



## BALLYCLARE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Term 3

### UNIFORM

As we enter the beginning of May next week, it is great to see so many pupils being able to wear their summer uniform. Everyone looks so well. Please note all children must wear black shoes until the end of June with winter or summer uniform.

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 2018, is open from 2<sup>nd</sup> May. You will have received a letter from P6 concerning this. Please return the reply slip to ensure you get an application form from us, should you need one.

### 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.

The increased use of social media in children is a matter for research at present. Current thinking has linked mental health problems with the use of social media – when young people are exposed to issues believed to be inappropriate or unsuitable for their age group. Parents please note your children will be affected by reading or seeing images/messages that are of an unsuitable nature. Social media sites are not primary school age appropriate. Parents should check all phones regularly and be aware of what their children are messaging or watching.

### HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME

Whilst it is understandable that parents are encouraged to take holidays in term time due to the cost benefits, this is not ideal and certainly not suitable if the absence is more than 3-5 school days. Whilst we always endeavour to support our pupils – it should not be expected that all work missed will be sent home or on the holiday. Missing school means children do miss out on their curriculum gain and experiences.

All parents must send a letter to the Principal concerning any term time holiday plans. Please do your best to keep these plans for school holiday times as far as possible. This gives the clear message to children that school attendance is important.

### WELL DONE!

A huge well done to one of our Learning Support Assistants Mrs Elaine Lamont, for winning **FIRST PRIZE** in the Assistant of the Year competition. This was so well deserved as Elaine has worked with us for many years, undertaking lots of responsibility for the child in her care and pastorally for many other children/staff in our school.

We are delighted at her success and the external recognition received.  
Thank you to all parents who took the time to vote for Elaine last week.



## 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. One of our P7 boys used these skills this year when an accident occurred in his family and he helped his father into the recovery position - well done Robert!

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.

## OUTDOOR LEARNING DAY

We had a brilliant time during our Outdoor Learning Day. What a busy day we had! The buzz and excitement in school was spectacular. The day was made up of many interesting activities and events. Pupils were given the opportunity to learn about how we learn outdoors both in our school grounds and down at the park. We also really enjoyed watching and taking part in the P4-7 'Wake Up, Shake Up' routine in our playground.

## DIGITAL DETOX

This week, we had our annual Digital Detox Week in school. Children were encouraged to enjoy a week without the use of computers, Interactive Whiteboards and iPads. It was a struggle - but lots of other lovely activities were in place to ensure children had an opportunity to see we can 'survive' and learn without them! We hope you encouraged this detox at home also.

## AQE INFORMATION SESSIONS - P6 PARENTS

Larne Grammar School - AQE Parents' Evening will take place on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May at 7:00pm.

Belfast Royal Academy - Information Session, for P6 pupils and parents, will take place on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May, 9:30 - 11:30am.

Ballyclare High School - AQE Parents' Evening will take place on 31<sup>st</sup> May at 7:00pm.

*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

**BALLYCLARE PICTURE HOUSE** presents 'The Secret of Kells' this Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April at 3:00pm. This magical film, by a Northern Ireland director, is about an Irish boy in the time of the Vikings. It was Oscar-nominated for the Best Animated Film. Tickets can be pre-purchased on Eventbrite - or pay on the door. The film is rated PG.

**MAY FAIR COLOURING COMPETITION** - The Newtownabbey Times has linked up with the Ballyclare May Fair Committee to offer local primary school children the opportunity to join in all the fun of this year's May Fair. There will be a colouring competition printed in the Newtownabbey Times edition (10<sup>th</sup> May) for pupils to enter. The two winners will not only be crowned May Fair Prince and Princess, but each will also be able to treat their friends to a party for up to 10 children at Princess Parties Ni and Nerf Works in Ballyclare. The May Fair Prince and Princess will also be leading the Mayor's Parade on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> May and will be invited to present prizes.

*\* 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.*



# CLASS AWARDS

## APRIL 2018



CLASS & TEACHER		MONTHLY STAR	BEST HANDWRITING
P1	Miss Campbell	IMOGEN ARNOLD	KARA SMITH
	Mrs Hyde	LILY WATSON	BEN LILLEY
	Mrs Sturgess & Mrs Farquhar	REBECCA McNEICE	RUBY BROWN
P2	Mrs Irwin & Mrs Farquhar	CHARLOTTE HUNTER	OLLY HEASLIP
	Mrs Martin & Mrs Stewart	HOLLY CRUMLEY	MATTHEW RAMSHAW
	Miss Scott	HANNAH SHEPPARD	ELIZA ZIOLA
P3	Mrs Annett & Mrs Hall	IVY McFALL	KACI AGNEW
	Mrs McNeilly & Mrs Hall	MATTHEW COLLINS	LILY McCORRY
	Mrs McPherson	HOLLIE BLAIR	JENNY REID
P4	Mrs McDowell & Mrs Anderson	EMILY MORRISON	CHARLIE LYNESS
	Miss Kernohan	KEELEY McCULLOUGH	HOLLY McALLISTER
	Mrs Scott	CHLOE AGNEW	THOMAS DIGNAN
P5	Miss McGoran	TRUDY EDWARDS	FAITH VEAL
	Mr Heyburn	LOIS BELL	AARON TURKINGTON
	Miss McClung	BEN GILLESPIE	KODIE SCOTT
P6	Mrs Arbuckle	KYLA SMYTH	COREY BRENNAN
	Mrs Shannon	EDEN BAMBER	MOLLY McGUIGAN
	Mrs Watson	KATIE McFARLAND	ANNA TREACY
P7	Mr Gordon	AARON AGNEW	JONATHAN KILGORE
	Mr McAuley	JESSICA KIRK	GLENN TAN
	Mrs Kennedy	EDDIE BRYSON	MAKENNA BELL
L.S.	Mrs McCollum	LEO BLAIR (P4SK)	-