



BALLYCLARE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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ISSUE: 19

THURSDAY 26th JANUARY, 2017.

TERM 2

BLUE DAY - Tomorrow

All pupils and staff will be coming to school in blue clothing tomorrow to celebrate our BLUE day - **Be Loving and Understanding To Everyone**. No uniform needed tomorrow.

We have a very proactive approach to this issue and we attach guidance for you as parents to be aware of at home. Please read the information below about issues related to this topic, happening outside of school.

CYBER BULLYING & PARENT ADVICE *Please Read*

You will have no doubt heard media coverage concerning cyber bullying and the inappropriate use of Facebook or other networking sites. There has been an increase in inappropriate text messages and Facebook entries being sent and posted via children and adults in all walks of life over the last few years. Our pupils are clearly taught that there is a zero tolerance to this type of behaviour and that immediate disciplinary action will be taken should it ever occur concerning a pupil or member of staff in school. Parents are therefore requested to ensure pupils are cautioned and supervised in this regard. Libellous comments made by adults connected to or within schools also creates much upset and is an offence. Immediate action will be taken by Governors in our school should this ever arise. All parents should note that it is against the law for pupils under 13 years to use many of the social networking sites. * Please note statistics below.

PSNI has asked us to ensure all parents are aware of 'A Parent and Carers guide to the Internet' by C.E.O.P. This can be found on Youtube and is recommended for the safe use of the internet.

All pupils have been taught about this type of bullying and how much it hurts others when it happens. Our P4/5 pupils had a drama presentation last Friday about this. Pupils from Tir-na-Nog and Doagh Primary School joined us.

Parents must:

1. Be around when children are using iPads, Laptops, Tablets. Never let a child of Primary School age use these devices unsupervised.
Supervision or checking of phones is also advised. iPhones can allow your child to have access to all sorts of unsuitable material and people.
 2. Be aware of what your child is watching on television or computers. Programmes, Films and Youtube footage should be agreed by you. Games and films for teenagers and over 12-18s will bring problems. Protect your children from these.
 3. Avoid Social Media for your child until the legal age of 13 and only then - with your ability to see connections being made.
- * You can get your child's phone cloned to yours and get parent locks on your devices. This is not spying or invading privacy. This is good parenting and Child Protection.

PARENT INTERVIEWS (P1-7)

Parent Interviews will take place from 6th - 10th February. Letters with appointments have been sent to you. Please note that children should not be permitted to go outside or run around the building during these interviews. If they are unable to sit quietly outside the classroom door, parents should make alternative arrangements for supervision please. This avoids disruption and allows you to concentrate on the interview being attended.

The practice of bringing children in to interviews should be avoided, as teachers will be involved in adult conversations with you concerning your child.

P7 pupils have their own Transfer interview arrangements taking place 25th January - 1st February.

WELL DONE!

Each year we have a P7 Spelling Bee Competition between Ballyclare Primary, Mossley Primary and Fairview Primary Schools. After a very close contest last Friday, Ballyclare Primary pupils came first overall. Well Done - Emily Gilchrist, Annie Johnston, Adam Oswald and Ian Campbell.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

We start Term 2 continuing to work on our School Development Plan for this year, developing the following areas to enrich the experiences of our pupils.

- (1) Literacy, Numeracy and ICT skills development and updated tasks for pupil learning and academic success.
- (2) World Around Us - Overview of Planners and outdoor learning embedded.
- (3) iPad use and training in all classes with staff and pupils.
- (4) Updated schemes for The Arts and RE.
- (5) International Links established in Germany and India.
- (6) Updated Planners for Literacy and Numeracy under guidance of new Heads of Year groups.
- (7) Creation of new Parent Council.

To ensure our pupils are getting the best possible education and that resources and methods are up to date, the staff are consistently looking at schemes of work and practice within our year groups. Class planners are reviewed throughout each term and pupil ideas are taken into account. Guidance notes were sent to all parents about the curriculum covered in each year group, at the beginning of the school year.

Should you need any assistance with this, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher/Head of Year. Mrs Malcomson, our Parent Liaison teacher, is always happy to chat with parents concerning any aspect of a child's development and education. In her absence contact Mrs McCollum, Mr McAuley or Mrs Mulligan.

BRINGING THE CURRICULUM ALIVE

Much of our education is 'work' related and there is no getting away from the fact that certain facts must be learned, practised and taught. Alongside this, we endeavour to interest our pupils in their learning by teaching skills through Topics. Books, pictures, artefacts, posters, internet research, video clips, visits and visitors help bring these topics alive. We have many workshops in P4-7 also to encourage this learning.

I commend these topics to you and ask that you encourage your child's learning of them by taking an active interest in them at home. We are so pleased to see this happening already by the information and artefacts pupils are bringing in to school as the topics are being covered. Some of our KSI and KSII project work each year is also outstanding.

TOPICS FOLLOWED THROUGHOUT THREE TERMS FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

<p>P1</p> <p>Amazing Me Rhyme Time Cracker for Christmas Brr.... It's Cold Home Sweet Home Barking Mad Commotion in the Ocean</p>	<p>P2</p> <p>Castles Autumn/Harvest Christmas Post Emergency 999 Wild Animals Space Down on the Farm</p>	<p>P3</p> <p>Mighty Me Let's Celebrate Then and Now Splish, Splash, Splosh Mini-beasts Our Park</p>	<p>P4</p> <p>Treemendous Trees World War 2 Sound Ancient Rome Houses & Homes</p>
<p>P5</p> <p>It's a Small World (NI Focus) Early Man Eco Energy Egypt Birds</p>	<p>P6</p> <p>Inside your Outside Fair Trade Vicious Vikings Exciting Extremes The Great Famine Marvellous Materials</p>	<p>P7</p> <p>Victorians Titanic Europe Outer Space Plants Transition & Moving On</p>	

MUSIC FEES

Parents who chose to send three cheques for payment of music fees this year, please note that your second cheque will be lodged to the bank on Tuesday 31st January.

As always: If there is anything that concerns you in any way in school, please contact me via the school office or by e-mail if that is easier. I will always follow up any issues raised if I have your contact details.

Mrs Mulligan

