

Parent Information Booklet

P.7.



BALLYCLARE PRIMARY SCHOOL



WELCOME TO P7

The P7 classes work together and in close co-operation with other year groups to ensure that all children in Ballyclare Primary School receive a broad and balanced curriculum. The P7 year is busy and the children are offered a wide range of learning opportunities both in and outside school.

Here is a brief outline of work undertaken in the P7 year.

MATHEMATICS

Work involves the statutory areas of Processes, Number, Measure, Shape and Space and Data Handling.

As well as individual work, pupils have opportunities for group work involving practical tasks.

The children participate in mental maths and problem solving on a regular basis.

LITERACY

READING: The development of the children as readers is an important part of the P7 curriculum. The pupils enjoy set novels read by the whole class as well as reading books in a group situation. Some children, who require extra support, may read on an individual basis.

We encourage the children to become independent readers through the use of our school, class and town libraries. Reading different types of books e.g. fact, fiction, poetry etc should be encouraged and supported throughout the year by parents/carers. It not only increases the child's knowledge but also his/her word power and also stimulates the children as writers. Particular authors enjoyed in P7 are; Roald Dahl, Michael Morpurgo, Gillian Cross, Ian Serraillier, David Walliams and a wide variety of poets.

WRITING: The children are given opportunities to write freely and creatively and in a number of styles e.g. diary writing, report writing, poems, creative stories, book reviews and letters.

In the P7 year, in recognition of their growing independence, the children have the opportunity to complete projects such as compiling an autobiography, a Europe project and a Titanic project.

SPELLING: It is important that spellings are learned each evening and children are required to write out their spellings as part of their homework. The emphasis of our spelling programme is on the teaching of spelling based on the recognition of visual patterns and frequency words.

We would appreciate your support in helping your child to learn his/her spellings and also in talking about their meanings. A useful aid to learning is the 'Look, Visualise, Say, Cover, Write and Check' method.

HANDWRITING: We encourage a neat, joined up style of writing. As the year progresses we would aim to have pupils progress to the use of pen.

TALKING & LISTENING: We aim to help the children become confident and fluent speakers and we do this not only in question and answer sessions in class, but in our Circle Time periods when children are encouraged to debate relevant issues.

THE ARTS: In Art the children have opportunities to work with a variety of art materials including paint, pastel, charcoal and papier mache.

In Music during the year, the children listen to and appreciate various forms as well as singing and have opportunities to compose music themselves using percussion instruments. Many P7 pupils also do grade exams in brass, woodwind or stringed instruments. Your child will require the use of a recorder for Music lessons during the year.

THE WORLD AROUND US:

Here is an outline programme of our World Around Us topics.

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
VICTORIANS	TITANIC	SOWING & GROWING Plants & Transition
	EUROPE	OUTER SPACE

In History the pupils study the Victorians. We also spend time exploring the Titanic as a topic. In the third term the children have the opportunity to study some local history.

In Geography the pupils, through the topic of Europe, study the environment and how people live. Children also build on mapping skills taught in previous years.

In Science and Technology the pupils have opportunities to plan and build models, and to test their operation. They will also study plants and investigate conditions for their growth.

U ICT is taught in a cross curricular manner giving the children opportunities in research and project work. Children can build on skills learned in previous years as well as going on to learn how to make Power Point presentations and simple programming. The pupils work with iPads and various programs for presenting and editing sound. The children undertake the tasks in terms 1 - 3. As with other year groups, P7 classes will be timetabled to work in our U ICT suite.

PDMU (Personal Development for Mutual Understanding)

Pupils have the chance to focus on issues surrounding growing up, such as drugs, alcohol, peer pressure and personal safety, etc. During the year a visit from the School Nurse will deal with gender specific issues relevant to P7 (of course for this parental consent will be sought). The children have the opportunity to partake in the Heartstart Programme of the British Heart Foundation. This programme teaches basic emergency life support skills.

PE: Please ensure your child comes to PE and games lessons with suitable named clothing. (PE Kit - white tee-shirt, navy/black shorts or trackbottoms, trainers). The programmes of study involve athletics, games, gymnastics and dance. The pupils attend the Valley Leisure Centre for swimming during the year. You will be informed of the dates relevant to your child's class.

CYCLING PROFICIENCY: P7 children have the chance to undertake the Cycling Proficiency Programme during the latter part of the P7 year.

TRIPS: There are two residential trips in the P7 year, to London and to Woodhall, Co. Londonderry. Both of these trips take place in the second term this year. We also hope to have a day trip to Parliament Buildings, Stormont to study aspects of citizenship.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES: There are many opportunities for development outside the classroom in the activities offered in our after school's programme. We would encourage your child to become involved in at least one activity, even if they haven't done so far in their time at Ballyclare Primary. It's a great way to develop skills and interests as well as meet new friends. There's something for everyone!

BEHAVIOUR: As with other years, we expect behaviour of the highest standard when the pupils are both in school, going to and from school, as well as on trips off the school site. P7 children are reminded of the important position they occupy as the senior pupils in the school and their responsibility to act as role models for the younger children.

The P7 pupils have the chance to assume responsibilities in assisting teachers, supervisory staff and younger pupils through our Buddy System.

ASSESSMENT: Assessment of your child's learning will take place formally and informally throughout the year. Details of his/her progress will be given to you at interview times and in annual reports. Please contact Mrs Mulligan or your child's class teacher should you need any further information.

INTERVIEWS: There are two parental interviews in the P7 year, one in October and the second in February concerning the transfer of pupils to post-primary schools.

USEFUL TIP FOR PARENTS

Parents play a very important role in the education of their child and in Primary 7 we would expect parents to assist in the following ways:

1. Please sign every written homework and your child's homework diary.
2. Please ensure spellings are written out and learned each night.
3. Please listen to your child's reading homeworks regularly.
4. Maths facts e.g. tables, should be continually revised with your child.
5. Encourage your child to work independently when completing project work but feel free to assist them with any areas of concern.

If your child has a serious difficulty with any homework that cannot be resolved by a simple explanation or if a homework is taking an excessive amount of time, please write a short note to the teacher in the homework diary.

P7 homework should take no longer than 1¹/₄ hours in total.

Please find below a list of useful websites which may assist with your child's learning in Primary 7.

www.woodlands-junior.kent.scho.uk

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks2bitesize

www.news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/victorian_britain

www.thinkuknow.co.uk/8_10

You may also wish to download Scratch and Audacity, two UICT programmes that your child will be using throughout the year. You may need to install Windows Shockwave - instructions will appear on the screen.

HOME LIAISON FOLDERS

Periodically, throughout the year, samples of your child's class work will be sent home in a folder for you to see how they are doing in school. These folders are normally sent home on a Friday and must be returned for the next school day.

HOUSE COMPETITION

As part of our Positive Behaviour Policy, pupils in KS2 are divided up into four school Houses, namely Cunningham, Girvan, McIlroy and Percy. Throughout the year pupils can be awarded House Points for aspects of positive behaviour such as good manners, helping others, great attitudes, representing school at events, attendance at after schools activities etc. House Certificates are awarded to pupils in Key Stage assemblies. In June the House with the most points is awarded the Gawn Trophy.

If there are any difficulties or issues you want to discuss any time during the year, please contact school to make an appointment to speak to your child's teacher.

Teaching your child is a partnership and we thank you for your interest and support. We value and appreciate it very much.



P7 'BACK TO SCHOOL' CHECKLIST



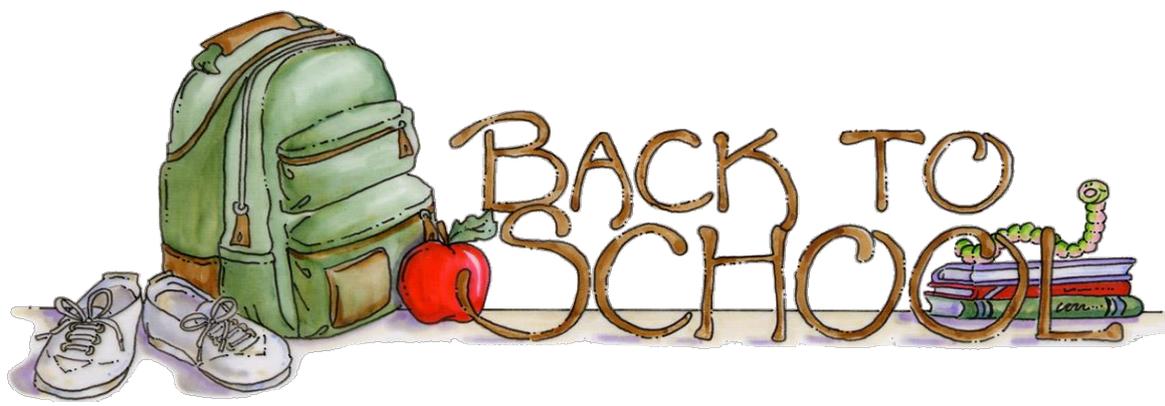
To be ready for the P7 year ahead you will need...

- HB pencils (or pop-up pencils with 0.5/0.7mm leads)
- Colouring pencils (no crayons or gel pens)
- Felt-tips
- Sharpener (with collecting pot)
- Rubber
- 30cm ruler (no flexible rulers please)
- Pritt stick (labelled please)
- Box of tissues
- A4 file (does not need to be new)

Please note:

These items will need replaced, when required, throughout the year.

All items of school uniform, PE Kit and belongings must be clearly labelled with the pupil's name.



BALLYCLARE PRIMARY SCHOOL



USEFUL INFORMATION

- (A) If you have a concern about anything in school, please follow these procedures:
- (i) Speak to your child's class teacher.
 - (ii) Vice-Principal - Mr McAuley
 - (iii) Speak to (Principal) - Mrs Mulligan
- (B) Should your concern not be resolved then:
You may have a concern that should involve the Board of Governors of the school. Please put this in writing to the Secretary of the Board of Governors. This will be discussed at the next meeting with the chairman and a response made by him concerning the issue. Dr. J. H. MacConnell (Chairman).
- (C) If you have a concern about a Child Protection/Safeguarding matter in or out of school; please contact:
- (i) Mrs Mulligan - Designated Teacher for Child Protection.
or
 - (ii) Mr McAuley - Deputy Designated Teacher.

The Designated Teachers will ensure the matter is completely investigated with support from EA and the appropriate outside agencies.

- * If you ever suspect your child is being bullied at school - please contact the class teacher or Mrs Mulligan immediately.

BALLYCLARE PRIMARY SCHOOL - UNIFORM CODE



FOUNDATION STAGE P1-2

White polo shirt

Red school sweat shirt

Grey trousers for boys

Grey skirts for girls

Black shoes (low heel)

White socks/plain black tights for girls

Grey socks for boys

Summer Alternative

Grey tailored long shorts for boys

Red gingham dress for girls

(red cardigan or school jumper may be worn with dress)

★ Black or white plimsoles - PE

КСI P3-4

White short or long-sleeved school shirt

School tie - elasticated

Red school sweat shirt

Grey trousers for boys

Grey skirt for girls

Black shoes (low heel)

White socks/plain black tights for girls

Grey socks for boys

Summer Alternative

Grey tailored long shorts for boys

Red gingham dress for girls

(red cardigan or school jumper may be worn with dress)

- ⦿ Top button in collar should be fastened so ensure collars are of an appropriate size. No 'slack' knots please on ties.

КСII P5-7

White short or long-sleeved school shirt

School tie - elasticated/self tying

Red school sweat shirt

Grey trousers for boys

Grey skirts for girls

Black shoes (low heel)

White socks/plain black tights for girls

Grey socks for boys

Summer Alternative

Grey tailored long shorts for boys

Red gingham dress for girls

(red cardigan or school jumper may be worn with dress)

- ⦿ Top button in collar should be fastened so ensure collars are of an appropriate size. No 'slack' knots please on ties.

PE Uniform is for P4-7 pupils. This consists of a plain white t-shirt/polo shirt, navy or black shorts or tracksuit bottoms and school sweatshirt.

To maintain our school standards and to encourage respect for our school community:

- ◆ All pupils are expected to come to school in the appropriate uniform every day.
- ◆ No jewellery should be worn. No earrings to be worn by either boys or girls.
- ◆ No nail polish
- ◆ All hair should be tied back from face, if long.
Boys should have hair no longer than collar length.
Shaving of heads/designs and hair dye is not welcomed for any pupil.

BALLYCLARE PRIMARY SCHOOL



MEDICAL ISSUES

Please ensure you follow our medical procedures guidelines if your child has a medical condition.

- (i) Ensure the school is fully aware of the condition and its implications in school.
- (ii) Ensure a yellow medical form is completed for any medication being requested to be administered in school.
- (iii) Ensure inhalers etc are provided for the class teacher, should an emergency arise.

Contact Mr McAuley (Head of Pastoral Care) for any further advice.

CARE REQUESTS

It is parental responsibility to ensure the school office/teachers are aware of any changes to collecting arrangements for your child in the afternoon.

Phone calls to change arrangements at the last minute are not welcome unless in an absolute emergency.

Please ensure your child knows who is collecting him/her at the end of the day. This provides comfort and stability for the school day.

BALLYCLARE PRIMARY SCHOOL



ANTI-BULLYING PROCEDURES

As a school, we are very pro-active concerning the issue of bullying. All classes are taught not to engage in such behaviour, but also what to do, should it unfortunately still occur. When an incident is reported, the following will take place:

- (i) The class teacher will speak to the bully and the victim involved. Bystanders may also be involved in this discussion. Clear guidance will be given that this type of behaviour should cease immediately. If a child (victim) is distressed at this level – parents will be informed. The parent of the bully will be contacted immediately to ensure the incident is dealt with at home.

- (ii) Should this type of incident continue, the class teacher will inform the Head of Stage/Vice Principal/Principal. The bully will be punished in line with our Positive Behaviour Policy and parents will be invited into school for a meeting. No child will be permitted to persistently annoy/upset another child in our school.

The positive ethos encouraged helps to eradicate the need for this type of behaviour but when it occurs, both the victim and the bully get help to ensure it does not continue. A bully often has other issues and these will be investigated to ensure this behaviour pattern stops.