



Ballydown Times

October Newsletter 2025

Mr Murphy's Blog

We hope you all had a great half term break and feeling refreshed and ready for the busy Christmas season ahead in school!

Stars of the month



Our October winners for **Excellent presentation** of work; Nursery Mollie McCall, P1D Eva Hylands, P1R Maisie Porter, P2 Alita Mitchell P2/3 Ruby Shaw, P3 Jessica Andrews, P4 Archie Pollock, P4/5 Isaac Woods, P5 Teddy Ryan, P6 Jonah Steele, P6/7 Anna Murdock, P7 Ella Vint.

Our **Superstar** winners for manners and behaviour were Nursery Jessie Henning, P1D Nellie Brown, P1R Ben Crangle P2 Lucas McAllister, P2/3 Alex Robb, P3 William Anderson, P4 Penny Whigham, P4/5 Sadie England, P5 Poppy Hutchinson, P6 Dakota Gault, P6/7 Charlie McShane, P7 Annalise Bramall.

Very well done. They all enjoyed their morning treats with Mr Murphy.

Well done to P4 who won the trophy for best class this month.

Cross Country



Well done to our boys and girls team who took part in the Flahavan's League Round 1 at Banbridge Rugby Club. The girls teams ran superbly to finish 2nd in the overall placings. We even had 3 top 10 finishers with Maria (4th), Orla (9th) and Megan (10th)! The boys team also ran very well in a very quick race. We had 2 top 10 finishers with Hayden (6th) and Hugo (10th)!

A great run from all our team members. We are very proud of you all. We also had a great turnout of parent/grandparent supporters and helpers- thank you so much.

Football



Our football team took part in a tournament at Cheney Park. The team played really well, finishing runners up in their group section.

Hockey

Our girls team took part in an Ulster Hockey blitz held at Friends' School, Lisburn. The boys team took part in the blitz held at Newry Hockey Club. Both teams played superbly for their first outing this season.

Parent Teacher Interviews

Thank you to all parents who attended interviews before half term. It is always great to see you all in school. It is a great opportunity, early in the year, to find out how your child is progressing and what you can do to support their learning. Please remember that we operate an 'open door' policy throughout the year. If you have any questions or concerns, please arrange to speak to the class teacher or to myself.



PTA Bend the Rules

Our PTA held a Bend the Rules event. Children could choose some school rules to 'bend'. The children all looked super in their costumes. This year we are raising funds towards purchasing new



books to update our reading scheme. We have raised an outstanding **£1340** to date! We are so grateful to our PTA. This year their fundraising has allowed us to update our reading scheme and has funded a new lighting and sound upgrade in our hall for performances.

Pumpkin Carving Challenge

School looked fantastic in the run up to half term, decorated with the children's carved pumpkins! Thank you for all your effort and creative ideas.



Eco Council Elections

Our new Eco Council for 2025-26 was elected with representatives from P4-P7. Our eco-warriors have lots of ideas for enhancing our school grounds and teaching us to look after our world.

P4	P5
Oliver Crawford Clara Cowan Isaac Woods	Sam McCord Rose McEvoy Shannon McShane Thea Crawford
P6	P7
Christian Crothers Lennex Savage Lewis Mark	Seth Martin Eleanor McKinstry Alexandra Little

Book fair

Thank you so much for supporting our book fair. In total over the past 2 years, you have helped raise £2568 for us, which we will put towards new books for our Accelerated Reader library.

Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day gift items and poppies are on sale this week. We will hold a Remembrance Assembly on Tuesday 11th November.



SEAG

A lot of our P7 pupils have been working extremely hard preparing to sit the SEAG tests in November. It has required a lot of hard work and we are very proud of just how hard the group has worked and wish them all the best. Remember that this is just a test and does not dictate your child's future. Get a good rest over half term ready for Test 1 on 15th November.



"Inside every child is a rainbow waiting to shine."

"Reach for the moon, even if you miss, you'll land among the stars."



School Council -Christmas Jumpers

School council will be having Christmas jumper sale/swap in November. If you have Christmas jumpers your children have outgrown, we would be very grateful. Preloved Christmas jumpers will be available in the outdoor classroom from Friday 14th November.



*** Dinner Menu available on the website***

Diary Dates:

Mon 3 rd Nov	Start back
Mon 10 th Nov	Parent online safety workshop 7:30pm
Tues 11 th Nov	Remembrance Day
Tues 18 th Nov	Speech & Drama Festival
Mon 10-Fri 14 th Nov	Anti-Bullying Week
Sat 15 th , 22 nd Nov	SEAG Tests (Good Luck P7s)
Wed 3 rd Dec	P1-P3 Christmas Play & KS2 Choir
Tues 9 th Dec	P4 Play
Fri 12 th Dec	Nursery Play
Thurs 11 th Dec	Christmas Dinner



**October Pupils
of the Month**



Pupils of Month- Superstar awards



**Pupils of Month
for Presentation of
Work**



Digital Leaders



Librarians 2025/6



**P4 Class of the
Month**