

Important Dates For Your Attention

Keep an eye on the website for up-to-date information about events for December



Tues 4th Dec – Choir at Glenravel Fold

Wed 5th Dec – Choir to Kintullagh Nursing Home

Thurs 6th Dec – Choir singing at PS Open Morning

THURSDAY 6TH DEC –

SCHOOL OPEN MORNING FOR NEW P1 -See notice below.

Children from P.1 to P.7 do not start school until 11:30am on this morning. A letter has already been sent home.

NO BREAKFAST CLUB & SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR ALL AT 2.00PM

9.30am NURSERY NATIVITY - Admission by ticket only - £1 (See below for more details).

CHRISTMAS DINNER (PUPILS ONLY). If paying – cost is £2.60 (**P1-P3 must** pay on **Monday 3rd Dec** – also note **P4-P7 must also** pay class teacher on **Monday 3rd Dec** to order their dinner). PLEASE NOTE that **SCHOOL WILL CLOSE FOR ALL AT 2.00pm**



Fri 7th DEC –NURSERY CHRISTMAS FAIR. at 6.30 - 8.30pm. See below for details. **SCHOOL CLOSURES AT 2.00pm FOR P1-P7**

Mon 10th DEC – Choir (P5-P7 pupils only) to Radio Cracker. P4 had separate note
Mon 10th DEC – St Brigid's to visit to see P1/2 Nativity

Tues 11th Dec – Choir to Tesco 11.15am
Tues 11th & Wed 12th DEC – P1/P2 Nativity(9.30am)

Wed 12th DEC – St Brigid's to visit to see P3 Nativity

Thurs 13th DEC – P3 Nativity (9.30am)

Fri 14th DEC – Nativity and Coffee Morn for Senior Citizens (See blog below)

Mon 17th DEC – P1-P3 to visit St Brigid's

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 at Ballykeel Pres Church - lead by P4 & P5 children. Choir will be singing. Everyone welcome

THURS 20TH DEC – SCHOOL CLOSURES AT 12 NOON

JANUARY 2019

Wed 2nd JAN – SCHOOL CLOSED for Staff Training

Thurs 3rd JAN – whole school trip to cinema (See details below)

NURSERY FAIR

Nursery Fair will be held on **FRIDAY 7th DEC 6.30 - 8.30pm.** If you know any stallholders who would like a space at the fair, please get them to contact the school office - 028 25653902 for further information.

If you would like to donate a prize for the nursery raffle, please leave it in at the Nursery Unit or contact Mrs Müller.



NURSERY & P1 APPLICATIONS FOR 2019-2020

NURSERY

If you have a child whose date of birth is from **02/07/15 to 01/07/16** they will be eligible to start **Nursery** education in **September 2019.**

If your child is still too young for next year you can contact the office to put their names down on our register to receive future information.

PRIMARY 1 OPEN MORNING THURSDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2018 from 10.15-11.15am

If you have a child whose date of birth is from **02/07/14 to 01/07/15** they will be eligible to start **Primary** education in **September 2019.**

MILK MONEY

Primary School Pupils Only

Milk money to cover from Friday 4th January - Friday 15th

February is **£6.51. THIS MUST BE PAID to the class teacher on / before Wednesday 12th December as late orders cannot be made.**

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS' ANNUAL REPORT**

The Annual Report of the Board of Governors for 2017/18 is now available. If you would like a copy please send a note into the class teacher or call into the office.

REPORTING YOUR CHILD'S ABSENCE

We are trialling a new way of communicating your child's absence with us.

If your child is sick, you can still write a note or phone the office or alternatively you can now email

info@ballykeelps.ballymena.ni.sch.uk giving your child's name and class and the nature of the illness.

SCHOOL TRIP TO IMC CINEMA

The whole school will be going to the cinema on **Thursday 3rd January** to see 'Mary Poppins Returns'. Please note the following information:

- No Breakfast Club,
- Children start at 10.00am,
- Will be walking to and from the Cinema,
- A snack pack will be provided by the school for the Cinema (so no break necessary),
- Full school uniform to be worn,
- Appropriate clothes to be worn i.e. waterproof, warm coat and shoes/boots depending on the weather on the day,
- Children will have dinner / lunch as per usual on their return to school. So dinner money to be sent in as usual for the week,
- **School will finish for all children at 2.00pm.**

CLASSES OF THE MONTH-

See website

PUPILS OF THE MONTH

P1KH –	CASSIE RAINEY
P1KM –	TOMMY AIKEN
P2JT –	YASMIN COULTER
P2AM –	SOPHIE McCORMICK
P3LK –	JACK BRYCE
P3CM –	RIO STEWART
P4JDT –	MIA LEETCH
P4CC –	CASEY ROWE
P5MA –	JOEL BRYCE
P5BE –	OLIVER McBURNEY
P6SM –	BROOKE WYLIE
P6JF –	MONTY BUTTERFIELD
P7SG –	JESSICA McKAY
P7JH –	TYLER BRYCE

ATTENTION ALL LOCAL PENSIONERS!

Senior citizens most welcome to attend our P3 Nativity Play: 'Prickly Hay' on Friday 14th December 2018 from 9:30 – 11:00 am (approx.)

Following the success of previous 'Generation Celebration' events we intend to host another special occasion that encourages the local community to celebrate together and also helps to bring generations together. We would therefore like to invite you to a nativity play that Primary Three classes will perform, especially for the senior citizens from the local area, on Friday 14th December 2018 from 9:30 – 11:00 am (approx.) Please come along to join us for a bit of Christmas spirit, craic and some refreshments. Our fabulous school choir will also be performing and will encourage you to sing along to some Christmas favourites. School staff, pupils and members of the board of governors will be there to help make the event intergenerational, entertaining and good fun!

The event is free of charge. If you would like to come along please telephone the school, on 25653902, to register your attendance.

FOOTBALL NEWS

On Tuesday 13th November, Ballykeel's senior football team took part in the 7-a-side qualifiers at the Ballymena Showgrounds. The top two teams from the day would qualify for the finals (to be played in the new year).

Team:

Marc Agnew (GK), Kealin McFadden, Cavan Cully, James Dickson, Gary Kenny (C), Bobby Crawford, Calvin Termonia, Calum Matchett, Jayden Allen

Following each team's matches, it was Camphill who won the group on 11 points (3 wins and 2 draws), with Ballykeel finishing on 10 points from 3 wins, 1 draw and 1 defeat.

A big well done to each player who took part, especially to those who pulled on a shirt to make their senior team debut.

**CHRISTMAS BALLOT 2018**

It's time for our annual Christmas Ballot! The tickets are on sale now – costing £1 each with all proceeds to school funds. Your child will have a number of tickets home with them, if you are able to sell any additional tickets amongst family, friends or work colleagues please call in to the school office, or send a note in with your child and we will provide you with more. We have some fabulous prizes to be won, including £50 cash, meals out, fun activity days for the kids, shopping vouchers, and pampering treats.



The prize draw will be held on Thursday 13th December, so lucky winners will be able to enjoy a special Christmas treat for themselves. Remember, you have to be in it to win it! Mrs K. Henry & Miss C. McConnell

P1 Shared Education Update:

Both P1 classes have now visited St. Brigid's Primary School and had a chance to host them at Ballykeel, too. Our meet up this month was for a joint Play Based Learning activity. The children enjoyed having the opportunity to explore each other's schools and classrooms and compare them to our own. We found there were a number of similarities and differences. Play time is always a fun activity which is enjoyed by all, so it was nice to play and socialise with new children. We were able to paint pictures of children from each school playing together. By the end of the session, some children were able to introduce us to a new friend they had made. Our next meet up will be for our Christmas Nativity – we'd better keep practising! Mrs K. Henry

JOINT SCHOOL COUNCIL:

The joint school council met for the first time this year. There were 4 children selected to represent our school this year. Lily-Rose Wright, Alfie Abraham, Bethany Herbison and Eli Redmond. We discussed the shared Education plans for the year ahead. We will be involved in making decisions about our schools working together and will meet again in Term 2.

Miss K. McGlaughlin

**P6 Trip to the Titanic Centre.**

We headed off on a tour of the Titanic centre with our guide Robert. He was great and full of useful facts. The centre was much bigger than we thought it would be and there was so much to see and learn. One of our favourites parts was the ride which explained the different jobs involved in building the Titanic like the Rivet squad. We also really enjoyed the 3D animation tour of the ship; it was so realistic as if we were walking through the Titanic. You should definitely go visit it, we really would love to go back.



By Ellie and Amy P6SM

ANTI BULLYING WEEK & KINDNESS DAY

During Anti-bullying week, the whole school took part in a variety of activities finishing off the week with KINDNESS DAY on Friday. During this week all children from Nursery to P7 focused on the theme of **RESPECT**. This included circle times, drama, quizzes and art activities. Lots of classes posted examples of their anti-bullying work on our school website, including poems, songs and dancing. On Kindness day we focused particularly on acts of kindness in school and in the wider community. Children celebrated everyday heroes known for their kindness, carried out lots of random acts of kindness especially towards staff in the school. They wrote compliment boards, completed art activities and discussed the positive impact that being kind has on an individual or community. It was a lovely week in school with a great, many worthwhile discussions and kindness shown.

**'Telling Stories'**

The children in P5 were very lucky to be able to go and listen to the Ulster Orchestra perform recently in Ballymena. They enjoyed listening to a variety of excerpts of colourful pieces of music, and learnt about a wide range of musical instruments. The orchestra showed us how music can be used to highlight characters, storylines and moods; and Faith was one of the lucky children chosen at the end to help create our own musical story. We all had a great afternoon and are looking forward to learning more about musical instruments in class.

CHILD PROTECTION - Designated Teacher: *Mr J Fisher*

Deputy Designated Teachers: *Mrs J Thompson and Mrs S Müller*