



# Ballydown Times

## May Newsletter 2023

### Mr Murphy's Blog

It is hard to believe we have reached the end of the school year. It has been a busy but fantastically successful year at Ballydown. Thank you all so much for your support and commitment to our school and for making Ballydown just the best school community.

### Stars of the month

I am delighted to announce our June winners for 'Teachers' Choice'



award are; Nursery Joshua Little, P1G Harry Percy, P1R Lucy Mackey, P2 Elle Hazley & Noah McKnight, P2/3 Grace Herriot, P3 Abel Quigley & Jonah Steele, P4 Regan Close & Rachel Glass, P4/5 Freya Todd, P5 Callum English, P6 Archie Walsh, P6/7 Aaron Wright. Very well done. Our winners enjoyed their breaktime treat with Mr Murphy.



### P5 East Coast Adventure

Our P5 children had a great day at East Coast Adventure Centre, taking part in lots of outdoor pursuit and water activities. It is a great experience for the children and lovely to see children try something new and challenge themselves to overcome some fears!

### Football

P6 children took part in a football tournament held at Rathfriland High. The team played really well against mostly P7 teams. A great team in the making for P7.

### 'Oh What a Night!'

Our P7 performance of 'What a Knight' was absolutely fantastic. It was lovely to see so many parents, grandparents and friends along to watch the two performances. Our P7 children are such a talented bunch and we were all 'blown away' by the performance. A huge thank you to all of the staff involved and special thanks to our music director, Mrs Blair and the director Mr Russell.



### Leavers' Assembly

Our leavers' Assembly took place last week to mark the end of our P7 children's time at Ballydown. Our guest speaker was International Rugby star, Rory Best. Rory spoke to the P7 children about reaching for their goals and going out to achieve their dreams.

Our P7 children had visits to their new post primary schools this month. We have



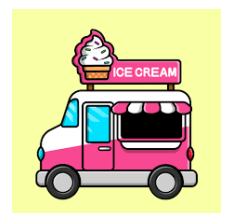
children going to lots of different schools this year; Banbridge Academy, Banbridge High, Dromore High, Newbridge Integrated, St Colman's College, Newry, Hunterhouse College, Ballynahinch High, The Royal Belfast Academical Institution, The Royal School, Armagh. We wish our P7 children best wishes as they move to their new schools in September. We know they have had a great start to their education in Ballydown and are confident that they are ready for the next stage in their education.

### PTA

Thank you to our PTA who provided a BBQ and party for our P7 children to celebrate their last full day in school. Great fun was had by all. A huge thanks to our PTA who provide so much for us in school. This year all of our classrooms have had their interactive whiteboards updated. They also funded 10 new computers for our Computer Suite area. PTA also provide each classroom with funding for teachers to purchase consumable classroom resources.

### Ice Cream

We finished term with a visit from the ice cream van with treat for everyone and a chance for children to meet their new teachers and classmates.





**Ballydown Primary School & Nursery Unit  
Provisional Holiday List 2023/24**

**Term 1**

Begins **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August - half day**

11:30am staggered finish for **ALL** pupils P2-P7 (no dinners)

(Nursery & P1 follow instructions already given)

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September normal full day P2-P7 (Nursery & P1 follow instructions already given)

Half Term Monday 30<sup>th</sup> Oct- Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov (inclusive) 5 days

Christmas Hols – Finish Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> Dec half day (no dinners)

No school Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec- Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 (inclusive)

**Term 2**

Begins Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Half term 12<sup>th</sup>- 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024 (5 days)

St Patrick's Day – off Mon 18<sup>th</sup> March

Easter hols- Finish Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> March half day (no dinners)

No School Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April (inclusive- 2 weeks & 1 day)

**Term 3**

Begins Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024

May Day- off Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Bank holiday- off Monday 27<sup>th</sup> & Tues 28<sup>th</sup> May 2024

School finishes Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024 half day (no dinners)

**Includes 5 staff development days  
(holidays may be subject to change)**