



BROUGHSHANE  
ROAD  
BALLYMENA  
Co ANTRIM  
BT43 7DX

**Principal:**  
Mr. J. Brady  
B. Ed. Hons, M. Ed, PQH  
(NI)



### **Welcome Back**

A very warm welcome back to all of our children and staff after the Christmas break. We trust everyone enjoyed their holidays.

### **Primary 1 Parents – Phonics Meeting**

We will be holding our Phonics meeting for Primary 1 parents on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January at 9.15am. During the meeting teachers will explain the programme and parents will be equipped to support their children's learning at home with particular reference to reading and language development. Translation will be provided for Polish parents in one of the sessions. We would encourage parents to attend what is always a very valued opportunity to learn about their children's experiences in school.

### **Incredible Years (Primary 1-3 Parents)**

The Incredible Years programme is an excellent programme that we organise each year in partnership with Ballykeel PS. It is designed to support parents with their children's development at home and covers areas such as setting boundaries on behaviour, supporting children's learning, strengthening children's emotional health and social skills and setting rules, routines and limits at home etc. The feedback from participants in recent years has been excellent and we would encourage parents to take up the places that are available as they are limited. The programme lasts for 6 sessions and all are delivered in Ballykeel PS by trained staff. Exact dates and times are not available just yet but sessions take place in the morning (usually 9.15am-11.15am) during February- March and crèche facilities are provided for parents attending. Transport can also be provided for parents attending and everything is funded so there is no cost to attend. If you are interested please contact Mrs. Brady as soon as possible. Parents who have previously completed the programme are welcome to attend again.

### **Primary 2 Ready to Learn (RTL)**

The changeover date for P2 pupils attending the after-school Ready to Learn programme is week beginning Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January. If your child was attending RTL on a Mon, Tues and Wed they will now attend on a Mon & Tue only from this date until the end of the year. If your child attended on a Thurs & Fri they will now attend on a Wed, Thur & Fri from this date until the end of the year.

### **Monday Morning Mass**

P6 classes will attend Mass on Monday morning at 10.00am in All Saints Church. As the children will be walking to the church they require appropriate footwear and a coat.

### **Parent/ Teacher Meetings**

Our Parent/ Teacher meetings will take place as follows:

**Newcomer parents** – Week beginning Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January. **School will continue as normal this week with finishing times unchanged.**

**Local Parents** – Week beginning Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February

Please note that during the above meetings school will finish at 1.00pm for all classes on Monday 5<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February.

### **Primary 6 Shared Education Programme**

Our P6 children started their programme of activities with their friends from Ballykeel this week. The children spend time in each other's classroom in joint lessons that are relevant to the curriculum and it's a great way to develop relationships in a fun and engaging environment.

### **School Hurling Team**

Well done to our hurlers who participated in the Cumman Na mBunscol Indoor 5 a Side competition in the Antrim Forum this week. They acquitted themselves well and enjoyed the experience. Well done boys!

### **Rugby Coaching**

Our P6 & 7 children will receive rugby coaching from next week on a Tuesday morning. They should bring in their normal PE kit and football boots (only if they have them) as well as trainers as they will be using the school pitch from time to time. the coaching will be delivered by Ulster Rugby coaching staff.