU** to the **Candy Corner in Ballykeel, The Phoenix Garage, Wyse Byse and Today's Extra.**

ADMINISTERING OF MEDICINE

We wish to ensure that pupils with medication needs receive appropriate care and support at school. While pupils should not be sent to school when they are acutely unwell or infectious, we realise that sometimes a doctor may advise pupils to attend school while still needing to take medication. As the responsibility for the administration of medicine lies with the parents, we ask that parents regulate the time for administering medicines so as to avoid the school day if possible.

The Principal will accept responsibility in principle for members of the school giving or supervising pupils taking **prescribed medication** during the school day **where those members of staff have volunteered to do so.** (*Teachers have the right not to administer medication and may only agree to observe your child while taking medication in their presence*).

Prescribed medication will not be accepted in school without an AM2 or AM3 medical form completed, written and signed instructions by the parent. These forms are available from the school office or you can download them from the school's website under the heading 'Parent Area'

'OUR WORLD' YOUNG ENTERPRISE DAY IN P6JF

Emma and Hannah came to do the 'Young Enterprise' with P6JF. Hannah talked about her job. She sometimes has to travel to different places because she works for Autotrader. Also Emma did lots of activities. The activities were 'The Long Distance Meal', 'Import-Export' and 'The Trading Game.' We all enjoyed the Young Enterprise day especially the trading game. We had to pretend we were different countries buying and selling different goods.

By Katie Hamilton & Brodee Kenny

**CLASS OF THE MONTH FOR SEPTEMBER - ATTENDANCE:- P4CC****CLASS OF THE MONTH FOR SEPTEMBER - UNIFORM:- P3CM****GOLDEN CLASS - SEPTEMBER – P3LK****PUPILS OF THE MONTH for SEPTEMBER**

P1KH JAMIE MURRAY
P1KM MADDYN ROWE
P2JT KATIE LOUGHLIN
P2AM ZACH GLASS
P3LK SUFYAN KHAN
P3CM LUCY McKAY
P4JDT SARAH HOLMES
P4CC LUCY HOUSTON
P5BE ZARA-LEIGH BARR
P5MA SAMARA DAVIDSON
P6SM ALAN HAMILTON
P6JF CHLOE CUNNINGHAM
P7SG KATIE McILWAINE
P7JH AVA COOPER

Children Being Left Off at School in the Mornings

As the gates do not open until 8:45 each morning, children should not be left to school before this time unless there is an adult to supervise them. It has been noticed that unsupervised children are running through the car parks which is very dangerous.

ONLINE SAFETY

The way in which our young children today use technology can be exciting and educationally beneficial, but it is important that both children and parents are aware of the



potential risks associated with the Internet. In Ballykeel PS we aim to educate our pupils about keeping safe online; and we would encourage parents to check the ICT page of the school website for our Online Safety Policy and additional tips and advice regarding Online Safety.

OUR FRIENDS IN ST. BRIGID'S PS.

Over the past six years Ballykeel PS have been working very closely with the staff and pupils from St. Brigid's PS. We have participated in a range of different programmes with St. Brigid's and this year is no different! Most of the shared work we do with St. Brigid's relies upon us receiving funding and we are delighted that we have secured funding for the incoming year to do such work. The funding will enable us to pay for transport. Every class from P1-P7 will meet classes from St. Brigid's PS at different stages throughout the year. We will also have a shared school council who will help to make decisions and suggestions about our shared work together. This year we will be involving parents in a few different ways and we will let you know about these events in due course. In the meantime, please keep an eye out for more information in due course and on the class pages on the website and on the Bugle. *By K. McGlaughlin*

Dear Parent,

Despite early closure information relating to Monday 10th September being imparted in the following ways:

- A note in each child's school report envelope in June
- The September Bugle
- The website - front page and calendar
- P2 Newsletter
- P.2 and P.3 parents reminded verbally at pick up time
- A text sent to all parents

37 pupils from P2 to P7 were collected late or not collected at all.

As a result of this, the 2 office staff, and myself, spent an hour contacting parents. The following reasons were given:

- forgot
- forgot to tell a grandparent or child minder
- didn't know about the early closure
- don't have time to read notes or go on to the website

This is not an isolated incident as too often children are left on early closures. We can't have a Facebook page, however, if you have any other suggestions as to how we can better communicate information, and how to encourage everyone to take note and act accordingly when we do, (other than write it down somewhere in a diary/calendar, put a reminder on a phone), we are open to hearing them.

Moving forward, to see if we can improve this, you will continue to be alerted to early closures on the Bugle and /or notes, and it will be on the school's website. **The reminder text will now be sent on the morning of the early closure.**

Future Early Closures for Your Attention:

- Mon 22nd October through to Friday 26th October – school closes at 1:30pm each day for parent/teacher interviews.
- Thursday 6th December children don't arrive in to school until 11:30am as it is Nursery Nativity and Open Morning and all children finish at 2:00pm after their Christmas dinner.
- Thursday 20th December - school closes for all children at 12:00 for the Christmas Break.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S.Sheeran



EUROPEAN LANGUAGES DAY

Oh la la! You can't get a straight answer in plain, simple English in Ballykeel Primary School these days. It's all "Bonjour" this and "Auf Wiedersehn" that, thank you very much! Indeed, Ballykeel Primary School celebrated European Languages Day in style on Wednesday 26th September, adding a certain "je ne sais quoi" of their very own.

The school has been decked out with European flags and the various signs on the doors have been replaced with their French equivalents. The Principal's door sign has now become "La Directrice" while the caretaker's office now belongs to "Le Concierge". Even the canteen has gone European, offering a mouth-watering selection of dishes such as pizzas, enchiladas and profiteroles.

The aim of European Languages Day is to introduce the children to different languages cultures from across Europe and the world, and it was a resounding success! Every pupil, from the Nursery and P1s up to P7s, dabbled in a little bit of European and world culture. In total 9 different languages were taught throughout the school.

- The Nursery children, as well as P3CM, focused on Italy. They made their own pizzas and coloured in the Italian flag. The P3s also learned some basic greetings in Italian.
- P1KM heard about their teacher's life in Hungary. They learned some phrases, listened to Hungarian music and made and tasted some goulash.
- P1KH, P2JT, P4CC and Miss Hill introduced the children to Spanish. The children dressed up, played games, learnt some Spanish and tasted Spanish food. P4CC learnt Spanish greetings and Miss Hill, who is in charge of the school's Spanish Club, taught her pupils how to count up to 10 in Spanish during the Mad for Maths club.
- P5BE learnt some basic German phrases, how to count up to 10, and sampled German food.
- P2AS, P3LK, P4JDT, P6JF, P7JH, Mrs McIlwaine and Mrs Young went for French. The P2s learnt how to say the colours in French and made their own croissants. P3LK learned how to order food and drinks in a French café. Greetings, colours and numbers, as well as facts about France, were some of the areas covered in P4JDT and P6JF. Mrs Young introduced her pupils to French music and dance, P7JH learned to sing Frere Jacques in a round and Mrs McIlwaine taught directions in French to her P7 Maths group.
- P7SG learnt some Thai and Lao phrases, sampled some Thai foods and heard about their teacher's experience of travelling in Thailand and Laos.
- Mrs McKelvey's pupils learned about India. They explored some of the language and tasted Indian food.
- Last but not least, P5MA was lucky enough to have a visit from one of our parents, Mrs Oksana Tistanova, who comes from Ukraine. Oksana took time off work to come and teach us some basic greetings in Ukrainian, and we also learned how to count up to 10. We were delighted to see her!

Our European Languages Day was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The whole school community was involved and it showed that learning a language is a fun and rewarding activity.