

NEWSLETTER

INSPIRE ~ SUPPORT ~ ACHIEVE

Half Term

As we approach this first half term of the school year, I want to say how well all our boys and girls have done since they returned to school at the end of August! This has been a long half term and we can see that everyone is now ready for a break! Well done to all our pupils from P1-P7 for working so hard and making a great start to this new school year. I hope all our families can now take a bit of time to recharge and get ready for returning to school after the break, into the excitement of Christmas preparations for P1-P6, and final SEAG preparations for many of our P7 pupils. I look forward to seeing everyone back ready and refreshed for the run into the festive period on Monday, 6th November. Please note many of the key dates for this term below.

Dates for Your Diary

Half Term Holidays
School recommences 8.45am
PTA meeting
P6 Forest School Day 3
Royal British Legion Remembrance Sunday
Parade and Wreath Laying
Active Travel Week (more details to follow)
Christmas Concert P1-P2 9.30am
Christmas Concert P1-P2 7.00pm
Rugby Match v Ben Madigan
Primary 4 Panto Trip
P1-P2 Grandparent Concert 9.30am
Christmas Fair
Open Morning (from 9.15am)
P6 Digital Schoolhouse visit to BHS (1)
Christmas Concert P3-P4 9.30am
Primary 7 Panto Trip
Christmas Concert P5-P6 9.30am
Christmas Concert P3-P4 7.00pm
P6 Digital Schoolhouse visit to BHS (2)
Primary 2-3 Panto Trip
Primary 6 Panto Trip
Christmas Concert P5-P6 7.00pm
Primary 1 Panto Trip
Primary 5 Panto Trip
Last Day of Term 1 12noon
Term 2 starts 8.45am

Monday, 30th October – Friday, 3rd November inclusive
Monday, 6th November
Tuesday, 7th November
Friday, 10th November

Sunday, 12th November
Monday, 13th November
Tuesday, 28th November
Wednesday, 29th November
Wednesday, 29th November
Thursday, 30th November
Friday, 1st December
Friday, 1st December
Wednesday, 6th December
Thursday, 7th December
Tuesday, 12th December
Tuesday, 12th December
Wednesday, 13th December
Wednesday, 13th December
Wednesday, 13th December
Thursday, 14th December
Thursday, 14th December
Thursday, 14th December
Friday, 15th December
Thursday, 21st December
Friday, 22nd December
Monday, 8th January

Parent Teacher Interviews

This week we have had our Parent Teacher Interviews. Thank you to those parents/carers who either attended in person or took a phone call to discuss their child's progress in school so far this year. The next scheduled set of interviews will be just prior to the half term in February but please remember that phone calls or meetings can be arranged between now and then, if you have something which you wish to discuss with the teacher.

After School Clubs

As you know, our teacher led clubs will commence again after half term for 3 further weeks before breaking for Christmas. We have a wide range of external clubs available for a block of weeks after half term. Booking details were emailed earlier this week. Please do take a note of dates for any clubs you sign your child up to.



Monday	Max Coding Playsport
Tuesday	Jump Jiggle and Jive (P1-P2) Speed School (P7)
Wednesday	AMJR Football Nature Rangers
Thursday	Rugbugz (P1-P2)
Friday	Junglenastix (P1) Cricket (P7)

Open Day

We will be holding our annual Open Day for prospective parents on Wednesday, 6th December. Once again this year, we will be asking people to book a tour in advance, using the link on our website and Facebook page. The link is now live and tour slots can be booked from today. Alternatively, contact school directly.

There will be a maximum of 8 families on each tour, led by one of our staff members. We encourage you to bring your preschool child along, accompanied by a maximum of 2 adults. Please do take a look at our Facebook page and website for more details, including our amazing promotional video. We feel it showcases all that is great about Fairview! Do share the Open Day posts widely on your own social platforms so the message is seen by the whole Greater Ballyclare community...you could even add a comment to encourage some new families to join us in September 2024! It is that personal touch that makes all the difference.

Half Term Disco

We had a few sleepy pupils in school today after a late night at the Half Term Disco on Thursday evening. Can I say a huge thank you to our PTA team, led by Emma Armstrong, for organising the evening. The hall looked great, but not as great as some of our pupils and their amazing outfits! A lot of effort has gone into preparation and it was well worth it!

This year, we added a Sensory Disco to the evening and this proved to be a huge success, enabling some pupils who may not have been able to come to join in the fun. All three main discos were well attended, making this another important fund raiser for our PTA. We will confirm how much we raised after half term. As ever, the tuck shop queue was the place to be in all the discos!

Visit to BHS for Chitty Chitty Bang Bang Performance

Our P7 year group were invited to Ballyclare High School this week to see their performance of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. What a wonderful show it was! It was lovely to see so many of our past pupils on stage acting, singing and dancing. Many were also involved in the wonderful orchestra which accompanied the performance.

"I really enjoyed the performance. My favourite bit was when the child catcher found the children and Truly and Mr Potts had to go the castle and rescue them."

Theo McDowell P7K

"I loved how the car was so magical and it floated on water. I thought the cast did this really well. All the acting and singing was amazing. I sang along to all the songs."

Daisy Adair P7K

Remembrance Day Poppies

The Royal British Legion has once again left in a box of their poppies along with a small box of stationery items. There is no price as such for the poppies or stationery but rather a suitable donation is appreciated. These will go round school from the Monday we come back. Please do be generous as we support this most worthy cause. As ever, two P7 pupils will be accompanied by Mr McAllister for the parade and wreath laying on Remembrance Sunday.

Best Kept Garden Awards

We were delighted to be shortlisted in the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Best Kept Garden Awards. At a grand awards ceremony this week, Fairview came runner up in the schools' category. This is a tremendous achievement and gives us all the motivation we need to go for the win next year! Well done to Mrs Cousley and her team for coordinating our gardening work last year, and to Miss Dickson and Miss Cooke who have taken on the role this year.



P6 War Memorial Trip

Our P6 pupils had the opportunity to visit the Northern Ireland War Memorial Museum on Talbot Street in Belfast this month as part of their topic 'The Home Front'. The boys and girls learned fascinating facts about the Belfast Blitz, incendiary bombs, rationing and evacuation to name but a few. They also had the opportunity to visit the museum itself, completing a fact finding scavenger hunt of its various exhibits and displays. P6 also got to try on various military uniforms from the era, transforming themselves into ARP wardens, pilots and even soldiers. A massive thank you to the team at the War Memorial Museum for providing such a fantastic trip for our pupils. "My favourite part was learning about the Belfast Blitz. I liked seeing the photos and seeing a real incendiary bomb." Jamie Meikle P6E

Digital School House

Mrs Houston's Primary 6 class had two excellent sessions at Ballyclare High School, testing out Scratch and the use of Microbits. The sessions were led by an enthusiastic Mr Shaw. The pupils investigated algorithms and created simple dances using Scratch. In their second session, they were introduced to Microbits and programmed them to display their names and simple logos. The best part was when they got to create their own Microbit pet which they programmed to eat, make sounds and respond to being looked after. The children all had a brilliant time learning in a fun and interactive way. Thank you to Mr Shaw and Ballyclare High School for welcoming us so warmly into your school.

Riley, "I really enjoyed learning how to use Microbits. I liked the different logos you could make."
Erin, "I loved programming the Microbit to talk. We called our Microbit Jimmy!"

TTRS 'Ireland Rocks' Update

Last week our boys and girls from P4-P7 took part in the 'Ireland Rocks' competition - a times tables competition run by the internationally renowned, award-winning app and learning platform, Times Tables Rock Stars. The competition was fierce with 12,157,817 questions answered collectively by 15,635 pupils from more than 281 schools and 1,072 classes around the whole of Ireland; North and South! We are incredibly excited to announce that as a school we came 24th!

Our school stats were astonishing too. On average our top class – Mr Kennedy's P7 class answered 4706 questions correctly per pupil, coming 5th place in the overall leaderboard out of 982 classes. A huge congratulations also to Amelia Fleming in P7K who finished the event in 13th place on the pupil leaderboard out of 14953 pupils. Amelia was closely followed by Lucas Grimley (P7K) in 16th place and Mason Boreland (P7K) in 19th place. I am sure you can appreciate that those stats are out of this world!

Unsurprisingly, Mr Kennedy's P7 class won our own school competition, followed by Mrs Davis' P7 class in second and Miss Earls' P6 class in 3rd place. A huge well done to all the boys and girls from across the school who got involved.

Bruno Reddy, creator of TT Rock Stars said, "The pupils excelled themselves throughout Ireland Rocks. Not only did they engage in some friendly competition but there was also some clear improvements in their recall and speed as time went on. That's always been our goal - to make learning maths basics so fun that pupils give it their all."

"During Ireland Rocks I was happy because we were the top P5 class. The competition was good fun and it really challenged me. I became faster at my tables because of 'Ireland Rocks'. I also enjoyed playing against my friends."
Alfie Harris P5McC

"Ireland Rocks was fun because you were able to make cool avatars and use it to play times tables games. TTRS helps your mind grow and I think my class did really well."
Jack Clarke P5McC

"I loved this competition and going home to ensure that I used my hour. To put the cherry on top, coming 13th in the whole of Ireland is pretty cool too!"
Amelia Fleming P7K

"I love TTRS because it helps me get better at my tables which helps my maths. The Ireland competition was hard but through trying my best I placed was 16th overall which is a great achievement."
Lucas Grimley P7K

"I loved the TTRS competition because I loved going home to use my full hour. I also loved coming into school and working hard first thing in the morning to get my daily test complete so that I had as much time as possible on TTRS in the morning."
Mason Boreland P7K

We hope that the boys and girls will continue to compete against each other on TTRS and will be ready to excel themselves again in future competitions.



Visit from Local Historians

This year our ambassadors will be involved in the development of an exciting Ballyclare History Trail on our school grounds, due to launch in May 2024. On Monday, our ambassadors had the privilege of spending time with some gentlemen from the Ballyclare Historical Society and local Councillor, Michael Stewart, for the upcoming project. Prior to this meeting, each ambassador was given a known landmark, feature or building in Ballyclare and asked to research this at home. The boys and girls brought their research with them to the meeting and had the opportunity to spend time with the experts. Our ambassadors were able to discuss and share their research and use this meeting to ask questions and gain further insight into the extensive history of our town. The pupils received high praise from our visitors for their comprehensive knowledge and enthusiasm on their given topic. We look forward to meeting with the members of the Historical Society again throughout the year as we continue to work on this project.

One of the experts, former Ballyclare High School teacher and Fairview parent (and current grandparent), Mr Hassard commented, "Meeting the history researchers this morning was a real joy and a privilege. I thought they had worked hard and were able to explain the area they had worked on very well.

This is a wonderful project and with all those great ideas it will be an interesting way for others to learn about Ballyclare. The discussion group that I sat with had a real grasp of the topics and understood how to listen, ask questions and develop their ideas. I was most impressed.

Please extend my congratulations and very best wishes to the young people and their teachers. I can't wait to see the trail in place."

We can't wait to work with Mr Hassard, Mr McKinney (our very first Principal in Fairview) and Mr Davidson again. Thank you to our local councillor Michael Stewart for setting up the meeting and his ongoing support of our project.

Hockey Blitz

Our hockey girls attended their first Blitz Tournament at Belfast High School on Tuesday. We were fortunate enough to be able to bring two teams to compete against a number of local schools including Mossley, Whiteabbey and Ballykeel. The tournament was incredibly competitive and our girls worked extremely hard, displaying wonderful sportsmanship throughout the day.

The girls were split into two teams, with the A-Team playing Mossley Girls first. Unfortunately, this game didn't go our way and the game finished 1-0 to Mossley. However, this didn't dampen our spirits and the girls went into their second game against Ballykeel full of energy. With superb defending from Lexi Watters and the brilliant saves of our goal keeper Lucy McClelland, we held off conceding any goals. Our forwards had many opportunities on target and we won 5-0 thanks to goals from Alice Montgomery, Daisy Adair, Emily Nesbitt and Faye Whitehead. Morale was high after our win and we used the short 15 minute break to discuss tactics before beginning our second round of matches. The next match saw us take on Mossley Boys and although the girls gave a valiant effort, the match finished 2-0 to Mossley.

At this stage of the day the sun was shining and our girls had bonded together so well, showing great teamwork. The next match played was against Whiteabbey and this was a difficult game. Both teams worked tirelessly until the final whistle, but again our hockey girls demonstrated super skill and secured our second win of the day with a 3-2 win. It was a battle of the Fairview Teams for match 5 of the day which saw our A-Team and B-Team take on each other. Three goals from Alice Montgomery secured the win for the A-Team, but our B-Team fought hard and Rebecca Malcolmson scored 2 goals during this game. Our final fixture was against Mossley Girls again. This rematch had a lot riding on it as this was our opportunity to even the score from our earlier loss. Although tired at this point in the day, the girls gave it their all and with an early goal from Alice Montgomery, we took the lead. Our goalkeeper was worked hard during this game, but Lucy McClelland displayed fantastic co-ordination and skill on numerous occasions. Daisy Adair and Lexi Watters worked well together as a tight knit defensive pairing and put the pressure on the Mossley side. With help from Lucy Semple and the rest of the forwards, the girls managed to keep from conceding and came away with a 1-0 win!



Our B-Team team started off the tournament with a strong lead, beating Ballykeel 7-0. Thanks to the skilled forwards and goals scored by Rebecca Malcolmson, Emily Baird, Megan Weir and Rosie McAllister, Fairview came away without conceding any goals. Spirits were high as we began our next game. Our second match against Whiteabbey was tight as both teams battled fearlessly for the win. Rebecca Malcolmson helped us gain the lead, battling past a number of opponents and securing a goal. Despite this goal, we finished the game with a 2-1 loss. Our girls showed super comradery and came back more unified than before for their next match against Mossley Boys. Goal keeper Alexis Edwards was a force to be reckoned with as she defended the nets with confidence and through the superb defending from Lexi Kennedy and Lucy Stevenson, our girls came away with a 0-0 draw. In the fourth match against Mossley Girls, we managed to make a comeback with a late goal from Emily Baird, taking the score to 1-1. However, we struggled to keep up with the pace of the Mossley Girls and conceded a late goal. The final score was 2-1 to Mossley.



Both teams showed admirable sportsmanship during the tournament and should be so proud of their efforts. Our top goal scorer for the day was Alice Montgomery (P6NMcI) with 7 goals throughout the day. We can't wait for more tournaments throughout the year as we continue developing our skills whilst working towards the Northern Ireland Final qualifications.

Lost Property

We have huge amounts of lost property gathered up since the start of this school year. Anything named has been returned to its owner. We put some photos of the items on Facebook, and many of them are on a table at the front door for parents to claim as they come for interviews. All pupils have been shown the items but no one seems to own any! If your child has lost a coat, jumper, cardigan or even football boots, please call to the school office and take a look. Any remaining items after the first week back in November will go to our 'Cash4Clobber' collection.

School Safeguarding

If you have any safeguarding concerns, then the following is the school team:

Designated Teacher –	Mrs Norris
Deputy Designated Teacher –	Miss Earls
Safeguarding Governor –	Mrs Victoria Woodside

The school's Safeguarding Policy is available to all parents on the school's website or from the school office, on request.