



BALLYCLARE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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ISSUE: 30

Thursday 4th May, 2017.

Term 3



<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ballyclareprimary/>



TOTAL RAISED SO FAR IS: £552.01

Welcome back to a lovely week for the start of May. It is great to see so many pupils being able to wear their summer uniform. Everyone looks so well.

A little reminder for names to be checked on cardigans and sweatshirts as these are often removed in warmer weather.



AQE REGISTRATION

P6 Parents, please be advised that the AQE Registration for tests in November/December 2017, is now open. You will receive a letter from P6/7 concerning this. Please return the reply slip to ensure you get an application form from us, should you need one.

WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK, 16th-19th MAY

We are running our second Walk to School initiative for this year. The aim is that we have lots of pupils and parents walking, scooting or cycling to school to help reduce our 'carbon footprint'.

Each pupil who walks to school will gain "travel points" for their class and the class with the most points at the end of the week will get a very special certificate. We appreciate your efforts with this and look forward to seeing lots of families leaving the car behind.

INTERNET & GAME SAFETY

I have written to you as parents a number of times to express concern about the wide reaching negative effect some games and internet use can have on our pupils. It is very obvious, to us in school, the pupils who are being affected by these and we seek your support to prevent this.

Please check all games your child asks you to purchase, or ones at home already. If they are for older players, then do not expose your child to the content in some games. If you have not played them yourself, or you do not know how to play them, sit beside your child and check the material for yourself.

Research has clearly shown that 'gaming' to a high level, has an effect on pupil attitude, concentration and behaviour. Limit the time and the type of gaming your child is involved in. Should you need any help or advice, please do not hesitate to contact us in school.

ASSESSMENTS AND ANNUAL PUPIL REPORTS

Parents are reminded that Assessments are taking place this week (P1-6) and the following week (P1-7). These are for end of year reports and pupil assessment profiles.

Attendance at school each day is necessary to complete these assessments and have the detail recorded on your child's report. Should a child be absent for any assessments, these will remain blank on the mark sheet if time does not permit for them to be redone.

Any child absent on the day the reports are sent out to parents will have this posted home, if a stamped addressed envelope is provided to the class teacher for this purpose. As the reports and additional information combine to a number of pages, please do not send a small envelope. A5 size is recommended and is available from our school office, should you be unable to access one yourself.

HEARTSTART

As part of our Personal Development studies, our pupils will soon be embarking on the British Heart Foundation's Heartstart Programme. This series of lessons teaches children emergency life support skills and covers topics such as contacting emergency services, the conscious and the unconscious casualty, bleeding and CPR for cardiac arrest. The depth of the programme delivered is dependent on the year group of the pupils. Over the past number of years, the lessons have been hugely popular and beneficial to the children.

If you wish to know more about the content of the programme, contact Mr McAuley at school who will be happy to discuss your queries.

SUMMER FAIR – KEEP THE DATE FREE!

Our Summer Fair is taking place on Friday, 2nd June from 6:00 – 8:00pm. *Keep the date free!* To help us, we are looking donations of books, school uniform, bric-a-brac for White Elephant stall, cakes and groceries, potted plants and teddy bears (second hand). We are also giving out small plastic bags which can be filled with small goodies for a boy or girl. If you wish a bag please speak to your child's teacher. Donated items can be sent to school w/c Tuesday 16th May. Perishable items can be sent w/c 29th May.

LONDON 2017

The P7 residential trip to London was a huge success. The weather was great and all pupils in attendance had a great time. Many experiences were had at all the venues visited and memories made for years to come. The staff in attendance were busy organising and preparing for the events to be such a success. Thank you to them all for their dedication and care for our pupils each day. The pupils themselves were constantly praised for their behaviour and conduct all over London again. Thank you to all who took part in a great week away. Should your child wish to participate next year in this trip, go onto our school website and check out our daily diary of the visit – you will be impressed!

SCIENCE FESTIVAL

We had a brilliant time during our Science Festival. What a busy day we had! The buzz and excitement in school was spectacular. The festival was made up of many interesting activities and events. Pupils were given the opportunity to learn about famous scientists, what they discovered/invented and how it has influenced the way we live today. We also really enjoyed watching and taking part in the magical Science shows presented by W5, Belfast and were delighted that Tir-Na-Nog Primary School could join us for these.

Another highlight of the festival was the "Rocket Mouse" investigation. It was fantastic to see pupils problem solving, predicting and evaluating whilst testing their mouse with the milk carton to see how high it would go.

Can we say a big well done to all competition winners! We were overwhelmed with the effort put into designing your own Science coat. Our playground school corridors were full of unique, creative and purely impressive coats. Wow! Please keep these in school and wear them during class Science lessons. There were lots of really cool Science prizes up for grabs and winners have already been presented with these.

Our Mystery STEM Parent Event was such a success and is still being talked about amongst pupils. We had 16 teams of pupils and parents taking part in the task which involved teams building the tallest structure possible out of the materials provided. The atmosphere in the assembly hall was one of pure concentration and competitive spirit. Thank you to all parents involved with this. We are always so delighted to see our parents' interest in what is happening in school and their willingness to get involved.

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

