

Ballycraig 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 welcome Mr David Caldwell, who will be covering Mrs Jess' maternity leave and Mrs Nicola Finlay to our staff team.

Please feel free to contact us by phone (028) 94462450 or email: info@ballycraigprimary.antrim.ni.sch.uk if you have any concerns about your child in school, an appointment can be made to discuss your concern either with the class teacher, SENCO Miss Moore or any member of the senior leadership team, Mrs Little or Mrs Fowler.

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

The policy for Pastoral Care and Child Protection will be sent home. Please read and familiarise yourself with this policy. The designated teacher for Child Protection is Dr Edwards and Mrs Fowler and Mrs Little are her deputies.

Data protection

Updated policies will be posted on DoJo and annual sign off sheets sent home before the end of September

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. Primary 1 - 3 children only need PE slippers.

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.

Ballycraigy Primary School

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ADMINISTRATION CONTINUED

Please take a note of the school hours * below which commence from Monday 10th September 2018.

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
Wednesday	8.55am	2.00pm P1 – 7
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 16th 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.

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.

P1 Intake September 2020

We are now compiling a list of names of children for entrance to school next September. If your child was born between 2nd July 2015 and 1st July 2016 contact the school office for details of enrolment.

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

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Non-Smoking – Ballycraigy 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 should not enter our grounds.

Allergy Aware - We are now an “Allergy Aware School”. Please be aware that we have a pupil in school with a NUT allergy and so we would ask that no nuts or nut products are sent into school for break or lunch.

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SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 2018

Monday 9th Sept School Photographs by Whitehall Studios
Monday 9th Sept 11.30am Mrs Charles Meet the Teacher
Monday 9th Sept 3.00pm Mrs Jess/Mr Caldwell Meet the Teacher
Monday 17th Sept Parent & Toddler Group
Monday 16th Sept 7.00pm Governors Meeting
Tuesday 17th Sept 2.00pm Primary 2 Jo Jingles
Tuesday 17th Sept 7.00pm PTA AGM
Friday 20th Sept P2 – P7 Play Sport begins
Tuesday 24th Sept P7 Tip to PRONI
Monday 30th Sept P7 Head Up Programme begins

Please remember that 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/ carers who have a valid “Blue Badge”. 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.

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 06/04/2019 to 05/04/2020)

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

School Meals

The cost for school meals is £2.60 per day. This **must** be paid either on the day the meal is to be taken or at the start of the week. Failure to pay for the meal in advance may lead to your child having no lunch in school that day. Please make sure you check the menu daily and if your child doesn’t like the menu choice for that day, please send a packed lunch. All money for P1 – P3 children should be sent to school in a clearly labelled envelope.

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COMMUNITY

We are delighted to announce that the school will continue to work alongside Little Steps Sure Start (Pre-school) and we are looking forward to their exciting programme. Their first programme is Cook it. This begins on Wednesday 11th September. Contact Sure Start on 028 9446 9644 to book your place.

We continue to work in partnership with Parenting NI.

Top Tips for Parents 9.15 – 10.15

17th September Friendship Skills

24th September Managing Behaviour

Ring 0808 8010722 to book a place, or just turn up.

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 23rd September 2019**. 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 23rd September 2019

Price: £1.00 per family

Time: 9.30am – 11.30am

Primary 4 – 7 Homework club will begin on 16th September 2019 for selected children

Breakfast club runs daily from 8.15am

P2 Jo Jingles starts Tuesday 17th September 2019

Play Sport P2 – P7 begins on Friday 20th September

CHARITIES / FUNDRAISING

Kids4School Sponsorship

Each class sponsors a child in Tanzania at a cost of £39.00 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.

This year we have decided to support a different charity each month. More details to follow



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