



Ballydown Times

December Newsletter 2023

Mr Murphy's Blog

It's hard to believe this is the last edition of 2023. It has been a very busy and successful first term. December has had so many events taking place; everything from Christmas plays to retirements and a wedding! May I take this opportunity to thank you for the lovely cards and gifts and to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Stars of the Month

Our December winners, which was **teacher's own choice**; Nursery Faith Gibson, P1R Mia Greda, P1G Noah Craig-McBrearty, P2 Clara Cowan, P2/3 Elliott Robb, P3 Harry Dobson, P4 Lennex Savage, Evie Pollock, Lewis Mark, P4/5 William Fleming, P5 Herbie Scott, P6 Henry Cowan, P6/7 Joseph McCracken, P7 Jack McCauley.



Kindness Award: Nursery Rory Cowan, P1R Isabella McClughan, P1G Rayne Savage, P2 Adam Kirkland, P2/3 Katherine Parton, P3 Elle Heasley, P4/5 Maia Doran, P5 Jake McKinstry, P6 Elijah Parkes, P6/7 Freddie Crozier, P7 Kerry Copeland. Very well done. They all enjoyed their Christmas treats with Mr Murphy.

Open Afternoon

We had a very successful Open Afternoon on Monday 11th Dec. It was lovely to see lots of new faces at the Nursery and visiting P1. Online Admissions for Nursery and P1 opens on Tuesday 9th January 2024 and closes Friday 26th Jan @ 12 noon. All forms have to be completed online using the EA Admissions Portal:

Nursery preschooladmissions@eani.org.uk

P1 primaryadmissions@eani.org.uk

If you have any questions or difficulties, please contact us at school.

Christmas Dinner

The Children enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner in our school canteen. Huge thanks to our new cook, Emma, for all her hard work this term. She has been great.



P4- Christmas with the Crackers

Our P4 children performed a fantastic version of the Christmas on Tuesday 12th December. A very entertaining tale about spreading some Christmas magic!

Nursery -Who's that Knocking?

We had a fabulous performance of 'Who's that Knocking?' Nativity play on Friday 15th Dec. Such a heart-warming sight to see our Nursery children all performing so confidently on the stage. We also said goodbye to our Nursery assistant, Mrs Matchett, who is retiring after 20 years at Ballydown. We wish her a long and happy retirement. Thank you for all the lovely gifts and messages she received.

Carol Service

Our Carol Service took place on Wednesday 6th Dec. It was led by our P1-P3 children who told us their version of the Christmas story. Our KS2 choir also performed two beautiful songs for us. It was wonderful to see the church filled for both services.



Santa Run

Our annual Santa Run took place on Wednesday 20th. 340 Santas running around school was a very festive sight indeed!!!!



Wedding

Congratulations to our P1 teacher, Miss Gowdy, who got married 16th December. It lovely to have our school choir singing at the ceremony. Thank you very much for the lovely gifts and cards she received. We look forward to seeing the new Mrs Dillon in January.

Christmas Trees

Our Christmas tree sale raised £720 for school funds. Thank to all of you who purchased a tree.

PTA Hampers

Our PTA Christmas hamper raffles raised £1075. Well done to all the class winners. On behalf of the PTA thank you for all your support to this very important fundraising team. This year the PTA are working towards purchasing a class set of iPads and charging station to allow for a mobile computer suite for classes to use.



Food Bank

Well done to Ellie, Anna McP and Anna H who sold Christmas envelopes to raise £40 for the foodbank. Well done girls on spreading some Christmas cheer.

Diary Dates:

Thurs 21 st Dec	School closes for Christmas
Thurs 4 th Jan	Term 2 begins
Mon 8 th Jan	Evo Soccer term 2 begins
Fri 26 th Jan	Applications for nursery and P1 close (12 noon)
Sat 27 th Jan	SEAG transfer test results issued



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





