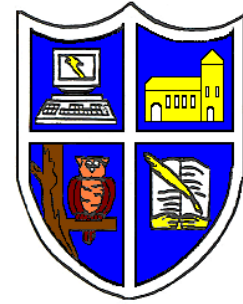


Ballytrea P.S

February 2018

Newsletter



Class News

Reception, P1 and P2

All the boys and girls in Mrs Bell's class will be starting Shared Education sessions in February. They will be working with children from St. Mary's on PDMU and getting to know each other.

P2 have started learning spellings this week. They are all working hard and have done well. Congratulation to all the P2 children who knew all their spellings in their first Friday test, a wonderful achievement!

Primary Three

P3 have been learning about the human body, through the World Around Us topic 'Them bones, them bones' During this exciting topic the boys and girls are going to be learning about our organs and what they do, as well as our senses and the bones. The class created their own x-rays during art lessons.

The children are continuing with their number work in numeracy and focusing on 'Money'. They are learning to count with coins and notes, giving the correct change in practical tasks. The boys and girls are also learning to add and subtract in 10's up to 100.

In literacy primary three are learning about letters blending together to create a different sound.

All the boys and girls have enjoyed the shared education lessons with St. Mary's where we have learnt about different types of emotions.

Primary Four and Five

The children in Mrs Colvin's class are starting a new topic on Vikings. They are grateful for the cardboard circles which were sent into school and will be used to make Viking Shields.

Boys and girls continue to work hard in literacy and numeracy. Reading continues to improve and the children are trying to learn their tables and important numeracy facts.

Primary Six and Seven

Mrs Craig is very happy with the continued hard work and effort from all her pupils as they strive to improve their literacy and numeracy skills. The current World Around Us topic is Invention and Ingenuity. The class are researching inventions using I-Pads and have brought in lots of props from home to assist their learning. Thank you to all the parents for their continued support which helps reinforce the importance of working hard and achieving a good education. The class are also looking forward to their shared education lessons with St Mary's and in particular the visit of Len Graham the poet on Friday 9th February.

ArtCart-

P6 and 7 participated in a visual art/ animation workshop on Tuesday 9th January when artists worked with the children and encouraged their creative talents.

Non-Uniform Day

On Friday 12th January the school held a 'Silly Socks Day' to help raise money for Amy Bleeks, a past pupil. Amy will be travelling to Romania with a team of other pupils from Cookstown High School. We collected £164.50 on the day and hope this generous contribution will help her on this special trip. The entire school community is proud of her endeavours and wish her well on her journey.

Please note we will have our own non-uniform day on the last Friday of the month as usual on **Friday 24th February.**

Netball

Congratulations to the school netball team who took part in a competition in Cookstown Leisure Centre. The girls performed very well and played five matches against local schools. Many thanks to Miss Dallas for her coaching and encouragement. The girls also appreciated the support of some parents at the tournament. The team consisted of , Erin Kennedy, Hannah Johnston, Grace Harkness, Sarah Cuddy, Katie Ferguson, Megan Green, Harmony Megaw, Faye Black, Laura-Louise McCrea, Leah Whinnery, Cloe Kirkpatrick and Grace Watters



Golf Coaching

Golf coaching continues on Tuesdays and the boys and girls are enjoying the experience and learning new skills. Let's hope we inspire the next Rory McIlroy!

Hockey Coaching

Unfortunately due to bad weather the first two sessions of hockey coaching had to be cancelled. On Friday 2nd February Rhian (Ulster hockey coach) came to Ballytrea and took the first session. The girls and boys will have lots of opportunities to improve their skills over the coming weeks.

Hockey Tournament

This term we hope to create a girls' and boy's hockey team. Eight children will be selected for each team. If selected there will be a small charge of £2 to help cover the entrance fee.

The girls will enter the McCloy Cup on Thursday 22nd February, 10am at Cookstown High School. The boys will enter the Pearson Cup on Friday 23rd February, 11am at Cookstown High School.

Request for help with transport

If any parent is available and willing to help transport pupils to the hockey tournament on Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd please inform your child's class teacher. It would be very much appreciated to reduce the cost of ordering a bus for two days. The hockey teams will be accompanied by a member of staff.

ECO work

We are currently collecting used batteries and these may be left in the box at the front door of the school. Also please continue to use the re-cycling bank with unwanted items. Thank you.

Parents Support Group

There will be a meeting of the Parents' Support Group on Tuesday 20th February at 7:30pm in the P6/7 classroom. All parents are welcome to attend. We will be planning fund raising events to help purchase vital equipment for the children to aid their learning and improve their experiences in Ballytreah.

Travelling Book Machine

A book club will be visiting the school in March and each child will have the opportunity to buy or order a new book if they desire to do so.

Special P.S.N.I Radar/Beam lesson for P6/7

On Wednesday 7th February the P.S.N.I will be taking a special lesson for P6 and P7 on how to keep safe. We look forward to their visit and the important safety tips they will teach us.

World Book Day

To help celebrate World Book Day and encourage a lifelong love of books, we are organising a special competition in March. Each pupil will be given a paper plate and asked to design and make a mask which resembles their favourite character from a book. More details will follow closer to the event.

School Assemblies

This month we will look forward to Rev Bell, Rev Dickie and Mr Craig taking our school assembly on Wednesday mornings.

Dates for your diary

Friday 2nd February – Netball Tournament

Wednesday 7th February – P.S.N.I. visit to P6/7

Friday 9th February P6/7 Shared Education day with Mr Len Graham

12th – 16th inclusive – Half Term –NO SCHOOL FOR THE PUPILS!

Tuesday 20th February – Shared Education – P3 travel to St Mary's and Mrs Bell's Reception P1/P2 class welcome St Mary's to Ballytreah.

Thursday 22nd February –Girls Hockey tournament 10am in Cookstown High School

Friday 23rd February – Boys Hockey tournament 11am in Cookstown High School
Tuesday 27th February – Shared Education – Reception, P1 and P2 travel to St Mary's P.S.
Stewartstown.
Monday 19th March- school closed for bank holiday

Acting Principal

For a number of weeks Mr McIlwaine will be Acting Principal at Ballytrea until Mrs Swaile returns to school. He will attend Ballytrea on Thursdays and Fridays and return to Howard PS for the first half of the week. On Monday to Wednesday in his absence individual pupil queries will be dealt with by class teachers as usual. Mr McIlwaine may be contacted for urgent issues if you leave your name and contact details with the class teacher.

Thank you

I would like to thank all staff, pupils and parents for their warm welcome to Ballytrea Primary School. I have been impressed by the wonderful manners of the children and excellent teaching and learning that is going on in the school. I look forward to getting to know everyone more in the short time I am with you.