



BALLYCLARE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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ISSUE: 17

THURSDAY 11th JANUARY, 2018.

TERM 2



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



→→→ TOTAL RAISED SO FAR IS: £954.75 ←←←

If you have used 'easyfundraising' and would be happy to share your experience with others, please email a testimonial to Mrs Mulligan by Friday 19th January so we can include it in our Bulletin.

WELCOME BACK EVERYONE

On behalf of the Governors and staff we wish every blessing to our families and friends for 2018, and a warm welcome back after our Christmas break.

We've started Term 2 and a busy timetable lies ahead with many exciting things planned.

Please keep up to date with the events going on in school and all that you can be involved in as a family.

*Our Holiday List, sent to you in Term 3 last year, is on our school website. Please note dates of our next holiday in February and Easter Time.

As winter progresses, please ensure all pupils are prepared for the school day with appropriate coats, hats and gloves (named).

Reminder: Please ensure also that all uniform standards are in place. If you need any assistance with this, we are happy to help.

JANUARY ASSESSMENTS

Our January Assessments will take place over the next couple of weeks to monitor the progress being made by our pupils, in class subject areas. Careful revision is hugely noticeable so please allocate some time to go over the areas identified by your child's class teacher. Results will be sent to you for discussions at February Parent Interviews.

Teachers will have sent home appropriate guidance for revision.

EXTENDED SCHOOL ACTIVITIES - Start date: Monday 22nd January 2018

Our Extended Schools Timetable for Term 2 is currently being set up. This will also be on our website should you need to access it there. Activities start week commencing Monday 22nd January 2018.

The same method to make choices in P4-7 will take place next week.

P1 ENROLMENT

P1 places for next September 2018 will be allocated in the coming weeks. If you still have a form to return, please ensure this is forwarded to the school office immediately. Should you need an additional form, please let us know. The official closing date was yesterday.

HEALTHY EATING

We continue to encourage our Healthy Eating routine with our pupils each day for Break and Lunch-time. Thank you for supporting this as far as possible. A copy of the menu for the term ahead in our school canteen has been sent home to you. You will also find it on our school website this week.

www.ballyclareps.co.uk

Our School Council will also be issuing a 'Wasteless Campaign' leaflet to all pupils in school this term. Please read over this with your child at home. We are encouraging all pupils to bring in less litter to school via packaging etc. Don't forget we have toast, milk and fruit available each breaktime.

ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL

Please read the attached leaflet from the Department of Education on the key features and outcomes of good and poor attendance. The information on how parents can help their child gain success, is clearly stated. It is a known fact that children who attend school each day, and who are well supported at home to display positive behaviour, are most likely to reach their full academic potential in school.

EARRINGS

The wearing of earrings in school is not permitted. Please ensure these are removed each morning. This is for safety reasons.

NOTE TO PARENTS

I have written to you in the past about the increase of aggressive behaviour in children who are exposed to violent computer games and inappropriate film/TV programmes. Thank you for taking note of this and being vigilant. We have noted a decrease in this behaviour in school which is much appreciated.

Our pupils are at risk if they see or hear adult conversations/issues before an age of understanding. Parents are also generally finding their children's behaviour to be increasingly challenging. Many contact us in school, via our Parent/Family Liaison Team, to get help with this. Do not be afraid to do this. We are happy to assist you, if we can. Social Media is also a huge problem for some Primary age pupils - please note the age for use of this should be at least 13+.

Mrs Mulligan (Principal)

Mrs McCollum (SENCO)

Mr McAuley (V.P.)

Mrs Sturgess (Parent Liaison Teacher)

★ *Supervision of children using computers is necessary at all times. Check out phones also.*

DATA FORMS

All parents who attended their Parent Teacher meeting in October will have reviewed the data form, with contact details on it, held in school. The changes made have been amended.

Please ensure you keep the school office informed of any further address or telephone changes. This is very important. Please note also that at least one contact person should be available on any school day, should an emergency arise. Text messages from school are sent to the first contact number.

MEDICATION

If your child requires use of an inhaler for asthma/chest problems, please ensure an up to date inhaler is deposited with the class teacher. Also if your child requires other medication anytime in school, please speak to the teacher.

All medication should be checked to ensure it is still in date.

Never send medication into school with a child. We have a procedure for this which safeguards all pupils. See Mr McAuley if you need help with this.

*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

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN: High Importance

All schools have clear guidelines for safeguarding children and we endeavour to follow these. As parents have a responsibility in this area also, please be reminded of the following important Child Protection/Safeguarding points:

- All classrooms and corridor areas in our school have posters detailing adults our pupils can seek help from, should they need it.
- All classrooms have a W.I.S.H. Box to receive notes from pupils if they wish their teacher or Mrs Mulligan to be aware of some thought, worry or idea.
- Our Reception Area has a clear display of the procedures to follow should you, as a parent, have a concern of a child protection nature – for your own child or that of a child known to you. This concern would be about the welfare of a child. The persons to contact would be:
Mrs Mulligan – Designated Teacher.
Mr McAuley – Deputy Designated Teacher.
- Every child has the right to
 - have his or her welfare considered paramount
 - be heard
 - be protected from abuse and neglect.

To this end, parents have a responsibility to ‘parent’ their children correctly. Our school partners this role and works with outside agencies to teach children how to keep themselves safe and to ensure they are being protected and looked after both in/out of school.

- All adults working within our school have been vetted to ensure their suitability to work with children. Volunteers are also asked to complete police check forms.
- Children are given clear guidelines about Positive Behaviour, Anti-bullying and the correct Code of Conduct for the use of Technologies in school. There is a zero tolerance to the sharing of inappropriate images or sending inappropriate messages technologically. Be very aware that this practice can be investigated and can become a legal matter.
- Every school has a number of ‘vulnerable’ children/families within its care. If you ever have a concern about a pupil you know, please contact us immediately. Abuse can take different forms:
Sexual Physical Emotional Neglect
Significant harm is caused if a child is a victim of abuse. This lasts into their adult life unless appropriate help is put in place. Neglect is the most common form of abuse in this area according to Social Services.
- Domestic violence is also at a high rate in County Antrim. Never keep information to yourself that might be useful in getting someone you know the help they need. There is a range of services and outside agencies available just for advice.
 - * Referrals Gateway Team -94424459 (office hours)
 - * P.S.N.I. - 90650222
 - * Out of Hours Emergency Service - 95049999 (5pm - 9am Mon - Fri. 24 hours at weekends)
 - * Women’s Aid - 25632136
 - * 24 hr Domestic Violence Helpline - 08009171414

For protection reasons and safeguarding our pupils, all parents/adults are asked to enter the school building and report to the main office foyer where our staff will be happy to help you. Please do not walk around the corridors or enter classrooms before having reported to the main office. Adults leaving/collecting pupils should never use the pupil/staff toilet areas without prior consent by office staff. Thank you.



MISS SCHOOL = MISS OUT

WHY ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL IS SO IMPORTANT

If a child of compulsory school age is registered at a school it is essential that they attend their school regularly and maintain a pattern of good attendance throughout their school career.

Excellent attendance at school is important to allow a child or young person to fulfil their potential.

Key Point

Young people who regularly miss school without good reason are more likely to become isolated from their friends, to underachieve in examinations and/or become involved in anti-social behaviour.

Below are just some of the key reasons why it is so important children attend school:

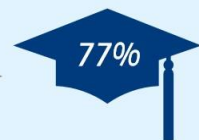
- To learn.
- To make new friends.
- To experience new things in life.
- To gain qualifications.
- To develop new skills.
- To build confidence and self-esteem.
- To have the best possible start in life.

CAN ATTENDANCE MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO EXAM RESULTS?

Greater than
95% Attendance



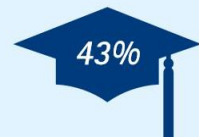
77% of pupils achieved at least 5 GCSEs including English and Maths when they attended more than 95%



Less than
90% Attendance



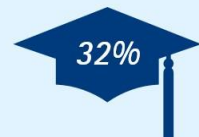
43% of pupils achieved at least 5 GCSEs including English and Maths when they attended less than 90%



Less than
80% Attendance



32% of pupils achieved at least 5 GCSEs including English and Maths when they attended less than 80%



HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

- Establish a good routine in the mornings and evenings so your child is prepared for the school day ahead.
- Make sure your child goes to school regularly and follows the school rules.
- Ensure your child arrives at school on time - not late.
- Arrange dental and medical appointments outside school hours when possible.
- Always inform the school if your child is absent due to illness - this should be followed up with a written note when your child returns to school.
- If your child is not attending school as you expect they may be putting themselves at risk - Who are they with? What are they doing?
- Do not take family holidays during term time.
- Talk to your child about school and take an interest in their school work (including homeworks).
- Attend parents evenings and school events.
- Praise and reward your child's achievements at school.
- Always support school staff in their efforts to control difficult or challenging behaviour.

Key Point

Parents of children aged 4-16 who are enrolled in school are legally required to make sure they attend.

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning.

| | |
|------------------|---|
| 100 % Attendance | 0 Days Missed |
| 95 % Attendance | 9 Days of Absence 1 Week and 4 Days of Learning Missed |
| 90 % Attendance | 19 Days of Absence 3 Weeks and 4 Days of Learning Missed |
| 85 % Attendance | 28 Days of Absence 5 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed |