

NEWSLETTER

INSPIRE ~ SUPPORT ~ ACHIEVE

Diary Dates

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| Christmas Party day P4-P5 (non uniform) | Monday, 16 th December |
| Christmas Party day P1-P3 (non uniform) | Tuesday, 17 th December |
| Christmas Party day P6-P7 (non uniform) | Wednesday, 18 th December |
| P5 Panto Trip | Thursday, 19 th December |
| Christmas Jumper Day | Friday, 20 th December |
| Last day of Term 1 (12 noon finish) No healthy break or after school provision | Friday, 20 th December |
| Ballyclare Secondary School Open Afternoon | Monday, 6 th January |
| Term 2 starts 8:45am | Tuesday, 7 th January |
| Ballyclare High School Open Evening | Thursday, 9 th January |
| Open Enrolment begins for P1 2025 (12 noon) | Friday, 10 th January |
| Assessment Week | Monday, 13 th January – Friday 17 th January |
| P7 swimming commences | Tuesday, 14 th January |
| P7 parents – application for Post Primary place opens (12 noon) (closes 20 th February) | Tuesday, 28 th January |

Attendance

There continued to be lots of bugs and illness about in November but our overall attendance in school remains high at 96.4%. Well done to all our boys and girls for being such regular attenders. Do try to have your children in school by 8.55am at the latest, with doors open from 8.45am.

We know mornings can be a stressful time in many houses but being ready to start class at 8.55am is a valuable routine to establish and settles everyone for the day ahead.

I had the pleasure of visiting P6 Mrs Boyd last week to present them with their attendance trophy for November, achieving an incredible 98.0% attendance. Well done to P3 Mrs McQueen who came second overall and winning the Junior School trophy with 97.9%. Third place was P6 Miss Earls with 97.1% attendance.

As you know, if your child is ill, it is right and proper to keep them at home. Similarly, if your child has been vomiting, please keep them at home for 48hours. This reduces spread of any bugs around their peers and staff. Please continue to let the teacher or office know if you have a child off school.





Christmas Concerts Complete

It has been a busy three weeks, but all our Christmas concerts are now complete! Well done to all our boys and girls who excelled on stage and also behind the scenes. Thank you to all the staff who worked tirelessly to make the concerts such a success. I am sure you would agree, our pupils should be so proud of their efforts.

I need to say a big thank you to you, the parents and carers. The pupils on stage respond to the enthusiasm of the audience in front of them and you certainly played your part!

Please take a look on our Facebook page for some photos of the concerts. Feel free to comment on the posts and tell the pupils how wonderful they are. I know I am an exceptionally proud principal!

Open Day

Last Wednesday, we held our Open Day for parents of pupils who will be starting school in September 2025. All our tickets were sold out for the tours and the morning proved to be a great success! Thank you to all our wonderful pupils who helped meet and greet the parents and to all our pupils who were so engaging with parents and little ones, both on the tours and in classes. We are very proud of how well you represented our school; many new parents remarked on your confidence and how engaging you were.

We got a lovely email from a parent who visited our school on Open day, saying,

"I feel I have to get in touch following our visit to your school today for the Open Day. My husband and I were blown away by every part of the visit. The children were confident and engaged with us and our daughter so well. They naturally got down to her level to speak to her and showed her all the learning they were doing which she really enjoyed. Even the children in the P1 classroom engaged in conversation, especially telling us about the naughty elf!"

The Education Authority publishes information on their website about the Primary 1 admissions procedure and admissions criteria for school. You can visit www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions and then, in January, apply online. The Open Enrolment process begins on 10th January 2025. We will inform all parents who came to see around school on Open Day of details around the application process, and indeed our own parents who have siblings already at Fairview, on our return to school after the Christmas break.

Choir Christmas Tour!

Our Senior Choir have been exceptionally busy over this festive period. We had a great evening at the Ballyclare Switch On event on Saturday 30th November. They have also been very busy performing at the two Senior Christmas performances. Our Junior Choir performed at the Grandparents' Concert and the two Junior Christmas performances.



On Sunday 8th December, our Senior Choir were invited to the 1st Ballyeaston Christmas Service. This was a brilliant morning where our pupils excelled. They sang beautifully and were a credit to themselves and the school. We would like to thank 1st Ballyeaston Presbyterian Church for inviting us to this lovely event. Also thanks to Ballyclare Nursery School for inviting our choir to visit this week.

Christmas Assembly

Last week we had our Christmas Assembly. Thank you to Aaron from Ballyclare Presbyterian Church for coming into school to lead this assembly. We enjoyed listening to the Christmas story and thinking of the different ways we could look out for others at this busy time of the year.

This morning, I spoke in all three assemblies about the importance of the Wise Men in the Christmas story, such an enduring message. In both Christmas assemblies, we sang these beautiful songs, well worth a listen at home.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3YXBf4F6Mg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3G5CtIs4ivk>

PTA Wreath Making Evening

What an amazing evening we had at our annual Christmas Wreath Making workshop. It was lovely to see so many people come along and enjoy an evening of festive fun, but also come away with a beautiful decoration for their home. There were lots of beautiful wreaths created around the room! Some doors around Ballyclare are set to look extra special, although I hope everyone waited until Storm Darragh passed before hanging them out!

A huge thank you must go to our wonderful PTA for organising such a special evening for our Fairview community. Thank you also to Ballyclare Golf Club for their hospitality.





Hockey Success

Last week, a mixture of our Primary 6 and Primary 7 hockey girls played in a friendly match against Ballynure Primary School. It was a great opportunity for some of our girls to represent Fairview for the first time, whilst also getting the chance to play on the astro pitch at Ballyclare High School. The girls played some excellent hockey and scored many impressive goals against Ballynure, who have always been a competitive side. Well done girls!

Following on from this friendly, two teams made up of our Primary 7 hockey girls performed in a Hockey Blitz at Antrim Forum, organised by Ulster Hockey. This was a great opportunity for a few more of our girls to represent Fairview for the first time at a sporting event. A special mention must go to Holly McCudden who made her debut as a goalkeeper and made some outstanding saves throughout the tournament!

Between both teams, Fairview tallied up an incredible 41 goals! The most important outcome of the day was how much the girls enjoyed themselves; this is what sport is all about!



Ballyclare and District Football Tournament

On Wednesday, the senior football team walked the short distance to the 3G pitch at Dixon Park to participate in the second Ballyclare and District 7-a-side football tournament.

Our first game was against Ballyclare PS. The Fairview boys started strongly and saw shots from Aiden Mouatekef and Jude Forsythe go narrowly wide early on. Ballyclare had their own chances to open the scoring and kept the defensive duo of Hunter Moore and Aaron Hawe on their toes. Goalkeeper Alexander Brown made an excellent one handed save from a Ballyclare strike to maintain the deadlock. Teddy McGrath saw an effort well saved at the near post after turning his marker while Aiden was unlucky to see his shot go wide when through on goal. However, it was Aiden who broke the deadlock with 5 minutes to go. A long ball up from Alexander was controlled perfectly, sidestepping the defender before slotting into the bottom corner to make it 1-0. Ballyclare pushed hard for an equaliser but Fairview defended brilliantly. With just a minute left on the clock, Aiden doubled the lead and secured the points. This time he received the ball from Thomas McNeilly on the left before spinning and poking the ball between the defenders legs to make the final score 2-0.

Our second game was against Templepatrick PS and the Fairview boys started brightly. This time we took the lead early on thanks to Teddy McGrath. After receiving the ball on the right from Jude Forsythe, Teddy sidestepped neatly past two defenders before striking the ball confidently into the bottom left hand corner of the goal, past the outstretched hand of the Templepatrick keeper to make it 1-0. As expected, this fired Templepatrick into action and they pushed hard for a goal of their own. Alexander Brown was kept busy and made a number of super saves and interceptions while Aaron Hawe and Hunter Moore did their best to stop the attacks at source. Fairview had chances to increase their lead too with Aiden seeing the best of these chances; this time his touch and turn let him down and gave the defender time to recover and make the block. Thomas McNeilly had two shots saved while both Teddy McGrath and Jude Forsythe saw their efforts go high and wide respectfully. As it looked like Fairview would hold on for the win Templepatrick had one last chance and they made it count. A long ball sent goalward from a pass-in found the back of the net after taking an unlucky deflection from a Fairview player to make the final score 1-1.

Game three was against Ballynure PS. Again, Fairview opened the scoring early on through Aiden Mouatekef who poked the ball home after super build up work from Thomas McNeilly on the left. Teddy McGrath made it 2-0 soon after, smashing the ball into the roof of the net past the keeper after beating his defender. Ballynure pushed hard for a goal of their own but this time it was Charlie Cross and Jude McQueston who were partnered in defence and able to stop the attacks. It was Jude McQueston who scored Fairview's third goal after Jude Forsythe saw his initial shot saved. Aiden Mouatekef made it 4-0 receiving the ball from Jude Forsythe before turning and shooting past the keeper and into the back of the net. As Fairview pushed hard to increase their goal tally, Ballynure also had chances and eventually managed to skip past the defender before sliding the ball past Alexander in goal to make it 4-1. However, Fairview did increase the lead again soon after. This time it was Charlie Cross who scored his first goal of the year with a well taken strike to make it 5-1. Teddy McGrath beat the keeper at the near post to score his second of the game before Jude McQueston 'kneed' the ball into the roof of the net to also score his second of the game and make the final score 7-1.



Canteen Change of Menu

On Thursday 19th December, the published menu will change. Hot dogs, chips and coleslaw, followed by an ice lolly and fresh fruit, will now be served on that day instead. There will be no canteen, including healthy break, on Friday 20th December as this is an early finish.

End of Term Arrangements

Can I take this opportunity to wish everyone in our school community a very happy Christmas. This has been a busy term, especially the last few weeks in December. I want to thank you as parents for all your support throughout. It has been lovely talking to so many of you at concerts and Festive Trail over the last couple of weeks. Your kind words are much appreciated.

I will be in touch again next week with a final message from school as we finish for this term, but for now here are some details for our last day before the Christmas break.

School will close on Friday, 20th December for the Christmas break. There will be no canteen staff on duty that day so Breakfast Club will be supervision only. There will be no healthy break available on 20th December either. The last day for after school provision will be Thursday 19th December.

Dismissal will be from 11.45am. Please ensure someone is at the gate to collect your child at the following times –

P1 & P2 - 11.45am
P3 & P4 - 11.50am
P5 - 11.55am
P6 & P7 - 12.00





The Principal, staff, and pupils warmly invite prospective pupils and parents to

BALLYCLARE HIGH SCHOOL
Open Night
THURSDAY 9TH JANUARY 2025

Principal's Welcome 6.30pm and 8.00pm
School will be open from 6.15pm - 9.00pm

Entrance through main reception or Sports Hall doors. Parking is available at the rear of the school.
31 Rashee Road, Ballyclare, BT39 9HJ






BALLYCLARE
SECONDARY SCHOOL

OPEN AFTERNOON

Monday
6th January 2025
2pm – 4pm

TICKETS AVAILABLE HERE: [BALLYCLARESECONDARYOPENDAY2025](#)