

Ballykeel Primary School

September – October



**Welcome to
P1!**



Dear Parent,

Welcome to Primary One! We are glad you have chosen Ballykeel Primary School for your child. We are looking forward to getting to know you and your family.

Your child will receive this newsletter each half-term. It will inform you about what is happening within our classrooms and of any upcoming events. It will also give you some activities and ideas to try out at home.

Please support your child with their learning as possible at home, as this really makes a difference!

Thank you,

K. Henry and K. McGlaughlin



Ready for school!

Please ensure your child has the following items in school **every day**

- School bag – A4 sized with two straps
- Healthy break – no cereal bars or chocolate yogurt
- Notes folder
- PE shoes in a PE bag (left in school)
- A complete change of clothes (left in school)
- Coat with a hood

Is my name written clearly on **all** of my belongings?



I can...

Your child should be able to do the following tasks independently, ready to start school. If not, please really practise these to help develop your child's self-help skills.

- Open and close their own school bag and lunch box
- Open their snack
- Take off and put on their jumper
- Put on their coat
- Put on their school bag
- Blow their nose
- Use a knife and fork

Remember to check my notes folder **every night!**

We would appreciate it if you could send in the following items as soon as possible:

- one box of **tissues**
- one bottle of **anti-bacterial hand gel** (for use without water)
- one large glue stick – **Pritt stick** is best!!
- **school fund** (note to follow)



A Time to Rhyme

Our theme this half-term is **A Time to Rhyme**. The children will be learning lots of familiar nursery rhymes and many lessons will be based on these.

You can help at home by sending in any nursery rhyme books, DVDs, costumes, puppets or any items mentioned in the nursery rhymes.

The nursery rhymes we will be learning are as follows:

- Baa Baa Black Sheep



- Humpty Dumpty

- Hickory Dickory

- Incy Wincy Spider



- Wee Willie Winkie

- Twinkle Twinkle

- Hey Diddle Diddle



They will also discuss and become more familiar with their own daily routines, both in school and at home, for example, time to get up, time to go to school, time to play, time for bed etc. Why not help your child by identifying and emphasising these significant times in their day?

We  Literacy

Your child will be learning how to write their name. Practise this at home. Please refer to your handwriting sheet (given out in information pack in June) for further guidance. Remember – **no capital letters!**

We will be teaching them to hold their pencil correctly – using “froggy fingers”. Ask your teacher if you’re unsure what this means!



Every day in P1 we have a story time. Why not continue this routine at bed time... time for a story! This will help your child improve their concentration and prepare for learning to read.



Mad about Maths

From now until Halloween, maths activities will include sorting, sequencing, counting 1-5, writing the numbers 1-5 and making sets of up to 5 items and learning colours. These will be taught through practical, fun activities.

Encourage your child to count in practical, everyday situations, for example, setting the table – how many forks do we need? At the supermarket you could ask your child to get you ___ apples etc. How about sorting the laundry? Shirts in one pile, socks in another pile etc.

Media Initiative for N.I.

Soon you will hear about our partnership with St. Brigid's P.S. We are very excited about being involved in this. Over the next few months the children in P1 will meet the boys and girls from St. Brigid's and be introduced to the characters through personal dolls in class. Please encourage them to tell you all about Jim, Tom, Jenny, Kim, Bukola, Kathleen and Lucy.

Dates for the Diary

28 th August – 14 th Sept	Children finish school at 12 noon – no dinners or lunches (snack only)
14 th September	Kindness Day
19 th September	'Getting to Know You' Parent Interviews
26 th September	European Day of Languages
17 th – 28 th September	Children finish school at 12.30pm. Children have dinner or lunch in school
1 st October	Children begin staying in school until 2.00pm
1 st October	School Photographer. Parent meeting 'Switched On and Ready to Learn' and Pyjama Party (pm) – details to follow
8 th October	"Jolly Phonics and Reading" parents session and pyjama party (provisional date - details to follow)
22 nd – 26 th Oct	Parent Interviews. Children go home at 1.30pm.
26 th October	School finishes for Half-Term break.
5 th November	School re-opens

I can write my name!

Please use this box to help your child practise writing their name.

