

NEWSLETTER

INSPIRE ~ SUPPORT ~ ACHIEVE

Dates for Your Diary

Christmas Party day P1-P3 (non uniform)	Monday, 18 th December 2023
Christmas Party day P4-P5 (non uniform)	Tuesday, 19 th December
Christmas Party day P6-P7 (non uniform)	Wednesday, 20 th December
Last Day of Term 1 12noon finish (no healthy break)	Friday, 22 nd December
Ballyclare Secondary School Open Afternoon	Wednesday, 3 rd January 2024
Ballyclare High School Open Evening	Thursday, 4 th January
Term 2 starts 8.45am	Monday, 8 th January
Open Enrolment begins 12noon	Tuesday 9 th January
Primary 7 swimming commences	Tuesday, 9 th January
Assessment Week	Monday, 15 th January – Friday 19 th January
PTA meeting	Tuesday, 16 th January

Attendance

There continued to be lots of bugs and illness about in November but our overall attendance in school remains high at 96.1%. Well done to all our boys and girls for being such regular attenders.

Do try to have your children in school by 8.55am at the latest, with doors open from 8.45am. We know mornings can be a stressful time in many houses but being ready to start class at 8.55am is a valuable routine to establish and settles everyone for the day ahead.

I had the pleasure of visiting P5 Mrs McCullough last week to present them with their attendance trophy for November, achieving an incredible 98.8% attendance. Well done to P2 Ms Jordan/Miss Armstrong who came second overall and winning the Junior School trophy with 97.7%. Third place was P5 Mr Cherry with 97.6% attendance.

As you know, if your child is ill, it is right and proper to keep them at home. Similarly, if your child has been vomiting, please keep them at home for 48hours. This reduces spread of any bugs around their peers and staff. Please continue to let the teacher or office know if you have a child off school.

Christmas Concerts Complete

It has been a busy three weeks, but all our Christmas concerts are now complete! Well done to all our boys and girls who excelled on stage and also behind the scenes. Thank you to all the staff who worked tirelessly to make the concerts such a success. I am sure you would agree, our pupils should be so proud of their efforts.

I need to say a big thank you to you, the parents and carers. The pupils on stage respond to the enthusiasm of the audience in front of them and you certainly played your part!

Please take a look on our Facebook page for some photos of the concerts. Feel free to comment on the posts and tell the pupils how wonderful they are. I know I am an exceptionally proud principal!

Foodbank Donation

We received a lovely letter of thanks from Newtownabbey Foodbank for our harvest donation a few weeks back. Donations from Fairview Primary School will provide an equivalent of 1030 meals, a remarkable effort. Demand for the Foodbank continues to grow and our contribution will make a vital difference to many families' Christmas.

Open Day

Last Wednesday, we held our Open Day for parents of pupils who will be starting school in August 2024. All our tickets were sold out for the tours and the morning proved to be a great success! Thank you to all our wonderful pupils who helped meet and greet the parents and to all our pupils who were so engaging with parents and little ones, both on the tours and in classes. We are very proud of how well you represented our school; many new parents remarked on your confidence and how engaging you were.



We got a lovely email from a parent who visited our school on Open day, saying,

"We attended Fairview today for the Open Day/tour of the school. I wanted to send this email to say how exceptional the children were. They were an absolute credit to the school and showed such lovely manners. The children were confident and engaged with us and our son so well. They naturally got down on his level to speak to him and showed him all the learning they were doing which he really enjoyed. Even the children in the P1 classroom engaged in conversation, telling us all about their nativity play and learning their numbers."

The Education Authority publishes information on their website about the Primary 1 admissions procedure and admissions criteria for school. You can visit www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions and then, in January, apply online. The Open Enrolment process begins on 9th January 2024. We will inform all parents who came to see around school on Open Day of details around the application process, and indeed our own parents who have siblings already at Fairview, on our return to school after the Christmas break.

Christmas Fair

Our Christmas Fair took place a couple of weeks ago and what a hugely successful evening it was. The school was packed as our whole school community came out for a night of fun, food and festivities. It seems like such a long time since our last Christmas Fair, with a worldwide pandemic and our wonderful Christmas Trail taking place in the intervening years. The Fair had something for everyone, with games, a glam room and disco to keep the young ones occupied, not to mention a sweetie room which was miraculously emptied over the course of the night! I cannot believe our pupils ate so many sweets! For the adults, there were prizes galore at the tombola, and plenty of food options to munch on as you chatted to friends. We still had the lights around the front of school for the festive effect, and of course Santa and Mrs Claus came to visit!

Our Grand Raffle was drawn earlier today, and winners will be contacted on Monday. A list of winners and their prizes will be shared next week in our end of term newsletter. We value the support of local businesses and the success of these events depends so much upon their generous donations, both for our tombola and our Grand Raffle. Thank you.

The evening was a huge success and raised a huge amount for our PTA, money which will go directly back into the school to support your child in their learning at a time when budgets are so tight. I have to say thank you to our PTA team who organised the Christmas Fair, led by Ruth Livingston and Emma Meikle. Thank you also to all our volunteers on the evening and to school staff members who helped set up rooms and tidy up afterwards. It is that team effort in Fairview that makes our school special.

And on the point of volunteers...well done to Miss Paul's P5 class and Miss Wallace's P2 class for producing the most amount of volunteers for the Christmas Fair. A pizza party is on its way to P5 and P2 will enjoy some hot chocolate on Wednesday next week.

Charity Work:

Abaana Team

We work closely with our friends in Ballyclare Presbyterian Church. They will be sending a team to Uganda to work on a project in conjunction with Abaana, a charity which works with children in poverty. Many of the children they will be working with will not have footwear and we have been asked by the team to put out a call for Crocs (or similar type of footwear). Maybe you have some pairs at home you do not use anymore or that will be replaced this Christmas. Please do not throw old pairs out. We would welcome them in school and ensure they get passed on to Ballyclare Presbyterian Church.

Women's Aid

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council are supporting the Women's Aid Christmas Pyjama Appeal. If you have any fresh, new pyjamas at home and feel you could donate them, please leave into school and we can drop them off to Mossley Mill.

Choir Christmas Tour!

Our Senior Choir have been exceptionally busy over this festive period. We had a great evening at the Ballyclare Switch On on Saturday 25th November. We have also been very busy performing at all of the Christmas performances.



On Tuesday 12th December, our Senior Choir were invited to the Masonic Carol Service at Kilbride Parish Church. This was a brilliant evening where our pupils excelled. They sang beautifully and were a credit to themselves and the school. We would like to thank Ballyclare Free Masons for inviting us to this lovely event.

On Thursday 14th December, our P6&P7 choir members treated the public at Creative Gardens to some festive numbers. This was a lovely afternoon and our pupils thoroughly enjoyed having this opportunity to sing to the community.

Christmas Assembly

Last week we had our Christmas Assembly. Thank you to Aaron from Ballyclare Presbyterian Church for coming into school to lead this assembly. We enjoyed listening to the Christmas story and thinking of the different ways we could look out for others at this busy time of the year.

House Competition

Our house captains held a competition last month which linked with Anti-Bullying week. Pupils in each house were asked to design a poster about how we can be a good friend, something that pupils in Fairview are particularly good at. It was very difficult to choose just one winner from each class but congratulations to the following pupils who received the most votes on their poster from their classmates, winning their house 10 points! All posters are now beautifully displayed in the assembly hall. Well done everyone! 😊

P4 A – Daniel Morrow

P4 C – Anna Hassard

P5 P – Rose Livingston

P5 McC – Freya Chapman

P5 C – Bethanie Potter

P6 McI – Heathe McCullough

P6 E – Derek Ibeh

P6 H – Alice Montgomery

P7 N – Noah Gregg & Rebecca Malcolmson

P7 K – Megan Weir

P7 D – Ethan Colgan

End of Term Arrangements

Can I take this opportunity to wish everyone in our school community a very happy Christmas. This has been a busy term, especially the last few weeks in December. I want to thank you as parents for all your support as I take on this new role in school. It has been lovely talking to so many of you at concerts and the Christmas Fair over the last couple of weeks. Your kind words are much appreciated.

I will be in touch again next week with a final message from school as we finish for this term, but for now here are some details for our last day before the Christmas break.

School will close on Friday, 22nd December for the Christmas break. There will be no canteen staff on duty that day so Breakfast Club will be supervision only. There will be no healthy break available on 22nd December either.

Dismissal will be from 11.45am. Please ensure someone is at the gate to collect your child at the following times –

P1 & P2 - 11.45am

P3 & P4 - 11.50am

P5 - 11.55am

P6 & P7 - 12.00



Clubs in the New Term

As you know by now, all clubs and booster groups have finished for this term, with the exception of Coding Club which has its final day on Monday 18th December. Booster groups will start again week beginning 8th January. Unfortunately, Book Club will not recommence in the new year.

Our staff led clubs do not start again until after half term in February, allowing for assessment time in school and parent interviews.

External club sign up will be emailed out. In the new term, we have:

Monday

- Coding Club <https://www.max-go.co.uk/coding/>
- Playsport <https://playsportni.co.uk/>

Tuesday

- Jump, Jiggle and Jive <https://www.jumpjiggleandjive.co.uk/>

Wednesday

- Nature Rangers <https://www.forestschooolsni.com/shop/fairview-primary-school-after-school-club>
- AMJR <https://app.teamfeepay.com/s/nou1FEZtSq>

Thursday

- Rugbugz <https://rugbugz.classforkids.io/term/92>

Friday

- Cricket P6 and P7 Note to follow next week
- Junglenastix Commencing 19th January, note to follow next week

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.





Ballyclare Secondary School



Open Afternoon

Wednesday 3rd January 2024
1pm - 3pm

