



Ballyvester Primary School

www.ballyvesterps.org.uk

Newsletter – September 2024

Start of term...

We are delighted to see everyone back at school this week. Thank you for your co-operation with our staggered start and finish times. We hope this is continuing to ease the traffic congestion and enable you to drop off and collect your children safely at the side gate. Please ensure that you do not park on the double yellow lines and zig-zag lines around school.

Reminder – Drop off and Pick-up times

Monday 2nd September 2024 onwards – Year 2 and Year 3

8.45am drop off and 1.55pm pick up – pupils with surnames A-L

8.50am drop off and 1.55pm pick up – pupils with surnames M-Z

(Due to the number of pupils leaving, there is only one pick up time at 1.55pm)

Monday 2nd September 2024 onwards – Year 4 to Year 7

8.45am drop off and 2.50pm pick up – pupils with surnames A-L

8.50am drop off and 3.00pm pick up – pupils with surnames M-Z

School will finish at 2.00p.m. for Y2-7 pupils every Friday starting 6th September 2024

1.50pm pick-up – pupils with surnames: A-L

2.00pm pick-up – pupils with surnames: M-Z

Year 1 pupils will finish school at 12 noon each day for the month of September.

School Meals

The School Meals Service will commence on Monday 2nd September 2024. The Dinner Menu for September has been uploaded to the Parents Area on the school app. A new menu will follow for October onwards. Meals cost **£2.60 per day** and they should be booked and paid for through our school app before 9.00am on Mondays. Please book meals for the week ahead (or month ahead if possible). ***Please be aware that meals booked after 9.00am on Mondays will not be picked up on our system and your child will not receive a meal.***

To book and pay for Meals: Select Booking from the main menu and then Dinner Payments. Complete the booking form.

If your child is entitled to a free school meal, please complete a communication slip on the school app by 9.00am each Monday morning, detailing which days he/she is having a dinner for the week ahead. Thank you.

Free School Meals & Uniform Grants

If you think your child is eligible for Free School Meals and a uniform grant, please visit <https://www.eani.org.uk> and select the Free School Meals/Uniform Grants tab for criteria and complete an online application form.

IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING ALLERGIES

We have pupils attending school with severe **NUT and EGG allergies**.

In order to keep the pupils safe, please do not send foods containing any form of nut products. This includes many cereal and protein bars and Nutella products. Check the ingredients label on all food items before sending them in.

Boiled eggs / eggs in sandwiches are not permitted.

Many thanks for your co-operation in keeping everyone safe.

If your child has any allergies and is taking a school dinner, you **MUST** complete an allergy form for the Schools Meals Service. Please collect a form from the school office.

Mobile Phones

Pupils are NOT permitted to bring mobile phones to school.

Swimming – Term 1

Year 6 pupils will attend swimming lessons every Wednesday morning from September to November in Bangor Aurora Leisure Centre. Lessons and transport cost £5.00 per week and will commence on Wednesday 11th September 2024. A consent form and information regarding payment will follow.

Morning Club

If your child is attending Morning Club (£2.00 per day), please complete a booking form on the school app by 2.00pm each Friday for the following week. All pupils attending Morning Club should enter school via the front gate on the Killaughey Road and parents should escort their child to the Middle Room in the main building where Mrs Anderson will be supervising. Children will then be sent to their classroom at 8.45am.

To book and pay for Morning Club: Select Booking from the main menu and then Morning Club. Complete the booking form.

Afternoon Club 2.00 – 3.00pm for Year 2-3 pupils

Afternoon supervision for Year 2-3 pupils between 2.00 – 3.00pm Monday – Thursday each week. The cost for this supervision will be £3.00 per day and should be paid on the school app each Friday for the following week. Please book a week or a month at a time if possible as this reduces the fees charged by our payment provider.

To book and pay for Afternoon Club: Select Booking from the main menu and then Afternoon Club. Complete the booking form.

Year 1 pupils can attend Afternoon Club from Monday 30th September 2024 when they remain in school until 1.55pm.

Homework

Homework for Year 2-6 pupils will commence on Monday 9th September 2024. Year 7 pupils have already started homework. Year 1 pupils will start homework in October (more information to follow). Year 4/5/6/7 Homework Book Payments can now be made on the school app.

Seesaw – 2024/25

We are continuing to use Seesaw as an online learning journal where pupils create and upload their work to document their learning. Teachers will also use Seesaw to share class information and reminders.

Communication Slip

If you have an urgent query regarding your child, we ask that you contact the school office via telephone or complete a Communication Slip on the school app. Teachers will endeavour to contact you between 8.45 and 3.45p.m. regarding your query.

Photographer

The school photographer will be visiting on **Tuesday 10th September 2024** to take individual and family photographs. A Year 1 and Year 7 class photo will also be taken. All communication regarding photographs and ordering will be completed online. More details to follow on the school app on Monday 2nd September 2024.

Full school uniform must be worn on Tuesday 10th September 2024. If this is a PE day for your child, please do not send them in their PE uniform.

School Uniform for September 2024

The children look so smart in their uniform and we appreciate your assistance with ensuring pupils wear the correct uniform. The summer uniform may still be worn in September. Child(ren) should have suitable black school shoes that fasten securely and should allow pupils the freedom to run around during playtime. Trainers are not permitted.

- **Jewellery** - we strongly discourage pupils from wearing jewellery other than watches. This is for their own safety.
- **Coats** - your child should bring a coat to school EVERY day as the weather begins to get cooler.

PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT ALL ITEMS OF CLOTHING ARE CLEARLY NAMED.

Physical Education

Please ensure that your child has suitable clothing and shoes for P.E.

- Year 1 - 3 pupils wear black plimsolls
- Year 4 - 7 pupils wear the new school tracksuit and trainers (lycra, cycling/football shorts and leggings are not permitted)

Year 4-7 pupils may wear their P.E. kit to school on the two days that they have P.E. lessons. Normal school uniform should be worn at all other times.

Pupils who are not taking part in P.E. need to bring a note from a parent or guardian explaining why they are unable to participate.

Flu Vaccinations

Flu Vaccinations will be administered in school on **Wednesday 23rd October 2024**. We are awaiting more details from the school nurse and will be in touch with further information.

Attendance

It is a legal requirement for all children to attend school **every** day. We will monitor attendance and lateness in an attempt to raise standards in school by ensuring all children are accessing the education that is being provided for them. If your child is ill, please report their absence via telephone to Mrs Burrows by 9.15 a.m. or using an Absence Notification Form on the school app. A Late/Early Notification form is also available on the school app under Forms. If you know in advance that your child will be absent or late, please complete the appropriate form. Holidays should be taken during times of school closure. Please note: The Education Welfare Officer monitors pupil attendance.

Children who have poor attendance rates will suffer from gaps in their learning.

If your child arrives late, they must report to the school office and they will be accompanied to their classroom by an adult.

The Daily Mile

We are continuing with our Daily Mile initiative to improve the physical, social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing of our children – regardless of age, ability or personal circumstances. Research shows that it improves not only the children's fitness, but also their attainment, mood, behaviour and general wellbeing. The Daily Mile is not sport or PE, but health and wellbeing through daily physical activity. All children will be encouraged to walk, jog or run at their own pace for 15 minutes every day within the school grounds. We hope they enjoy this activity and the benefits it will bring.

School Holidays –Term 1

Half Term School closes on Friday 25th October 2024 at 2.00pm
School re-opens on Tuesday 5th November at 8.45am

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 10 th September:	School Photographer
Friday 27 th September:	Last 12 noon finish for Year 1 pupils
Monday 30 th September:	Year 1 pupils remain in school until 2.00p.m. Please send a packed lunch or order a school meal
Wednesday 23 rd October:	Whole School Flu Vaccination Programme (letter to follow)
Monday 21 st – Thursday 24 th October:	Parent-Teacher Consultations (afternoons) School will close at 12.45pm for all pupils

K. Hunter

30th August 2024