



Ballacottier Primary School

Autumn Term 1

A very warm welcome back to Ballacottier and to the start of another exciting academic year! I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful summer break and had the opportunity to spend some quality time together as a family. It has been fantastic to welcome the children back into school and to see them settling so quickly into their new classes. There has already been a lovely buzz around school, with lots of happy faces and enthusiasm for the year ahead.

As we begin this new school year, I am incredibly proud of everything we achieved together last year and excited about what lies ahead for our Ballacottier community. Our staff have been busy planning a wide range of engaging learning experiences and opportunities for the children, and we are looking forward to another year filled with learning, growth and plenty of special memories along the way. I look forward to sharing and celebrating the many achievements of our wonderful pupils with you throughout the year. Miss Davies

Staff Changes



We welcome some new members of staff and some existing staff have moved to a new role. We now have Mrs Polanowska teaching music across the school on a Tuesday and Thursday, Nathan Frawley joins us as our new coach, teaching PE sessions and Megan Glassey is due to join our wonderful team in Rainbow.

Clubs

Nathan will be running sports clubs on a Tuesday and Thursday morning before school from 8:10am to 8:50am. For this half term the offer will be Hockey for Years 3 and 4 on Tuesday and Badminton for Years 5 and 6 on a Thursday.

Horizon Hub

We are in the process of developing a new space in one of the old Reception classrooms, named the Horizon Hub. This will be a multi-purpose calm environment for nurture sessions, school day stars for some, and Breakfast club.

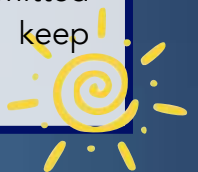
Photos

Permissions letters for class, individual and sibling photos have been sent out last week. Please ensure that completed slips are returned to school. We are unable to allow photographs to be carried out for any child who does not have a correctly completed authorisation form.



Jewellery/Smart Watches

A reminder that, for health and safety reasons, the only jewellery permitted to be worn in school is stud earrings. We have noticed an increasing number of children wearing necklaces, bracelets and hoop or dangly earrings, which are not suitable for school and can pose a risk during playtimes, PE and other activities. Please also be reminded that smart watches are not permitted in school. We would be grateful for your support in ensuring that children come to school wearing only permitted items. Thank you for helping us to keep everyone safe.





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Topics

There is lots of exciting learning taking place across Ballacottier this half-term! Our Reception children are beginning their school journey with Marvellous Me, while Year 1 are exploring the exciting world of Superheroes. Year 2 are discovering Carnival of the Animals, and Year 3 are travelling back in time to uncover the fascinating world of Ancient Egypt. The journey through history continues in Year 4 with the Vikings, before Year 5 explore life during World War II and Year 6 delve into the Victorian era. With such a fantastic range of topics underway, we are looking forward to seeing the children's curiosity, creativity and knowledge grow throughout the half-term!

Parking

A polite reminder that parking on the back playground at the end of the school day is strictly only for parents and carers collecting children from Rainbow. We kindly ask all other families not to use this area for parking, helping us to keep the space safe and accessible for those who need it. Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

School Lunches

You will have received the revised school menu for this year. There have been a couple of changes from last year which seem to be proving very popular with the children so far. School lunches continue to be charged at £2.55 per meal.



Outdoor Area

We are delighted with the recent improvements to our outdoor space, which now includes a fantastic new astroturf surface for the children to enjoy. Some of the money raised through our School Fund has helped to make this improvement possible, and it is wonderful to see these funds being used to directly benefit our pupils and enhance their school environment. A huge thank you to everyone who has supported our fundraising!

Looking Forward & Reflecting Back

As you will be aware, our school newsletter is shared at the beginning of each half-term, keeping families up to date with important information, key dates and all that is happening across Ballacottier. This year, we are also excited to introduce a new end-of-half-term feature celebrating the fantastic learning taking place across our school. This will give you a glimpse into life in different year groups, showcasing some of the experiences, achievements and memorable moments from the half-term, along with plenty of photographs of our children enjoying their learning.





Key Dates



Date	Activity
Thursday, 3rd September	Autumn Term Starts
Tuesday Mornings	Year 3/4 Hockey Club
Thursday Mornings	Year 5/6 Badminton Club
Thursday, 10th September	KS2 School Swimming Starts
Monday, 14th September	Isle Listen Sessions Y3 - Y6 Start
Friday, 25th September	Reception Parent Meeting (2:45pm)
Friday, 2nd October	School Photos
Wednesday, 7th October	Flu Immunisations
Wednesday, 14th October	Year 3/4 Hockey Festival
19th - 23th October	Parent Consultation Evenings
26th - 30th October	Helf Term Break
Thursday, 12th November	No School Swimming
Tuesday, 15th December	Christmas Concert Year 3 - Year 6
Thursday, 17th December	Christmas Concert Reception - Year 2
Tuesday, 22nd December	Last Day of Term



Respect

Resilience

Ambition