



BALLYCLARE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Website: www.ballyclareps.co.uk Email: kmulligan818@c2kni.net

ISSUE: 8

THURSDAY 19th OCTOBER, 2017.

TERM 1



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

TOTAL RAISED SO FAR IS: £779.45



EXCEPTIONAL CLOSURES

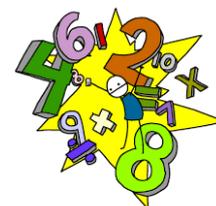
The decision to close schools this week, to ensure the safety and wellbeing of pupils/staff and parents, was taken with the best possible interests of all in mind. We appreciate this will have necessitated additional childcare arrangements to be made and we thank you for this. Be assured that all staff will be endeavouring to catch up on any lost learning of core areas in the coming weeks. P7 has a bespoke timetable in place to ensure all are ready for this Saturday's AQE familiarisation day, also.

REMINDER

The first Training Exceptional Closure for this year will take place on Monday 6th November. School will be closed on this day for pupils, due to Staff Training. This date was forwarded to you in our Diary of Events Bulletin.

NUMERACY DAY

Tomorrow is Numeracy Day in school. All children will be engaged in Mathematical Activities throughout the school day. Watch out on our website and See Saw for the Learning fun going on. Creative, Active Learning Techniques, which capture the imagination, will be enjoyed in P1-7. We are really focusing on our Number Bonds and Times Tables.



PARENT INTERVIEWS

Many thanks to all our parents who plan to attend Parent/Teacher interviews this coming week to discuss pupil progress. We are pleased to receive positive feedback from so many who appreciate the work going on in our school. Be assured that any issues highlighted will be followed up by the staff, Principal or Governors. We ask that you, as parents, continue to follow any guidance given by the teaching staff for the future progress of your child. A further opportunity to discuss this progress will take place in February.

As always, if you have any concerns between October and February, do not hesitate to make an appointment to see the class teacher, the Head of Year, Mr. McAuley (V.P.) or Mrs Mulligan. A reminder that school will end for all pupils at 1:55pm next week and therefore no extended schools activities will take place. These recommence the week we return after Half Term - 7th November.

In previous Parent Feedback, it was requested that parents receive help and guidance, to assist their children at home, if a child is in need of this. Also information about behaviour and readiness to Learn. All staff will identify any needs to you at the Parent Interviews next week. It is in your child's interest to spend time on this for progress to be made.

★ You will also get our parent contact form to check and forms not signed already, while you are here. Please sign/amend, as necessary, and leave the form with your child's class teacher.

EASY FUNDRAISING

Well done everyone who has helped us this past week by buying online through our Easyfundraising Link. We have raised approximately £780 already! Thank you. Keep supporting us and remember to tell all your family.



AQE FAMILIARISATION - Ballyclare High School/Larne Grammar

Any child sitting their AQE Test papers in Ballyclare High School should note that the Familiarisation Day is this Saturday, 21st October. This is a 'dry run.' All pupils, who have entered, are welcome.

Test Dates are: 11th, 25th November and 2nd December 2017.

Results are on: 27th January 2018.

Please consult letters of invitation for times/arrangements.

HARVEST SERVICE P3/4

Our P3/4 pupils and Staff hosted parents and friends on Friday afternoon in Ballyclare Presbyterian Church for a special Community Harvest Service. This was a genuinely lovely way to remember how thankful we are to God for all the good things we enjoy in our lives, when many across our land and the world have so little. Thank you to all who attended and to Miss Kernohan (Head of P4) and our P3/4 team. Our retiring offering, which totalled £289.55, was for the Saphara Organisation which supports Anurag School in India. This organisation has helped many children in need in India over the years. Thank you for giving so generously.

HEALTHY LIVING TUCK SHOP

Our 'Healthy Living' tuck-shop will open for business after Half Term. Key Stage 2 classes have been asked to vote for items they would like to see being sold in the shop. These were tallied and totalled during our councillor meeting.



Popular items are apples, bananas, raisins, oranges, grapes, croissants, bottled water and cereal bars. Items like these will be available for all KS2 pupils on a Wednesday and Thursday from our shop. Keep your eyes 'peeled' in Term 2, our Fruit Trolley will begin for Foundation Stage and Key Stage One.

We are running our 'Healthy Token' scheme again to reward our visitors for aiming to be healthy. The class with the most healthy tokens at the end of term will get rewarded with a most coveted class party.

FLU VACCINATIONS

Flu vaccinations were completed in school today. Any child who was absent from school should contact their GP, or our school nurse, to have this updated for this year.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

Our school photographs will be completed on Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th October. All proofs will be sent home and orders collected. Should you wish to purchase any of these through a school order - please ensure they are returned in time for Christmas presents. A closing date for orders will follow.

★ Please ensure you write your CHILD'S NAME and CLASS on the order form.

HOT FOOD

Parents are reminded that no hot food in Thermos flasks should be sent into school for breaks/lunches. These can be dangerous in busy classrooms. Thank you for your support in this.

TELEPHONE CALLS TO OFFICE

We appear to have had a sharp rise in the number of telephone calls to the office during the day to give messages and reminders to pupils re: after school arrangements. The busy and active nature of our curriculum means that pupils are not always in a set place therefore this causes difficulties for office staff and does not safeguard children. Please ensure all arrangements are clearly discussed with pupils before school. Put reminders in homework diaries. Calling the school office with messages is for emergency reasons only. Thank you.

*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*



BALLYCLARE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Principal: Mrs. K. Mulligan B.Ed (Hons), M.Ed, P.Q.S.H.



Dear Parent/Guardian

CONCUSSION AWARENESS - WHO NEEDS TO KNOW?

The Department of Education has requested that all schools should write to parents/guardians to highlight the need for you to keep all organisations informed if your child receives a concussion injury.

Concussion is a brain injury which is usually caused by hitting the head or a fall. It can happen at any time, anywhere: for example during sports, in the school playground, or at home.

Concussion must always be taken seriously and it is vitally important that any child/young person suspected of having concussion should immediately be stopped from continuing whatever activity they are doing and be assessed by a medical professional for diagnosis and guidance.

A second injury when a child has concussion can be extremely serious and may even be fatal. It is vitally important therefore that medical clearance is sought before your child returns to school/play. Children should not resume physical activities such as Physical Education (PE), sports or games until permitted to do so by a medical professional.

Concussion may also affect your child's ability to learn at school. This must be considered and medical clearance should be sought before the child returns to school. As symptoms vary from child to child, a graduated return to school programme may be needed.

If your child suffers a concussion in school or outside school, it is vitally important that you keep all people/organisations with responsibility for caring for your child informed so that they are aware of the potential dangers and any restrictions that may apply to the activities your child is permitted to do.

The 'Recognise and Remove' leaflet produced by the Department of Education and the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure is available on the Department of Education's website <http://www.deni.gov.uk> and provides guidance on the signs to look out for.

Keeping everyone informed about concussion is in your child's best interests and parents/guardians have a key role in making sure that information is passed on to their child's teacher, sports coach, youth leader or other care provider.

Yours sincerely,

K. Mulligan
Principal



WHAT IS CONCUSSION?

Concussion is a brain injury which is usually caused by hitting your head or a fall. It can happen at any time, anywhere: for example during sports, in the school playground, or even at home.

Concussion must **always** be taken seriously. It is really important to be able to recognise the signs and know how to respond.

SPOT THE SIGNS

If you or someone else has been hit on the head, you need to look out for signs like these:

- A headache
- Feeling dazed or confused
- Feeling drowsy or sleepy
- Feeling sick
- Feeling irritable or “in a fog”
- Having difficulty remembering things
- Any other change in normal behaviour.

Concussion does not always involve losing consciousness; you must take **any** of these symptoms very seriously. For more details, see the **Pocket Concussion Recognition Tool™**.

Stay aware and stay safe

- The signs and symptoms of concussion usually start at the time of injury, but it's not uncommon for symptoms to be delayed for up to 48 hours.
- Hitting your head a second time when you have concussion can be extremely serious.
- Knowing what to do if you think someone might have concussion can prevent serious injury, and it may even save a life.

KNOW WHAT TO DO AND WATCH OUT FOR EACH OTHER

If you have hit your head or you think someone else might have suffered a concussion:

- **Stop playing** or whatever you are doing.
- **Report it** to a teacher, parent, coach, referee or umpire immediately.
- **Be honest** about how you're feeling or what you've seen.

If someone has been knocked out or seems to be getting worse, someone must phone an ambulance to get them help quickly.

See the **Pocket Concussion Recognition Tool™** for more guidance.

Remember that your health and your life are more important than any sport or game:

- If you hit your head before a match, you must **let your sports coach know**.
- If you are playing or training and hit your head, **don't return to the game** until a doctor has assessed you.
- If you are told to stay away from sport or training for a period of time, make sure you **follow the instructions**.





ROUND POUND FUNDRAISER



As you know, old £1 coins are no longer legal tender and we are not able to accept them as payment. So as a formal “Goodbye” to the trusty £1 coin we have organized a **Round Pound Fundraiser**.

We will accept all old £1 coins as *donations only* for the next week... so now is the time to hunt through your money boxes, down the back of the sofa and in long forgotten handbags! Ask relatives and friends to join in the hunt and see how many we can find.

Please send any donations to class teachers.
Closing Date: Thursday 26th October

Keep an eye on our website for our current Round Pound collection total. We hope you enjoy the hunt!