



# **Ballydown Times**

## **March Newsletter 2024**

### **Mr Murphy's Blog**

It has been a busy half term at Ballydown. We hope you enjoy reading about all of this month's activities and achievements. Have a fantastic Easter break and don't eat too many Easter eggs!

### **Pupils of the Month**

Our March winners for **super art and creative work** were: Nursery Beth Dowds, P1W Annie Truesdale P1R James McConigle, P2W Eleanore Fairbairn, P2/3 James Kelly, P3 Eily McGrath, P4 Lily-May McVeigh, P4/5 Savannah Jooste, P5 Heidi McMullan, P6 Lily McClimonds, P6/7 Isla Willis

**Special Award** Winners: Nursery Jessica Greenwood, P1R Anna Herriot, P1D Adam Sands, P2 Ethan Gray, P2/3 Noah Hughes, P3 Martha McClughan, P4 Arthur Dalzell, P4/5 Esme McEvoy, P5 Hayden Gibson, P6 Harry Morrison, P6/7 Ephie Carson. Well done to all of our winners.

**Best line trophy** award went to P1 Mrs Dillon!  
**Hockey**

Our boys have qualified for the Northern Ireland Finals, which will be held at Stormont in April. Our girls team finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the qualifiers for this event. The Girls also played at The Dromore Girls Tournament, last week, where they finished runners-up in their group. Well done to our hockey teams.

Huge thanks you must go to our parent coaches from Banbridge Hockey club who have coached our hockey team all year.

### **Rugby**

Tournament Lisburn RC. The boys rugby team played at this tournament last week. They had a great afternoon, winning 4 of their matches. The boys enjoyed the mud and the hotdogs!


### **World Book Day**

What a great way to celebrate the wonderful world of books. We had lots of lovely paper plate book characters. They were absolutely fantastic and we were so impressed with the children's creations. Thank you.

### **Speech and Drama**

We had a number of children taking part in various speech and drama festivals over the past half term, with lots of prize winners. Well done to all of those who took part and to those special prize-winners!

### **Table Tennis**

Well done to our 29 table tennis players who played at the Ulster  Table Tennis Individuals Tournament at Banbridge Leisure Centre. All of the children played so well and came home with lots of medals. We have a great young group of P5 children, who show great potential for the future. Our boys team will be heading to Dublin at the end of April to play in the All-Ireland finals.

### **Spring Concert**

We enjoyed wonderful performances from our KS2 children at our annual Spring Concert. This year our theme was the Olympics! We enjoyed a huge variety of talent from our very talented children; Musical performances from our brass, violins, guitars, woodwind and piano players. We had two fab performances from our award winning Choral speaking group. A delightful and emotional performance from our Makaton choir and special visitors from the Adult learner centre. Our KS2 choir entertained us with their beautiful pieces. We had dancing from our Highland dance group and our lyrical dancer Grace. Each class then went on to perform an Olympic sport based group performance- we were so well entertained by creative and at times hilarious performances. It was a wonderful sight to see every child from KS2 on the stage performing and most importantly enjoying themselves. A huge well done and thank you to all of the staff involved in putting on this heartwarming display of the talent here at Ballydown.



## Showjumping

Megan Burns and Mark Brown represented school at the St Patrick's Day Interschools Showjumping competition. Megan finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the individual class.

Mark Brown also competed at Cavan where he qualified for the u10 showjumping finals at Balmoral show in May. Best of luck to Mark.

## P7 London Trip

Our P7 children enjoyed a fantastic, fun-filled, action-packed trip to London. They visited the Tower of London, went Bowling, Madame Tussauds, Hamleys, watched The Lion King in the West End, had a tour of The Houses of Parliament, The London Eye, Windsor Castle, Eton College and much more. Such a wonderful experience for our P7 pupils and so many memories created! A BIG thank you to Mr Russell for organising the trip and to Mrs Blair, Mrs Hinds, Mrs James for giving of their time and enthusiasm to attend. A lot of tired but very happy children and teachers arrived home last night.



We had so many lovely comments from the general public about the lovely manners and behaviour of our children- thank you boys and girls.

## Football

Our Football team took part in the Evo Soccer School Tournament in March. Team Ballydown finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in their group and then had a draw in the final of this section. Well Done.

## PTA Competition

Our winners from the PTA competition were: Guess the **Name of the Bunny**-Joey Hamilton, Tyler Toman Guess the **Number of Sweets in the Jar**- Margaux Fairbairn. We even had a visit from an Easter lamb from Harley and Grace's farm. We also ran an Easter art competition, the winners of which received an Easter egg.

Thank you so much to our PTA for organising. The PTA are fundraising this year to purchase a class set of iPads and charging dock, to allow us to have a mobile computer zone.

## Easter Holidays

We finish for Easter on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March half day. Non-Uniform Day.)

Enjoy your break and see you all on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April.



## Diary Dates:

Fri 29<sup>th</sup> April

Mon 15<sup>th</sup> April

Mon 6<sup>th</sup> May

Mon 27<sup>th</sup> May

Tues 28<sup>th</sup> May

Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> & Tues 4<sup>th</sup> June

Wed 5<sup>th</sup> June

First Day of Easter holiday

Summer Term begins

SCHOOL CLOSED BANK HOLIDAY

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SCHOOL CLOSED STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

New P1 intake afternoons

New nursery intake afternoon 3:15pm













