



Ballyvester Primary School

www.ballyvesterps.org.uk

Newsletter – October 2025

Harvest Collection – 17th October 2025

We are continuing to support our local **Foodbank at Shore Street Presbyterian Church** as part of our charity work this year. The Foodbank is designed to help individuals and families in crisis, through the provision of emergency food supplies. We have enquired about items that are currently low in stock and have been given the following list:

- Tinned soup and meals/meat (e.g. chicken curry, tuna, ham, chicken)
- Boxes of cereal
- Rice (long grain) and pasta
- Jars – jam, marmalade, honey
- Coffee (small jars)
- Condiments – tomato/brown sauce, gravy granules etc
- Biscuits
- Washing powder, cleaning products and toilet rolls
- Soap, shampoo, shower gel & toothpaste

We will be collecting these non-perishable items in the cloakroom areas week beginning 13th October 2025. All contributions, however small, will be much appreciated. Our donations will be collected on Friday 17th October 2025 by volunteers from the Foodbank. Thank you for your support and kindness.

October Parent-Teacher Meetings

We are grateful for your support in working alongside us to encourage your child with their learning. In order to update you on your child's progress to date we are arranging parent-teacher meetings. These will take place on the afternoons of **Monday 20th – Thursday 23rd October 2025 from 1.00pm until 3.30pm.**

School will finish after lunch at 12.45pm for ALL pupils on these days

Staggered pick up: Families with surnames A-L – 12.35pm

Families with surnames M-Z – 12.45pm

Individual interview times will be sent home next week.

Please inform your child's class teacher in writing by Friday 3rd October 2025 if you are only available on a particular day or time and we will do our best to accommodate your request. You will appreciate that once appointments have been given, they cannot be changed.

Homework Books Payment (Year 4-7)

If you have not already paid for homework books, please do so on our school app by selecting Booking...Homework Books Payment Form and completing the payment applicable to your child(ren). Thank you.

School Fund 2025-2026

Please see the letter regarding School Fund under Notifications on the school app. We are very grateful for your support with our school fund each year.

PSNI Road Safety & Internet Safety

The PSNI will be visiting school this term to discuss the importance of Road Safety and Internet Safety with all pupils.

Charity – Pets As Therapy

Thank you to everyone for their kind donations last term for Pets As Therapy. A total of £200 was raised. Darrell and Buddy are continuing to visit Ballyvester PS each Thursday this month.

Unfortunately, Buddy is having to retire from his Therapy Role at the end of this month. We would like to thank Darrell and Buddy for all their time and support to the children over the past year.

PTA – Movie Day

Our first PTA fund-raising event will be a Movie day on Friday 24th October 2025. More details will follow on Seesaw.

Parking and Safety

The PSNI will be monitoring the traffic and parking at the beginning and end of the school day. I would remind all parents to please refrain from parking on the double yellow lines and zig-zag lines around the school. Please do not park on the footpath at the front of the school as it is dangerous for pedestrians and drivers as they exit the Ballyvester Road. Thank you.

Coats

Please ensure your child wears a coat to school every day as they play outside at break and lunch times and take part in the daily mile.

Dates for your diary:

Friday 17th October: Harvest Collection for the Donaghadee Foodbank

Mon 20th – Thu 23rd October: Parent-Teacher Meetings
School closes at 12.45p.m. for all pupils
Staggered pick up:
Families with surnames A-L – 12.35pm
Families with surnames M-Z – 12.45pm

Friday 24th October: **PTA Movie Day**
School closes at 2.00p.m. for Half Term Holidays
Staggered pick up:
Families with surnames A-L – 1.50pm
Families with surnames M-Z – 2.00pm

Tuesday 4th November: School re-opens for all pupils
8.45a.m. for families with surnames A-L
8.55a.m. for families with surnames M-Z
Morning club opens at 8.00a.m.