

Ballymacward Primary School

Dear Parents,

As we break up for the Christmas holidays, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support during the term. Thanks are also due to our volunteers, members of the PTA and our governors, all of whom have made an invaluable contribution to the life of the school.

There are a number of items to bring to your attention as follows:

Inspection

Following on from our inspection of January 2016, an interim inspection was recently carried out by ETI on Thursday 8 December. I am very happy to report that the inspectors were pleased with the developments that have taken place over the past year and our advisers were delighted at the outcome as it reflects their high regard for the school, its staff, pupils and parents.

NINA

You may have seen reports in the media yesterday about problems with the CCEA computer-based numeracy testing which was carried out in P.4 – P.7 in September. We will be examining the results in the coming days and whilst this may mean an increase in some scores, this is not of over-riding importance. I have been assured by CCEA that the underlying diagnostic element of the software is accurate and it is this that we used to plan work for the children. These computer-based tests have been in an on-going development phase for several years and are not compulsory for schools.

Belfast Homeless Action Group

A representative from the Homeless Action Group visited the school yesterday and was presented with a superb collection of toiletries and other items which the children brought in during Advent. Geralyn was overwhelmed by the donations and the £60 which was raised from 'Christmas Jumper Day'. The organisation is most grateful to you and assures you that these gifts will brighten the lives of many homeless people this Christmas.



Confirmation

Confirmation for P.7 pupils will take place on Sunday 2 April 2017 at 11.30am in St. Joseph's Church, Hannahstown.

Term 2

The children start back to school on Wednesday 4 January at 9.15am.



In closing, and on behalf of all the staff, thank you sincerely for the many gifts we have received in recent days. Have a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous new year.

Best wishes,

Brendan Sadlier
Principal

20 December 2016