



# Ballyvester Primary School

[www.ballyvesterps.org.uk](http://www.ballyvesterps.org.uk)

Newsletter - December 2025

## Whole School Outing – Jack Frost

Our Christmas outing to The MAC theatre is on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025.

- Pupils **MUST** be at school in full uniform by 8.45am (the side gate will be open from 8.30am) as the buses will be departing at 8.50am sharp.
- Please bring break, lunch and a bottle of water in a disposable bag. School bags are not required.
- **ALL** pupils should be collected from school at 1.00pm.

## Christmas Post Box

A Post Box will be situated in the Year 1-3 Resource Area from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025. Pupils will be able to post cards here for their friends in school. Please put full names and classes on the front of envelopes. Cedar Foundation Charity stamps will be on sale for use on these cards costing £1 for a full sheet of 36 stamps or 50p for 18 stamps. These will be available from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December in the Year 7 classroom each morning before school starts.

## Open Morning for Parents of Prospective Year 1 Pupils

All prospective parents of Year 1 pupils are very welcome to come and see our school in action on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2025 from 9.15-10.30am. Thank you to everyone who continues to promote our school in the local community.

**Primary Enrolment application forms for pupils starting school in September 2026 must be completed online at [www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions](http://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions) Applications will open on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 12.00 noon and must be submitted by 12.00 noon on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026 or it will be treated as a late application.**

## The Daily Mile Santa Run

All pupils will be taking part in the Daily Mile Santa Run on **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2025** during school hours. Your child should wear a Santa hat / festive hairband / reindeer antlers for this fun activity. Hundreds of schools across Northern Ireland will be walking/jogging/running the daily mile together to promote the physical, mental and social benefits of exercise.

## Whole School Performance – ‘There’s Something Amazing Going On’

**Rehearsals** are planned for **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December at First Presbyterian Church**. In order to minimise congestion at the school gate we would appreciate it if parents arranged for pupils to be collected from school at the following times and left off at the church:-

**12.50pm** Y5, Y6 & 7 pupils and younger brothers/sisters

**1.00pm** Y1-Y4 pupils

The children (Y1- Y7) should then be collected from the Church between **2.50pm and 3.00pm**.

Please note: There will be no Afternoon club on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> or Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

### **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

Our Christmas Performance of 'There's Something Amazing Going On' will take place in **First Presbyterian Church, Donaghadee** on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 1.30 pm.

School will finish at **12 noon** for everyone (lunch to be eaten at home). School meals are only available for children entitled to a free meal. All pupils should then be brought to the church between 1.15pm and 1.25pm (unless they have been asked by their teacher to come earlier). We look forward to welcoming friends and family at this event.

Our collection at the service will be in aid of our **Term 1 charity, Helen Masuwa Foundation**. All money raised will be used to support children and young people in Kenya to enable them to learn and grow.

### **Swimming – Term 2**

Year 7 pupils will attend swimming lessons every Wednesday morning from January to March in Bangor Aurora Leisure Centre. Lessons and transport cost £5.00 per week and will commence on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026. Pupils who are not swimming (or forget swimming kit or payment) will remain in school. A consent form and information regarding payment will follow.

### **After School Activities – January/February 2026**

Consent forms will be sent home today for the following clubs:

<b>Day</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Teacher</b>	<b>Time</b>
Monday	Y1 - 3	Football	Playground	GM Coaching	2.00 – 3.00pm
	Y4 - 7	Football	Playground	GM Coaching	3.00 – 4.00pm
Tuesday	Y1 - 3	Construction Club	Middle Room	Miss Quinn	2.00 – 3.00pm
	Y4 - 7	Mini Detectives	Middle Room	Miss Quinn	3.00 – 4.00pm
Wednesday	Y1 - 3	Movie Club	Y4/5 Classroom	Miss Elliott	2.00 – 3.00pm
	Y4 - 7	Sketching & Painting	Middle Room	Miss Elliott	3.00 – 4.00pm
Thursday	Y1 - 3	Drawing, Painting & Colouring	Middle Room	Miss Elliott	2.00 – 3.00pm
	Y4 - 7	Comic Book Club & Activities	Middle Room	Miss Elliott	3.00 – 4.00pm

**Please note: All pupils should be collected promptly.**

### **School Meals – Price Increase**

We have been informed that school meals will cost **£3.10 from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026**. Pupils receiving free school meals will not be impacted. It is important to note that prices paid for school meals have not increased since 2017/18 and will remain well below the cost of producing a meal.

### **Winter Uniform**

Thank you for your support in sending your child(ren) to school wearing the correct uniform. During the winter months **please ensure your child wears a warm winter coat**. Ballyvester Primary School hats are available to purchase in Signature Works and Roberts of Bangor.

### **Late Arrivals & Early Finishers**

If you arrive late in the morning please call at the office to sign the 'Late book'. Mrs Burrows will then guide your child to class. If you are collecting your child early for an appointment or leaving equipment/lunch in, please call at the office and Mrs Burrows will assist you. Thank you for your co-operation.

### **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

This will be our PTA 'Festive Clothing Non-Uniform Day' and class parties. Please bring £1 for PTA funds. We hope to have a special visitor during the morning! This is also the last day of school. Donaghadee Kitchen has informed us that dinners **will not** be available and school will close at 12 noon.

**School resumes for all pupils at 9.00am on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026.**

**The staff join me in wishing you all a Happy Christmas!**

### **Dates for your Diary**

Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December:	Whole School Outing to The MAC Theatre to see 'Jack Frost' Buses leave school at 8.50am sharp, returning at 1.00pm <b>ALL pupils should be collected from school at 1.00pm</b>
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> December:	Open Morning for Prospective Year 1 Parents 9.15-10.30a.m. Daily Mile Santa Run in school
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December:	Nativity Rehearsal at First Presbyterian Church
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December:	Nativity Rehearsal at First Presbyterian Church Flu Vaccination Catch Up Clinic
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December:	Whole School performance of 'There's Something Amazing Going On' at First Presbyterian Church, Donaghadee – 1.30pm
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December:	Wear Festive clothing and please bring £1 for PTA Class parties Last day of term - School closes at 12 noon No school meals
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026:	School re-opens at 9.00am for all pupils Morning Club – 8.00am