



BALLYCLARE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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THURSDAY 25th JANUARY, 2018.

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.

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.

In school we have a bespoke programme to teach children about Internet Safety using a character called EMOJI. Please note the following rules:

- E**mail only people you know.
- M**obile numbers and personal details are private.
- O**nline social network age is 13.
- J**okes or nasty comments online is cyber bullying.
- I**f you share a photo you don't know where it will end up.

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 5th - 9th 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 29th January - 2nd 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, Mossley Primary pupils came first overall. Well Done - Isaac Shiels, Hayley Rolston, Grace Kinkaid and Neeve Irvine who represented our school so well.

CLOSURES

Due to the weather conditions last week on Tuesday and then Wednesday, school was forced to make changes to our normal routines.

We apologise that one swimming lesson was lost for some pupils and due to the timetable for swimming in other schools and classes, this cannot be re-timetabled, as we had done in the past. No additional slots are available.

On Wednesday, the milk was also cancelled due to the snow closure - but again, the dairy must charge us for this service, as it was pre-ordered and paid for. We apologise this cannot therefore be refunded without it coming from school funds. Should anyone be concerned about the swimming or milk issues, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Mulligan (kmulligan818@c2kni.net).

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.

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

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

QUALITY TUTORING BALLYCLARE. Supporting and developing potential AQE & GL Preparation. Experience working with additional educational needs. Contact Jonny on: 07899965560 or qualitytutoringballyclare@hotmail.com

** Parents please note that our Community News items are advertisements only. The school has no means of endorsing these activities. All parents are advised to seek details and suitability for themselves.*