



BALLYCLARE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Website: www.ballyclareps.co.uk Email: kmulligan818@c2kni.net

ISSUE: 19

THURSDAY 24th JANUARY, 2019.

TERM 2

NEW BUILDING WORK FUNDING FOR BALLYCLARE PRIMARY

GREAT NEWS

As you are aware, we are constantly seeking additional funding from the Department of Education for our pupils. This week we were delighted to be informed that our school will be getting a major building investment of approximately £3 - 4 million, under the School Enhancement Programme. This will make a huge difference to our facilities for pupils both now and in the future.

This has been a scheme which has been hoped for, for many years and Governors are pleased to announce the success of the school's application for it. Planning will commence soon and we will keep you informed when the design team have completed their work.

BLUE DAY – Tomorrow

All pupils and staff will be coming to school in blue clothing tomorrow to celebrate our BLUE day – **B**e **L**oving and **U**nderstanding to **E**veryone. No uniform needed tomorrow. No money to be sent.

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. 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 inappropriate texts or posts 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:

Email only people you know.

Mobile numbers and personal details are private.

Online social network age is 13.

Jokes or nasty comments online is cyber bullying.

If 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.

We are having a special Safer Internet Day in school on 5th February.

More information for you to use at home will follow. Please spend time on this.

PARENT INTERVIEWS (P1-7)

Parent Interviews will take place from 11th - 15th 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 21st January - 5th February.

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. Thank you for your parental support in this.

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 Christmas Post Emergency Services Go Wild! Space Down on the Farm	P3 Mighty Me Let's Celebrate Then and Now Splish, Splash, Splosh Mini-beasts	P4 Treemendous Trees Life as a child in World War 2 Sound Ancient Rome Houses & Homes
P5 It's a Small World (NI Focus) Early Man Eco Energy Ancient Egypt All about Birds	P6 Inside your Outside Exciting Extremes Vicious Vikings Food Glorious Food Into The Wild	P7 Victorians Titanic Europe Sowing & Growing Outer Space	

P1 ENROLMENT

Thursday 31st January is the closing date for enrolment. Contact school if you are having any difficulties with this process. We will be happy to help you.

SCHOOL CONTACT

All parents please ensure your mobile telephone number is up to date with our office for contact to be made. All texts from school go to the first contact.

HOUSE CAPTAINS

Our House Captains for the rest of this year have been selected. They are:

HOUSE	CAPTAINS	VICE- CAPTAINS
Cunningham	Ella McIntyre, Joel Whaley	Lucy Dick, Skye Agnew, Bradley Shannon
Girvan	Kyla Smyth, Daniel Caulcutt	Caitlin Hill, Nash-Lee McArthur, Bobby Quinn
McIlroy	Katie Agnew, Sam Mulholland	Sarah Akanji, Jude Wilson
Percy	Madison Wilson, Taylor Cowie	Edee Rankin, Euan O'Neill

Congratulations to those pupils not only for their House points total in P6, but also their positive contribution in P7 Term One. We look forward to them leading their prospective Houses throughout the rest of this year.

ADVICE AND SUPPORT ON BULLYING FOR ALL PARENTS

This document has been written to enhance the school's established practices in relation to bullying. It must be made clear at the outset that this is not a reaction to bullying. Bullying in school holds a very low profile but we are continually developing the education of our children and our practices in this area. In the process we want to assure you, the parents, of our stance and to engage your support. Ballyclare Primary School's policy on bullying is coherent, structured and pro-active. It makes clear that bullying will not be tolerated and that we, in school, are committed to stopping any incidents as quickly as possible. To help us achieve this aim and to help you identify bullying, as opposed to 'fall outs' and disagreements, the school has produced the following information and advice. Through this communication we aim to forge a pro-active, co-operative anti-bullying liaison with you, the parents/carers. Please read this document carefully and participate when you feel the need.

BULLYING - THE FACTS

Please remember **BULLYING HAPPENS** - in the workplace, domestically and wherever numbers of people interact. **BULLYING IS NOT TAUGHT IN SCHOOL! IT IS CONSTANTLY DISCOURAGED.** It is our ultimate aim to pre-empt bullying in school by developing sound attitudes in our pupils. We will act in tandem with you to eradicate it should it come your way.

WHAT EXACTLY IS BULLYING?

Bullying is not usually rough play on a one off basis. It is usually a series of deliberate incidents and can take many forms including:

- Physical violence, such as hitting, pushing or spitting at another pupil.
- Interfering with another pupil's property, by stealing, hiding or damaging it.
- Using offensive names when addressing another pupil.
- Teasing or spreading rumours about another pupil or his/her family.
- Belittling another pupil's abilities and achievements.
- Writing offensive notes or graffiti about another pupil.
- Excluding another pupil from a group activity or play.
- Ridiculing another pupil's appearance, way of speaking or personal mannerisms.
- Non-verbal – using menacing looks towards another pupil.
- Use of mobile phones and other cyber technology to intimidate a pupil or spread hurtful stories.

BULLYING CAN AFFECT A CHILD'S CONFIDENCE AND SELF-ESTEEM

- Bullying is frightening and demoralising.
- Bullying is never the bullied child's fault. Sometimes, children can be simply 'picked-on' and bullied because they look different, their skin is a different colour, they are a different religion or even because they are small or big. As a parent you may feel:

CONCERNED about your child

ANGRY with the bully or the school

FRUSTRATED about the problem.

This advice is aimed at helping you to know that you can turn to the school where bullying is taken very seriously and a clear policy exists for dealing with the problem.

IS YOUR CHILD BEING BULLIED?

Sometimes children who are being bullied are afraid to tell anyone what is happening. They may fear that 'telling' will only make the situation worse. This is a 'telling' school and our pupils are regularly reminded of that fact.

Your child may be being bullied if they:

Refuse or do not want to go to school (schoolwork may also deteriorate).

Cry themselves to sleep, have nightmares or wet the bed.

Have possessions that go missing.

Have unexplained cuts and bruises. (It is our policy to inform parents/carers of any bumps, scratches that we are aware of).

Become withdrawn or aggressive, or change their behaviour in any other way.

Ask for, or steal money.

Are afraid to travel to school in the normal way and may ask you to accompany them.

Have mood swings and want to be close to you.

Always remember that children may exhibit some of these behaviours for other emotional reasons.

They are not always the result of bullying either in or outside of school.

HOW DOES A BULLIED CHILD FEEL?

ANGRY	- Venting this anger against family or pets.
ANXIOUS	- Worried about going out or to school.
DEPRESSED	- Feeling that no-one cares.
SICK	- Headaches, pains and aches.
ISOLATED	- Why is this happening to me?
SHY	- Lacking confidence in him/herself.
UPSET SLEEP	- Disturbed or crying out.
VULNERABLE	- Constantly expecting an attack.

MY CHILD IS BEING BULLIED, WHAT DO I DO?

- Find out the facts.
- Reassure your child that you will do everything you can to sort out the problem and so will the school.
- Make sure your child knows what bullying is, that it is wrong, and that no one deserves to be bullied.
- Stress that he or she needs to tell the whole truth.
- Tell the child that the situation must be tackled and not left as it will only go on.
- Allow the child plenty of time to explain what is happening.
- Write down:
What happened and when.
Where there any witnesses? – This is very important.

If the bullying is connected to school ie in school or on the way to or from school – please contact the school immediately. If you delay you will prolong your child's unhappiness.

WHAT IF YOUR CHILD SAYS, 'PLEASE DON'T GO TO MY SCHOOL'?

- When bullying happens, parents, children and the school need to work together to solve the problem. The school is extremely committed to eradicating any form of bullying whatsoever.
- Explain to your child what would happen when you talk to the teacher and so promote the benefits of involving the school.
- Make an appointment to speak to someone at the school as soon as possible. This could be the class teacher, the Head of Year, the Vice Principal or the Principal. Our Parent Liaison teacher is also available to give advice. The school will take immediate action to protect your child and to resolve the situation in conjunction with yourself.

HOW DO I APPROACH A MEETING AT THE SCHOOL?

- Be respectful and remember the school is there to help. Aggression or over assertiveness doesn't help and remember, the school is as anxious as you to stop any problem.
- Describe the facts about the bullying.
- Explain how your child has been affected, what he or she is afraid of and what he or she feels might help.
- You will receive assurance from the school that the matter will be dealt with and that you will be kept informed. If there is something you are not sure about ask for a clearer explanation.
- The school will impress upon you the importance of contacting the school again immediately if the problems persist.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF THE BULLYING DOESN'T STOP?

- Make another appointment with the school.
- The school will be doing all it can to resolve the situation. In our efforts we may not be receiving the support needed and may need to take more drastic action.
- If you find the school's response has not resolved the situation, please let us know. You may also write to the Secretary of the Board of Governors at the school.

WHAT ABOUT THE BULLY?

The bully needs help too. Don't expect the school to automatically suspend or expel the bully because this might not be the best thing to do. The school will take the most appropriate action.

Advice will be sought from the Education Authority should this be necessary.

Please remember that if approached about your own child's behaviour, it will be on the basis of an investigation in school. The facts will have been well considered and the school will not be on the attack. We will simply want to discuss the facts and move forward **TOGETHER** to resolve any situation and to point out to the child the undesirability of any inappropriate behaviour. The ultimate aim will be to nip the matter in the bud and move on without any fear of a recurrence.

We hope you find this information of value. We place a very high priority on our Pastoral Care provisions and procedures in school and are constantly looking at ways to improve these to make them as responsive to the pupils' needs as possible. The assistance of you, the parents/carers is greatly appreciated.