

# Ballacottier News - September 2023



## A New Year Ahead

It is great to be back in school. It has been lovely to meet our new Reception pupils and their families this week - I hope you will all be very happy at Ballacottier.

There have been a lot of changes during the summer holidays and a lot of renovation work. Sandcastles Nursery has moved to the classroom to the right of the Foundation Stage entrance and has separate gated access.

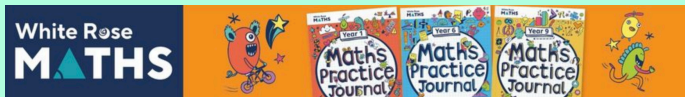
Rainbow Room has extended into the former Nursery space and provides a far more appropriate learning environment for our pupils which is fantastic.

Lower and upper juniors have all been re-carpeted and the whole school looks really smart. A huge thank you to Mr Sharman our Caretaker, the cleaning and teaching teams who have all pitched in to get the school ready for the year ahead.

Mrs Forrester

## Curriculum and Learning

Teachers will be sending out information about the topics being taught in each class this half term and any details relevant to your child's class routines. Your child will have a Homework Book to keep their home learning in and Year 6 pupils can also access their homework on Teams.



At Ballacottier, we use White Rose Learning to teach mathematics. This year White Rose and Oxford University Press have issued Maths Practice Journals for each Year in Primary School (Y1 - Y6).

Parents may choose to purchase one of these journals as they align directly with what is being taught in school. Each book costs £4.99. To find out more details, visit their website.

## Recognising Effort and a Positive Attitude

This year we are adopting a new approach to how we actively encourage positive relationships and behaviour within school. We will have 3 key areas of focus:



Each Classroom now has a 'Recognition Board' with a specific target for pupils to be working towards. School staff will be adding the names of those pupils trying their best to meet these targets. This is one element of a new Relationships Policy that has been drafted to help children make the most of their time at school, whilst fairly and consistently challenging and supporting pupils who may struggle to focus.

### School Photos

A form will be coming home shortly informing you about the opportunity for your child to have a school photograph.

Please can you read the form carefully, complete it and return to school as soon as possible.

Please note, if you do not return the form your child will not have their photo taken. Similarly if you have not ticked to say your child can have their photo taken as part of a class photo, they will be removed from the group before the photograph is taken.

Last year there was some confusion which led to additional work for teachers, so please if you have any queries at all contact the school office so we can ensure things run smoothly.

Thanks for your help with this.

### Dates for the Term

#### SEPTEMBER

- Tuesday 19th - Fundraising Meeting
- Wednesday 20th - Junior Achievement (Year 6)
- Friday 22nd - Robotics Workshop Trip (Year 5)
- Friday 29th - School Photos

#### OCTOBER

- Wednesday 4th - Flu Vaccinations
- Friday 6th - Isle Listen Workshop (Year 3-6)
- Tues/Wed 10/11th - Stemfest Trip (Year 5 & Year 6)
- Mon 16th-Thu 19th - Parent Evening
- Tuesday 17th - Young Engineers (Year 6)
- Mon 23rd-Fri 27th - Half term

### Fundraising Meeting

We will be having a meeting in school from 3.45pm on

Tuesday 19th September

in the Assembly Hall for parents and teachers to brainstorm ideas for fundraising events for the next academic year. Please do come along if you can to share your ideas. Last year money raised allowed us to buy much needed shade for the summer months, additional reading, phonic based books and much more.

### Junior Swimming Lessons

Swimming Lessons will resume for Juniors next Thursday (14th September).

For pupils new to school swimming please be aware:

Pupils should wear appropriate costumes for swimming that conform to safety and teaching requirements.

- No baggy shorts are allowed to be worn.
- Bikinis and loose clothing are not permitted

Children with long hair or hair that may impede vision must wear a swimming hat.

Pupils should remove earrings before swimming. (Pupils with newly pierced ears must have an ear-band to be able to swim until the earrings can be removed).

Goggles may be worn by pupils if they wish. However, please note it is the responsibility of parents to teach their child to put on and take off goggles in a correct and safe fashion.

Pupils should not bring shampoos/body wash/talc etc unless there is a medical reason for their use.

It is fine for pupils with verrucas to swim.

### Keep in Touch with School

You can call on 01624 612558 or email us at [ballacottierenquiries@sch.im](mailto:ballacottierenquiries@sch.im)  
Our website <https://ballacottier.sch.im> or Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ballacottierprimaryschool> has details of Ballacottier school life.