

Ballymagee Newsletter

January 2026



"Learning Today to Discover Tomorrow"

Key Dates

Monday 5th January

Staff Development Day School Closed to all pupils

Thursday 8th January

P6 Ganaway Meeting @ 2.15pm
Greenhill Parent Meeting 3.15pm

Thursday 22nd – Friday 23rd January

P6 Trip to Ganaway

Saturday 24th January

SEAG Results

W/C Monday 26th January

P7 Transfer Interviews
(1pm finish all week for P7 pupils only).

Wednesday 4th February

100th Day at school

Friday 6th February

SDD 3 School closed to all pupils

Monday 9th February – Friday 13th February

Half term holidays

Mr Totton's Welcome

Welcome back to school and Happy New Year to you all. I hope that you had a wonderful Christmas break and were able to enjoy spending time with friends and family members. It was lovely to see that the children have settled back into school well after the holidays and have been excited to see their friends and school staff again.

We have another very busy term ahead. I know that teachers have lots of exciting activities planned for their classes that will support and develop the children's learning. Of particular note is our P6 Residential to Ganaway Activity Centre. The boys and girls will take part in two days, one overnight stay, where they will participate in a range of team building and exciting activities. This will get the children prepared for the longer residential in P7.

We are particularly thinking of those P7 children who will be getting their SEAG results this month. I am confident that they will be reaping the rewards of all their hard work.

Our staff team has grown yet again with the addition of two more classroom assistants. We have welcomed Miss Redpath and Miss Caven to P4 and P6 respectively. It makes me feel really old when pupils I have taught, join the staff team.

Kind regards

P Totton

SEAG Results



The results for children who undertook SEAG will be issued on **Saturday 24th January 2026**.

In the unlikely event that you cannot access your child's result; you may contact the SEAG Office directly via email admin@seagni.co.uk

School Values

RESILIENCE

In January we will be focusing on resilience. Children will be introduced to the contribution they can make to our school and wider community in assembly led by Mrs Calvert & Miss Anderson. They will be involved in lessons and activities throughout the month, and we will be awarding a resilience star pupil award.

P6 Ganaway Trip/ P7 Greenhill Trip



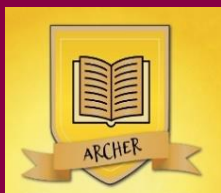
P6 are off on their trip to Ganaway on **Thursday 22nd – Friday 23rd January**. There will be a parent meeting on Thursday 8th January at 2.15pm.

P7 are off to Greenhill on **Monday 23rd March – Thursday 26th March**. There will be a parent meeting on Thursday 8th January @ 3.15pm.

Forms for Clinic



Parents regularly ask us to complete forms for a clinic that their child is attending. These forms are very detailed and require Mrs Welsh, our SENCo, and a number of other school staff to complete them. This month Mrs Welsh will be involved with conducting annual reviews for the majority of our statemented children and will be helping with the evaluation and writing of all Personal Learning Plans. Forms requested for clinic will therefore take longer than usual.



Dojo Photos



Since its introduction in school in 2015, Class Dojo, has proved to be a powerful tool for sharing what are children do during the school day as well as celebrating achievements and sharing important information. It has been brought to our attention that some parents are taking screen shots from Class Dojo and sharing these on social media platforms. These photos may have other children in them. We respectfully request that you do not screen shot photos from Dojo, especially with other children in them, and onward share.

We would also like to remind you about private messages sent via Class Dojo to teachers. Private messages should not name other children or be lengthy complaints. The rule of thumb is that if you would not like the message shared with others, then please do not send it via Dojo messaging. Messages of this sort should be sent in a sealed envelope via your child's school bag.

EA School Meals



If you wish for your child to attend canteen, bookings for the week will need to be made via the school Gateway App by Sunday evening at midnight.

Bookings **cannot** be made daily, via the School Office or by leaving a voicemail on the school answer phone service.

The price of a school meal has **increased** to £3.10 as of January 2026.

P7 Transfer Interviews



P7 transfer interviews will take place the week of **Monday 26th January – Friday 30th January**.

School will finish at 1.00pm this week for P7 children **only**. School lunches will be available.



Open Enrolment - Primary 1 & Nursery

The application process for admission to Primary 1 and Nursery in September 2026 opens online on Wednesday 7th January 2026 at Noon. Information on the procedure is now on the school website and the Education Authority website.

www.ballymagee.org.uk

www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions

Important Dates:

Wednesday 7th January at noon: Online portal opens for P1 & Nursery applications.

Wednesday 21st January at noon: Date by which to submit punctual applications.

(Late applications not considered until all on-time applications processed)

Monday 23rd March: Notification of the outcome of your application.

Key Contacts

Principal Mr P Totton

Vice Principal Mr G McCrea

SENCO Mrs L Welsh

Designated Teacher Miss V Bell

Deputy Designated Teachers

Mrs L Welsh Mr G McCrea

Head of Early Years Mrs S Hanna

Head of Key Stage One Miss V Bell

Head of Key Stage Two Mrs V Purce

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