



BALLYCLARE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

ISSUE: 4

Thursday 21st September 2017

Term 1



<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ballyclareprimary/>



TOTAL RAISED SO FAR IS: £727.54

OUTDOOR CINEMA TICKETS

Tickets are now on sale - price £2. Come along and join the fun on Friday 29th September, 7:00pm.

SCHOOL BUDGET CRISIS

As many of you will be aware, there has been talk in the media of severe cuts in the education budget for quite some time now.

It is important that I share with you some of the reality of the situation that is facing our school, along with virtually every other school, in the country.

There is no longer sufficient money in school budgets to continue to provide what schools are currently providing.

This means we may be forced to make cuts to the range of services that we deliver and the number of staff that we all have.

Parents should understand that it appears we have been completely failed by our politicians, none of whom have prioritised education. It seems as if there are no votes to be won with education and no votes to be lost, so none of them really give it much attention.

- £56 per pupil has been taken from our budgets in the Primary Sector.
- The failure of the Stormont executive to set a budget means that any 2016/17 underspend may have been lost.
- The 2017/18 school budget has not grown in line with inflation but has reduced.

Sadly, we will reap what we sow and a community that does not invest in all its children and young people, is not one that is building for a better future.

Our children deserve better. Please be assured that we will be doing whatever we can to protect our school and the excellent provision that has characterised Ballyclare Primary. I am confident that you will be supportive of initiatives that we will progress in the days ahead and support us when we need additional help, when you can.

I would urge you, as parents, to email your MLA and MP expressing your disappointment and the lack of funding for education.

Paul Girvan MP: paul.girvan.mp@parliament.uk

Sammy Wilson: barronj@parliament.uk

Meetings for School, Parents and Governors, concerning the School Budget Crisis, will be held in Standtown Primary School, Belfast on 28th September, 7:00 - 9:00pm and Castle Tower School, Ballymena on 5th October, 7:30 - 8:30pm. Please plan to attend if you can to give your support.



P4-7 EXTENDED SCHOOL ACTIVITIES – Starting 2nd October 2017

Most of our activities, except sporting choices, are held in classrooms so the weather does not affect them. To avoid parents making last minute changes to arrangements during wet weather, pupils who are staying for sport will remain in school anyway for the allocated time until 4:00pm. We always endeavour to find an indoor hall in our local churches/Secondary School so the activity can go ahead, but if this is not available, children will be able to do something else indoors until the arranged collection time. Any parent can of course collect their child earlier from the school building on wet days, if they wish to do so. Please report to the school office and our staff will direct you. A timetable for this term will be sent with our voucher system to book a place on each activity. This helps us know who will be attending.

Remember, House Points are given for every attendance. We encourage children to attend an activity and stick at it for the full 7 week block. Due to the number taking part, children must stay at the activity chosen.

SCRIPTURE UNION

Scripture Union will recommence for the new school year on Tuesday 3rd October and we have an exciting programme planned for all who attend. All children from P4-7 are invited to the Assembly Hall each Tuesday from 3:00 - 4:00pm.

We are hoping to see all the familiar faces from last year joining us again but are especially keen to welcome new boys and girls from Primary 4. Activities include Praise Time, Bible Stories, Memory Verses, Quizzes and lots of fun!

NAMES ON UNIFORM

Three weeks have now passed in school and we still have a number of pupils with no names written on their uniforms. Items removed in school can easily be returned if a label has a name on it.

Please check all your child's uniform this weekend for names - should you find you have someone else's uniform at home, please return it to your child's class teacher.

Thank you to all parents who donated uniform to school in June/September. This is much appreciated.

PARENT IDEAS

We are a self-evaluating school and each year we endeavour to review our practices to see where we can improve or celebrate the work going on within our school community.

A parent ideas box is placed in our school foyer, or email Mrs Mulligan (kmulligan818@c2kni.net) should you have any comment to make re: current practice and any suggestions or ideas you would like to make. We cannot guarantee to do them all but we are keen to consider them.

Please ensure you name these contributions so the staff can follow them up. Many thanks.

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

1st KILBRIDE SCOUTS would your son like to start his journey in the scouting world, lots of fun, games and learn new skills. We meet each Wednesday night, and our new year is due to start again in September, if interested please contact us;

Squirrels: 4-6 year old boys, contact Angela 0785667623, or email 1stkilbridesquirrels@gmail.com

Beavers: 6-10 year old boys, contact Nicola 07934178444

MOSSLEY HOCKEY CLUB is very keen to encourage boys from the local schools to come and give hockey a try. The club offers a safe environment, with a number of qualified coaches, to create a fun environment for children whilst they develop their hockey and social skills as part of a group.

The club enters 3 teams into Ulster Hockey's Junior Age Leagues - Under 11, Under 13 & Under 15. Annual sub this year is £30 plus £1 per session attended.

Training Times

Tuesdays and Thursdays:	Year 8 to Year 11 pupils	6:30 to 7.30pm
Saturday mornings:	Year 2 to Year 7 pupils from	10.00 to 11.00am

For further information, contact Harry McNeill: 07738412182 harry.mcneill@ulsterhockey.com

** 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.*

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN: High Importance

All schools have clear guidelines for safeguarding children and we endeavour to follow these. As parents have a responsibility in this area also, please be reminded of the following important Child Protection/Safeguarding points:

- All classrooms and corridor areas in our school have posters detailing adults pupils can seek help from, should they need it.
- All classrooms have a W.I.S.H. Box to receive notes from pupils if they wish their teacher or Mrs Mulligan to be aware of some thought, worry or idea.
- Our Reception Area has a clear display of the procedures to follow should you, as a parent, have a concern of a child protection nature – for your own child or that of a child known to you. This concern would be about the welfare of a child. The persons to contact would be:
Mrs Mulligan – Designated Teacher.
Mr McAuley – Deputy Designated Teacher.
- Every child has the right to
 - have his or her welfare considered paramount
 - be heard
 - be protected from abuse and neglect.

To this end, parents have a responsibility to ‘parent’ their children correctly. Our school partners this role and works with outside agencies to teach children how to keep themselves safe and to ensure they are being protected and looked after both in/out of school.

- All adults working within our school have been vetted to ensure their suitability to work with children. Volunteers are also asked to complete police check forms.
- Children are given clear guidelines about Positive Behaviour, Anti-bullying and the correct Code of Conduct for the use of Technologies in school. There is a zero tolerance to the sharing of inappropriate images or sending inappropriate messages technologically. Be very aware that this practice can be investigated and can become a legal matter.
- Every school has a number of ‘vulnerable’ children/families within its care. If you ever have a concern about a pupil you know, please contact us immediately. Abuse can take different forms:
Sexual Physical Emotional Neglect
Significant harm is caused if a child is a victim of abuse and this lasts into their adult life.
Neglect is the most common form of abuse in this area according to Social Services.
- Domestic violence is also at a high rate in County Antrim. Never keep information to yourself that might be useful in getting someone you know the help they need. There is a range of services and outside agencies available just for advice.
 - * South Eastern Gateway Team – 94424377
 - * Referral Gateway Team - 94424459
 - * Out of Hours Emergency Service – 95049999
 - * Women’s Aid – 25632136
 - * 24 hr Domestic Violence Helpline – 08088021414
 - * NSPCC 08088005000

For protection reasons and safeguarding our pupils, all parents/adults are asked to enter the school building and report to the main office window where our staff are happy to help you. Please do not walk around the corridors or enter classrooms before having reported to the main office. Adults leaving/collecting pupils should never use the pupil/staff toilet areas without prior consent by office staff. Thank you.