



6 Glenburn Park, Bangor, Co. Down. BT20 5RG

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

19TH
ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS
2015/16

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CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Dear Parent

This report comes to you at a time of significant change in the school. In the summer we said goodbye to Mrs McCracken and in October, Mrs Smyth. Both these ladies have been highly respected, much loved and long term teachers in the school. Then at the end of December we shall be saying goodbye to both Mr and Mrs Hewitt.

Mr Hewitt's term as Principal has seen the school enjoy unprecedented success in a whole range of fields. He has overseen the arrival of a whole new generation of teachers and inspired those already in the school to new levels of excellence. In more recent years he has put in place a new leadership team who are ready and equipped to lead the school forward in the years to come. The final say on his time as Principal in Ballyholme has come from the Inspectorate who gave the school an outstanding inspection report in the autumn of this year. They noted that a major influence in this report has been the work of Mr Hewitt. Mrs Hewitt has been a much loved and successful Literacy Support in Key Stage 2. She has accompanied the school choir, helped out in the office and joined Mr Hewitt on trips to support the staff, various teams and groups to matches, events and trips around the UK. The school owes an enormous debt to them for all their tireless work and for the unique family feel which they have engendered, the focus of which has always been to ensure that the staff and resources at Ballyholme Primary School are of the highest standards to bring the greatest benefit to all the children who come through its doors. We wish them a long and happy retirement.

Then we congratulate and welcome Mrs Rothwell to the role of Principal. In one sense it is an easy move - from one office to another but in terms of responsibility it will be a big step to fill big shoes. All the Governors are certain she is more than capable of this task and we look forward to working with her over the coming years and are excited to see where she will lead the school. We wish her every success in this new chapter in her career and the school's history. She can be assured of the support of the Governors, staff and parents.

Yet one thing has and will remain constant through these changes and this has been the high levels of educating all of our children. As already mentioned, Mrs Rothwell will be taking up the reigns of a school in very good shape. The recent inspection saw an outstanding report being returned. We wish to acknowledge our super teachers, support staff and ancillary staff we have in Ballyholme and thank them for the standards of excellence they bring to their work to benefit our boys and girls every day. The report is acknowledgement of all that they do in the school. So Mrs Rothwell inherits a school in an excellent moment. Please support her in every way as she settles into her new role in the coming months.

The Board of Governors thank everyone for the ways in which they help the school. As I have said before it is a task that is best done together with home and school encouraging our children in partnership together.

Yours

PETER LYLE
CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

Principal: Mr D A Hewitt B.Ed., Dip.Sc.
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BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2013 – 2017

Board Representatives:-	Mrs D Johnston Mrs G Hamilton
Transferors' Representatives:-	Mr I Bailie Rev S Doogan Rev P Lyle (Chair)
Parents' Representatives:-	Mr N Devlin Mr D Stewart
Teachers' Representative:-	To be advised
Lay Representative:-	Mr A Pinkerton
Principal	Mr D Hewitt (Hon Secretary)

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

The School Year 2015-16 began with the usual flurry of activity, staff training and preparation.

We began the year with pupil numbers at an all-time high with just two vacancies in Primary 7.

During the last week in August teaching staff spent time on various items of training and development including the use of data, problem solving in mathematics and preparing for the Rights Respecting School Level Two Award which at the commencement of the year we hoped to achieve and by May 2016 we had successfully achieved, being one of only 11 schools in Northern Ireland to do so. The impact of this work has been to give pupils a voice and a say in some aspects of running the school and I would expect this to continue into the future.

Sport and music play a large part in the extra mural life of the school and this year was no different with many successes, the highlight being the success of the Girls' Sports Acro Team in the UK finals at Stoke-On-Trent. They won silver – missing out on gold by 0.05 of a mark. What an achievement!

The Boys' Pair also took silver in what was a momentous week-end.

The sporting and Music successes are reported separately.

This year also saw the retirement of Mrs Honor McCracken after 35 year's dedicated service to the pupils of Ballyholme. Mrs McCracken was a valued member of the leadership team, Head of Key Stage 1 and laterally a Primary 3 teacher, though she had taught Primaries 1 and 2 for many years. We wish her every happiness in retirement and thank her for her long services with the best interests of all our pupils at heart.

Our P7 pupils departed at the end of June and will commence in 12 different post-primary schools at the end of August.

This year's group have been very willing to be involved, take responsibility for their learning and have achieved much, not only in educational advancement but in the development of social skills and life skills.

At their final assembly I used a quotation from the late Jack Kyle's book:

“We should look on the past with gratitude
On the present with enthusiasm
And on the future with confidence”

to send them off into their futures. Who knows where they will end up and what they will achieve? We wish them every success.

Facing the future with confidence has become increasingly more difficult with the changes in the education system. The new Education Authority has commenced, and in various

meetings attended I have found myself sounding like a ‘dinosaur’ as children and their needs rarely seem to get a mention with the emphasis being on balancing the books and the bottom line. I only hope that, as fiscal belts tighten, the new Minister for Education – former pupil and latterly, Governor Mr Peter Weir will put children at the centre of the education system and work with us to find ways to finance the crucial early years for children in all areas of Northern Ireland.

Thank you for your support for your children in so many ways during the past year particularly in attending events organized by the few dedicated parents in the PTA. Through their efforts and your support they handed over £10,000 to fund the running of the minibuses, purchased additional equipment and increasingly essential equipment to name just a few things – Thank You.

Another successful year in the life of Ballyholme Primary School.

How do we measure success? In many ways both quantitatively and qualitatively, yet for me the measure has to be happiness – and together with your support we have achieved that for the majority of our children.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
2016 – 17 (Inclusive Dates)

<u>TERM 1</u>	
School commences: Tuesday 30th August 2016 - 9.00 am - 12 noon no lunch served Wednesday 31st August 2016 - 9.00 am - 12 noon no lunch served Full days from Thursday 1st September 2016	
School Development Days	29 th & 30 th September 2016 – no pupils attend
Parent Interviews	25 – 28 th October – School closes at 1.15 pm each day
Halloween	31 st October – 4 th November 2016
Term ends	20 th December 2016 – no lunch (early dismissal – see below)
<u>TERM 2 - School commences: Wednesday 4th January 2017</u>	
Parent Interviews	7 th – 10 th February – school closes at 1.15 pm each day
Mid Term Break	13 th – 17 th February 2017
Term Ends	Friday 7 th April – no lunch (early dismissal – see below)
<u>TERM 3 - School Commences Monday 24th April 2017</u>	
May Day Holiday	Monday 1 st May 2017
May Bank Holiday	Monday 29 th May 2017
Term Ends	Friday 30 th June 2017 – no lunch (early dismissal – see below)
<p>At the end of each term ie Christmas, Easter and Summer pupils will be released from school at the following times and lunch will not be served.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> 12 noon P1 & P2 12.10 pm P3 & P4 12.20 pm P5, P6, P7 </p>	
Staff Development Days: The Department of Education has agreed 5 closures for school year 2016/2017. <p style="text-align: center;"> Day 1 Thursday 29th September 2016 Day 2 Friday 30th September 2016 Day 3 Wednesday 21st December 2016 Day 4 Tuesday 3rd January 2017 Day 5 Monday 29th May 2017 </p>	
<p>These are already included in your holiday listing and pupils do not attend.</p>	

CHILD PROTECTION LEGISLATION

If there is concern about a child's welfare the relevant contact people are:

1. Designated Teacher – To be advised
2. Deputy Designated Teachers – Mrs H Stephens, Foundation Stage, Miss V Ferguson, KS1, Mr R Irvine, KS2.

SCHOOL AIMS

1. To provide a secure and caring learning environment which promotes respect and co-operation within the school community.
2. To deliver a broad and balanced curriculum, which fulfils the requirements of the Education Order.
3. To encourage independence, self-worth and self-discipline in preparation for adult life.
4. To help each child achieve full potential through the promotion of spiritual, moral, cultural, intellectual and physical development.
5. To develop high personal standards of work and behaviour.
6. To develop a partnership between home, school and the wider community.

VISION STATEMENT

Ballyholme Primary School is a caring school where everyone is welcomed, valued and respected.

It is a happy school, where all, individually and together, play a part in developing pride in self, in school, in others and work towards developing their potential in becoming responsible future citizens.



THE CURRICULUM

In addition to the delivery of the Northern Ireland Curriculum, we endeavour to build self-confidence, self-esteem, and a sense of responsibility and a respect for the property and feelings of others.

A variety of teaching approaches is adopted, based on practical experience whenever possible, with children working in class, small group and individual situations. All classes go on educational visits, the Primary 6 and 7 classes enjoying residential experiences.

There are 21 classes of mixed ability plus specialist teachers for music and physical education.

A full time teacher is employed as Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator, with part-time staff supporting literacy and numeracy.

The statutory assessment procedures are now in place with each child receiving an Annual Report, inclusive of levels at end of P4 and P7, and the Primary 7's receiving a Record of Achievement at the end of June. Parents also have an opportunity to meet with their child's teacher on 2 formal occasions in the year to discuss progress. Parents are encouraged to maintain contact with their child's teacher and the principal is happy to meet with parents who may have a concern about their child's progress or welfare.

END OF KEY STAGE RESULTS 2015

In previous years at the end of each Key Stage pupils have been awarded a 'level' in line with statutory assessment arrangements.

These levels are reported to CCEA who then compare them with all primary schools in Northern Ireland.

Since the introduction of these new levels of progression there have been a number of well publicised criticisms of the new system. The guidance from CCEA that schools were asked to follow during the process has been interpreted differently by individual schools.

Due to industrial action many schools have not engaged in the process, hence the data is incomplete and unreliable.

Governors and staff feel that, at best, the system is confusing and misleading and, at worst, completely unfit for the purpose it was intended.

Therefore, the Governors in Ballyholme Primary School and in other primary schools in the North Down area have taken the decision not to submit these levels to CCEA and also not to issue these levels to parents at the end of June 2015.

Within Ballyholme Primary School we have found value in the process itself which is replacing free standing tests with more natural and ongoing assessment that has been integrated into units of work.

The information from this work is used to inform parent/teacher interviews and the end of year report. We feel this is more meaningful information on your child's progress and achievement than the levels of progression at this stage.

MUSIC REPORT

2015/16

Before presenting the music awards could I please say ‘**Thank you**’

- **Parents**, for your patience and co-operation. For help with transport, for encouraging your children to practise their instruments, for your financial input in terms of paying fees and buying music...and for the many very generous presents and cards which I have received over the past few days
- **ALL the P7 pupils** for their hard work and participation in class activities. Victoriana 2016 was one of the most stress-free and enjoyable productions in which I have been involved in more than 20 years at Ballyholme Primary School. You have been a pleasure to teach, and I wish **each one of you** every success in the future.

It has been another busy year for our musicians. The Choirs have sung on numerous occasions in venues ranging from the Odyssey Arena to Bangor Train Station. We have hosted sections of Holywood Festival, had three highly successful sessions of ABRSM examinations, our usual plethora of Christmas performances and most recently Primary Musician Competition and Flower Festival. Not forgetting Midsummer Melody showcasing the talents almost two hundred pupils.

These performances do not just ‘happen’. They are the result of commitment and effort on the part of all the children...and, in the case of early morning practices, on the organisational skills of the whole family, making sure that children are in school on time! Some come in early on several mornings each week to rehearse before school; others attend break time and lunch time practices. Many have forfeited time running around the playground to come to Choir, Orchestra, String Group, Band and Aural Tests. I appreciate the commitment that these children have given throughout not just **this** year, but for the past **three** years. I look forward to hearing great things about all of them in the future.

Talking about great things for the future, we start with our **Junior Music Award**. This year the award goes to **Tabitha Morris Dickson**. Tabitha, who is in P4, has just taken her first Violin exam, and played beautifully at our recent P4 presentation afternoon.

PERCUSSION AWARDS

First of all I would like to thank **Mrs Lynch** for her dedication and hard work. Apart from her teaching on Mondays, she gives up her Friday afternoons to help me with Orchestra, often carrying drum kit and other heavy instruments from my room to the hall and back. I am immensely grateful to her.

Music Medals (3): Ellie Bell, Ruby Kane, Aisling Rea

Progress Award: Lydia Brankin

The Percussion Award this year goes to **Barney Miller**.

BRASS AWARDS

We are grateful to **Mr Dawson** for his patience and commitment.

Music Medals (2): Harry Tindle and Flynn Longstaff

Progress Awards: Two boys in the same class, who play the same instrument, have just taken Grade 3 exams and played stunningly well in Midsummer Melody: **Ben Campbell + Rory Patterson**

The Browne Shield for Achievement on a Brass instrument this year goes to a boy who has just taken Grade 3, but plays with a maturity and style way beyond that level. What singles him out is the leadership skills he showed in directing the trumpet trio in Midsummer Melody: **Finlay Mitchell.**

WOODWIND AWARDS

Our thanks go to **Mrs Watson** for her hard work throughout the year.

Music Medals (3): Madisyn Carson, Charlie Poots, Emily Thurley

Progress award: Hannah Mahood who took two second places at Holywood Festival, and has just taken her Grade 3 exam on clarinet.

The **Hamilton Award for progress on a woodwind instrument goes to a boy who has worked conscientiously all year and also just taken his Grade 3 exam on clarinet: Roan Taylor**

RECORDER AWARDS

Music Medal (1) Ciaran McKee who has just taken his Grade 3 examination.

The Recorder Award is presented to a pupil who took first place in Holywood Festival, and has just taken her **Grade 5** recorder examination. **Erin Lynch.**

STRING AWARD

Our thanks go to **Mrs Aisling Butler and Mr Richard Glynn** for their expertise and commitment.

Music Medals (5): to Ashton Greer, Madeleine Heawood, (violin) Adam Caughey and Eliza Chittick (cello) and Marius Tomlinson (double bass)

Music Medals (2) and for sharing their exceptional talent in Irish traditional music: Daniel Jones and Olivia Rose McLaughlin

Progress Award: Goes to someone who worked really hard and proved to be a consistent and reliable violinist: **Lucy Stevenson**

Our **string award** this year goes to a pupil who has just taken Grade 3 examination and has been an enthusiastic and totally committed member of School String Group and Orchestra:

Katie Smith

We come now to our major all-round awards

The Stewart Cup: The winner this year sings in Senior Choir, plays in recorder group, Band and Orchestra. He has just taken Grade 3 Trumpet exam, and performed beautifully at Bangor Parish Flower Festival: **Alex Shaw**

The Andrew and Emily Smyth Cup for Musicianship: This trophy is awarded to someone with **all round musicianship**. The winner this year sings in Senior Choir, plays in recorder group, Band and Orchestra. He has just taken **Grade 4 Recorder and Grade 3 Trumpet**, is also working at Grade 2 Theory. **Boris Robinson**

The Philip Kennedy Shield for the person who has contributed most to music in school: It has been hugely difficult to pick just one person out of all our wonderful musicians, but this award goes to a girl who is a Senior Choir, plays in recorder group, Band and Orchestra, has just taken Grade 5 Recorder and has already passed Grade 5 Theory, took first place in Holywood Music Festival playing recorder, and was a finalist in North Down Primary Musician Competition playing percussion. **Erin Lynch**

SPORT REPORT

2015-16

Swimming

Ballyholme Primary had a number of swimmers participate in the Minor Schools' Swimming Championships on Saturday 17th October 2015. Zophia Quigley (P5) was awarded third place in 50m freestyle. In the 10 years and under relays Ballyholme achieved 2nd place in the Boys' and Girls' relays. In the 12 years and under relays the Ballyholme Boys' Team achieved 3rd place.

A number of the swimmers qualified for the Irish Schools' Swimming Championships in Dublin on Sunday 7th February 2016. In the boys' 10 years and under relay Ballyholme achieved 1st place and the girls achieved 2nd place.

Sports Hall Athletics

The Ballyholme Primary School Indoor Athletics Team achieved first place at the Fun In Athletics event held at Bangor Aurora on Thursday 25th February. This qualified four pupils to compete as part of the North Down and Ards Team in the Northern Ireland Schools Sports Hall Athletics Finals at Lisburn Leisureplex on Wednesday 6th April. Aimee Hughes achieved first place in the speed bounce event, Lukas Kenny came first in the chest push event and Daniel Playfair was placed first in the 6 Lap race. These four athletes have been selected for the NI Rising Star Programme.

Cross Country – Flahavan's League

This year Ballyholme Primary School took part in the Flahavan's Cross Country League for the first time. The first event took place at Henry Jones Playing Fields, Belfast on Tuesday 1st December. Daniel Playfair was awarded 2nd Place and Lukas Kenny took 3rd Place. The second event took place at Delamont Park, Newcastle on Tuesday 12th January. Lukas was placed 1st and Daniel was 2nd. The Boys' Team and Hollie Massey qualified for the Flahavan's Cross Country Finals that took place at Mallusk Playing Fields, Belfast on Wednesday 10th February. The Boys' Team were awarded 3rd place. Daniel, Lukas and Hollie have been selected for the NI Athletics Development Squad.

Cross Country

Sixteen pupils competed at the Primary Schools Cross Country Challenge in Valentine Playing Fields on Tuesday 15th March. In the individual events Lukas Kenny achieved first place, Daniel Playfair achieved second place and Hollie Massey achieved third place. In the team events the Boys' Team achieved first place.

The Boys' Team and Hollie qualified for the South East Regional Cross Country Final at the Billy Neill Centre, Dundonald on Thursday 23rd April. The Boys' Team achieved 1st place and Daniel Playfair and Hollie Massey achieved 2nd place as individuals.

This qualified Hollie and the Boys' Team to compete in the Inter Area Cross Country Finals at Ormeau Park, Belfast on Thursday 2nd June. The Boys' Team achieved 1st place, Lukas Kenny achieved 2nd place and Daniel Playfair achieved 3rd place.

Gymnastics

The gymnastics team competed in the Northern Ireland Schools Sports Acrobatics Championships on Sunday 28th February. In the Under 11 Boys' Pairs Cal Conroy and Ben Merriman achieved 1st place and Jude Moran and Michael Hill achieved 2nd place. In the Under 11 Groups the Ballyholme A Team achieved first place and the B Team 2nd place. All the gymnasts who achieved 1st place qualified for the British Schools Sports Acrobatics Championships in Stoke on Trent on Sunday 1st May. Cal and Ben achieved 2nd place and the girls six achieved 2nd place.

Trampolining

The Ballyholme Primary School Trampolining Team competed in the Northern Ireland Schools Trampoline Championships on Sunday 29th November. The Under 11 Novice Team achieved 2nd place Michael Hill achieved 2nd place as an individual.

This qualified the girls and Michael for the Northern Zonal Schools Finals in Newcastle, England on Saturday 23rd January 2016. The Under 11 Team achieved 6th place in the Under 11 Novice Competition.

Netball

The Primary 7 netball team played in the Bangor Aurora Netball Blitz on Friday 4th March. The team played really well.

Football

The Ballyholme PS Football Team had another good year playing in the Primary Schools' Football League, the Supreme Sports Football Tournament and the Priory Cup.

Rugby

The BPS Rugby Team attended the Primary Schools Mini Rugby Finals held in Ravenhill Rugby grounds on Friday 13th May. They had the opportunity to play against a number of teams from across the country. At the North Down Blitz at Ards RFC on Friday 6th May the team played against a number of schools and finished the day undefeated.

Summer Athletics

The Ballyholme Athletics Team competed in North Down Primary Schools Athletics Championships in June. In the P5 individual events Robbie Lockhart achieved 1st place in 50m and 100m, Tilly Tweedie achieved 2nd place in long jump and 3rd in 50m and Mark Hughes achieved 1st place in the long jump. In the P6 individual events Rian Davis was placed 2nd in the cricket ball and Poppy Dann 2nd in 50m. In the P7 individual events Lukas Kenny achieved 1st place in cricket ball (setting a new record) and 2nd place in the long jump.

In the relay events the girl's team achieved 3rd place and the boys relay achieved a 2nd place. The Ballyholme Girls and Boys Teams were placed first overall.

Record of Achievement

The Angus Shield (P6 Boys Indoor Athletics)	Shay Ritchie
The Pat Crawford Athletics Shield (Track and Field)	Poppy Dann
The Craig Allen Shield for Sporting Achievement P6	Poppy Irvine
	Lucy Morrow
	Corinna Meier
Girls Hockey Award	Hollie Massey
Player Of The Year – Football	Harry Boal
	Alex Shaw
Girls Netball	Lydia Brankin
Boys Netball	Ben Campbell
Patterson Shield For Rugby (Boys)	Flynn Longstaff
Boys Hockey Award	Euan Tyler
Trampolining Awards	Jessica Rook
	Elizah Chittick
	Michael Hill
P7 Athletics Shield (Boys) Track and Field	Lukas Kenny
P7 Robb Cup Athletics (Girls) Track and Field	Beth Hammond
P7 Boys Indoor Athletics	Lukas Kenny
	Daniel Playfair
P7 Girls Indoor Athletics	Aimee Hughes
Boys Cross Country Shield	Daniel Playfair
Armstrong Cup (Girls Cross Country)	Hollie Massey
The 2 Milliken Cups For Sporting Endeavour	Jessica Rook
	Jay Davis
The Pat Turkington Shield for Sporting Achievement	Cal Conroy
	Aisling Rea
Mitchell Shield for Sporting Excellence	Aimee Hughes
The Patterson Shield - Sportsperson of the Year	Lukas Kenny

TO PASTURES NEW

The process of transferring is still unregulated and I believe, unjust for our pupils. Two separate systems, carried out on Saturday mornings running consecutively, puts undue pressure on young lives. However, parents continue to support it and we in school therefore continue to provide preparation for the tests which the majority of pupils take and additional teaching for those who decide not to take tests.

In September 2016 our P7 pupils will commence learning in 12 post primary schools.

Bangor Grammar	=	19%	St Columbanus' College	=	10%
Bangor Academy	=	24%	Strangford College	=	3%
Campbell College	=	11%	Strathearn	=	5%
Glenlola Collegiate	=	10%	Sullivan Upper	=	13%
Priory College	=	1%	Wellington College	=	1%
Regent House	=	1%			
RBAI	=	1%			

In 2015-2016 there were, on average 624 pupils on roll with the attendance percentage being 96.7%.

Ballyholme Primary School – General Funds Account

2015/2016

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Book Fair	1558.11	Book Fair	1551.12
Bank	71406.70	Bank	88542.98
Post	-	Post	283.00
Gifts etc	1215.52	Gifts	798.72
Catering	869.13	Catering	2092.17
Sports Fees	2875.25	Sports Fees	5039.91
Educational Visits	26356.00	Educational Visits	23407.00
Minibus	116.64	Minibus	3365.97
Books/Equipment	2310.00	Books/Equipment	7356.14
Swimming	5684.00	Swimming	2693.80
Photographs	-	Photographs	75.00
Charity	5936.09	Charity	5382.19
Miscellaneous	47314.82	Miscellaneous	20701.87
TOTAL INCOME	165642.26	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	161289.87

	£
Opening Balance	14293.05
Income	165642.26
Expenditure	161289.87
Closing Balance July 2016	18645.44

BALLYHOLME PRIMARY SCHOOL

DELEGATED BUDGET 2015-16

Delegated Budget Share (including 14/15 carry forward)	1690706.00
Expenditure	
Staff Costs Total	1505735.00
Running Costs etc	99000.00
Carry forward	85971.00
	1690706.00

Costs for School Year 2016-17 are set to rise significantly due to increases in employers' contributions and general running costs.