

# Ballycraigy Primary School

## SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

*Dear Parents/Carers*

*On behalf of the governors and staff welcome back to school. A special welcome goes to all our newly enrolled pupils and their parents. We are looking forward to another exciting year at school with many activities already planned. We congratulate Mrs Fowler on the birth of Noah, and Mrs Leeman on the birth of Tom. We welcome back Miss Hannah Gourley (P5), Miss Samantha McCormick (P4) and Miss Rebecca Ellis (P7) who will be covering the maternity leaves and we welcome Mrs Rita Charles (P1) who will be covering Principal Release. Please feel free to contact us by phone (028) 94462450 or email: [hedwards514@c2kni.net](mailto:hedwards514@c2kni.net) if you have any concerns about your child in school, an appointment can be made to discuss your concern either with myself or the class teacher.*

*Hazel Edwards*

### PASTORAL

**Attendance - UNCRC Article 28** – You have the right to good quality education. You should be encouraged to go to school.

Good attendance is important to your child's education and I would ask parents for their help and support in making sure their children are encouraged to attend regularly. **All absences should be reported either by phone or in writing.** Persistent absences/lateness will be reported to the Education Welfare Service.

Article 45 Schedule 1 of the Children NI Order states that the Education Welfare Service can fine families up to £1000 for failing to ensure that their children attend school.

Full attendance will not be awarded to children who receive more than 4 late marks in any month, please remember school starts at 8.55am.

### **Child Protection**

A draft of our updated policy for Pastoral Care and Child Protection has been sent home. Please read this Policy and if you have any comments please contact Dr Edwards by Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017. The designated teacher for Child Protection is Dr Edwards and Mrs Fowler and Mrs Little are her deputies.

### ADMINISTRATION

#### **School Uniform**

It was lovely to see everyone in their new school uniform. Please make sure that all items of the uniform are **clearly marked** with your **child's name**.

- Jewellery should not be worn to school
- Football shirts are not items of school uniform and should **only** be worn for football practice. A **White polo shirt** should be worn under the red sweatshirt on all occasions
- Chewing gum is not allowed in school

**PE Uniform** All children from primary 4 – 7 class's must wear a plain white T-shirt, shorts and black PE slippers. Children in primary 2 – 3 must wear shorts and PE slippers. Primary 1 children wear PE slippers **ONLY**. PE is a compulsory element of school and we have been advised by the Education Authority that if a child has no PE kit PE must be done in bare feet and school uniform.

#### **Start/Finish Times**

Children should be encouraged to arrive at school before the 8.50am bell. School starts at 8.55am sharp. Children arriving after this time will be recorded as late on the school register.

Parents of P2 – P7 children are reminded that they should **not** enter the school playground but leave their child/children at the school gates, or wait outside the green fence.

P1 – P3 children **MUST** be collected each day from school by a responsible adult. They should not walk home alone.

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### ADMINISTRATION CONTINUED

#### New School Hours

Please take a note of the school hours \* below which commence from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

Day	Starting Time	Finish Time
Monday	8.55am	3.00pm P3 – 7 2.00pm P1 – 2
Tuesday	8.55am	3.05pm P3 – 7 2.00pm P1 – 2
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>8.55am</b>	<b>2.00pm P1 – 7</b>
Thursday	8.55am	3.05pm P4 – 7 2.00pm P1 – 3
Friday	8.55am	3.00pm P4 – 7 2.00pm P1 - 3

\* P3 Children will finish at 2.00pm until week beginning 18<sup>th</sup> September when they will stay Mon & Tues until 3pm

\* For the month of September P1 Children will have settling in hours which the teacher will advise parents.

\* School will close at 2.00pm from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September.

#### Contacts

It is essential, in case of emergency, that we have up to date contact details. If you have a new mobile number, address, etc please make the school aware of this. Please supply your email address if possible.

#### Policies

Every child in the school has received an envelope containing our updated pastoral care policy and ICT code of practice policy. Photograph permission is shown on the coversheet and we would ask that the coversheet is completed and returned to school by **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017**.

#### P1 Intake September 2018

We are now compiling a list of names of children for entrance to school next September. If your child was born between 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2013 and 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014 contact the school office for details of enrolment.

#### School Meals

Please note that the price for school meals has increased. The cost will now be £2.60 per day.

**Tissues** - We would ask that each child supply one box of tissues for use in school.

#### Website Facebook Email

School information is available both on our website and on our Facebook page. [www.ballycraigyprimary.org.uk](http://www.ballycraigyprimary.org.uk)

Please send an email to [aallen280@c2kni.net](mailto:aallen280@c2kni.net) if you would like to receive the monthly newsletter etc by email

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### SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 2017

30 <sup>th</sup> August 2017	Back to school
4 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> September	School closes at 2.00pm (primary 2 – 7)
5 <sup>th</sup> September	Violin lessons resume (Miss H Nicholl)
11 <sup>th</sup> September	School Photos (Dandelion Studio)
19 <sup>th</sup> September	PTA AGM and SDP Information session at 7.00pm.

### E-SAFETY SECTION



Taken from <http://www.childnet.com/young-people/primary>

**Safe:** Keep safe by being careful not to give out personal information when you're chatting or posting online. Personal information includes your email address, phone number and password.

**Meet:** Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Only do so with your parents' or carers' permission and even then only when they can be present. Remember online friends are still strangers even if you have been talking to them for a long time.

**Accepting:** Accepting emails, IM messages, or opening files, images or texts from people you don't know or trust can lead to problems – they may contain viruses or nasty messages!

**Reliable:** Someone online might lie about who they are and information on the internet may not be true. Always check information by looking at other websites, in books, or with someone who knows. If you like chatting online it's best to only chat to your real world friends and family.

**Tell:** Tell a parent, carer or a trusted adult if someone, or something, makes you feel uncomfortable or worried, or if you or someone you know is being bullied online.

### **Car Parking**

This year we will **NOT** be issuing car park passes. During peak times (8.45 – 9.15am; 1.45pm – 2.15pm, & 2.45pm – 3.15pm) the only cars allowed in the school car park are staff cars and parents/grandparents who have a valid "Blue Badge". The Blue Badge should be shown to Mr Ferguson to gain access. Please only make use of the visitor car parking spaces. If your child is being picked up in the afternoon by taxi, please arrange for the taxi to come at 2.15pm or 3.15pm. The taxi can have access to the car park at these times and the children can wait in the school entrance hall until their taxi arrives.

Parents are reminded to park with due care and attention in Bracken Avenue. Please do not park on pavements or on corners, and please make use of the car-parking area at the end of Bracken Avenue and walk the short distance to school.

### RIGHT OF THE MONTH

National Poetry Day 28<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Article 29      *Education should develop each child's personality and talents to the full*

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### HEALTH AND SAFETY

**Non-Smoking** – Ballycraig is a 'Smoke Free' Zone. We would ask that E-cigs and cigarettes are extinguished at the school gate. Smoking will be allowed in a designated area during **some** school functions.

**Dogs** - Due to Health & Safety reasons dogs MUST not enter our grounds.

### FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Free school meals are awarded to anyone who is receiving Income Support, Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Related Employment and Support Allowance, Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit.

You are also entitled to free meals if you are receiving **Child Tax Credit or Working Tax Credit** and have an annual taxable income of £16190 or less. (If yes – when returning the form you must send copies of all pages of your Tax Credits Award Notice for the year 06/04/7 to 05/04/18)

Forms are available from the school office and Tax Credit Awards can also be copied here.

### COMMUNITY

We are delighted to announce that the school will now be working alongside Little Steps Sure Start (Pre-school) and we are looking forward to their exciting programme. Look out for more details.

### EXTENDED SCHOOLS

#### **Parent and Toddler Group**

As part of the Extended Schools Initiative a Parent and Toddler group in conjunction with St Jude's Church runs in our school. The Parent and Toddler Group will be starting on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017**. Please come and enjoy a good chat, refreshments and lots of games etc for the kids in our well-equipped rooms.

Everyone Welcome

Start Date: Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Price: £1.00 per family

Time: 9.30am – 11.30am

Primary 4 – 7 Homework club will begin on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017

### CHARITIES / FUNDRAISING

#### **Kids4School Sponsorship**

Each class sponsors a child in Tanzania at a cost of £35.00 per year. This enables a child to go to school and pays for a meal each day.

Please remember to send 10p every Friday for our Kids4School child sponsorship.



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