



## BALLYMURN NEWS 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2018



As we look forward to the May Bank Holiday weekend and hopefully the beginning of a wonderfully warm summer, we have lots of exciting and informative news for you in this month's publication.

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Class are busy preparing for their First Holy Communion under the guidance of their teacher Ms. Ormonde and their parents. We wish them all the best for their big day and will keep them all in our thoughts and prayers. Thank you also to 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Class and our choir mistress, Ms. Pitt, for all their hard work in preparing the hymns which will be performed at the First Holy Communion.

I realise that the beginning of the next school year is still some months away, but for those of you planning a family holiday, school shall re-open, after the summer break, on **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> August** at 9.20am for all children. Our full calendar shall be issued with our May Newsletter and will also be on the school website. The school office shall be open from 9am on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> August.

**Booklists** shall issue shortly. We shall be operating the book rental scheme again this year with a cost of €80 per child to include rented books, workbooks, school journal which the children will own and the annual fee for photocopying, arts and crafts.

This year parents will again have the option of purchasing a Classroom Essentials pack from the school which would include all pens, pencils, twistables, copies, folders, hardbacks etc. that will be listed on your child's book list. The price for these will be slightly cheaper than it would cost you to buy them in the shops. The Classrooms Essentials pack will vary in price depending on which class your child is in. Further details of this will be listed on the book lists.

**Payment for Booklists and Classroom Essentials packs will be due into the office on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June.**

Your child's mainstream class teacher for the coming academic year shall be published, if possible, in our next Newsletter on 31<sup>st</sup> May. As per our split class policy the final decision of the allocation of pupils to a particular class remains the **discretion of the Principal Teacher**.

**School Tours** - the cost of all tours this year from Junior Infants to 6<sup>th</sup> Class is **€20 per child**. As a result of all your support for our recent Easter Raffle, the Parents Association is once again able to subsidise the costs of our school tours by €500. Thank you very much for all your support.

**Punctuality** - please note that all children should be at school for 9.20am and walk into class with their line from the yard. It is disruptive for your child, their classmates and teacher if they are late for school.

**Attendance** - rate for March was 94.2% and April was 97.4%.

Is mise le meas,

**Maria Brophy**  
**Principal**

### Dates / Upcoming Events:

- ✚ First Holy Communion - Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 at 11am.
- ✚ Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May - school closed for staff training in Wexford Education Centre.
- ✚ May Bank Holiday - Monday 7<sup>th</sup> to Friday 11<sup>th</sup> school closed for this week. We shall re-open on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May.
- ✚ **Standardised Testing in English (1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Class) - Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May**
- ✚ **Standardised Testing in Maths (1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Class) - Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May**
- ✚ Open Night' for new/prospective parents - 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 7.30pm in the school.
- ✚ June Bank Holiday - Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June - Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June - school closed on these days. We shall re-open on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June.
- ✚ Junior School Tour (Junior/Senior Infants/1<sup>st</sup> Class) - Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June to Blackwater Open Farm
- ✚ Middle School Tour (2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Class) - Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June to Courtown Adventure Centre
- ✚ Senior School Tour (5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Class) - Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June to Clara Lara, Wicklow
- ✚ School Reports to be issued to all parents on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June
- ✚ Sports Day - Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June (weather permitting)
- ✚ Graduation Service for 6<sup>th</sup> Class - Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June. Further details to follow.
- ✚ End of School Year Mass - Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June at 11.30am
- ✚ Summer holidays - school **closed** Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June at 12pm for all children.
- ✚ School re-opens on **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> August** at 9.20am for the 2018/2019 academic year

## Parent Info Update

**RSE** (Relationships & Sexuality Education) - these lessons shall commence throughout the school on **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May**. Parents may download a copy of the school's RSE Policy from our website 'www.ballymurnns.ie'. Letters shall issue to all parents on 3<sup>rd</sup> May with further information on these lessons.

**Summer Uniform** - hopefully this year we will have fabulous summer weather ☺ and in this event, children may wear their P.E. polo shirt with either **navy** or **black shorts** to school on the warm, sunny days.

### **Community Games**

Well done to Seán Bishop, John Réamonn, Ella O'Brien and Abby Dooley who were all finalists in the recent Community Games art and handwriting competition. The results were:

1. Séan Bishop - 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the handwriting competition.
2. Abby Dooley - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in the handwriting competition.
3. Ella O'Brien - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in the handwriting competition
4. John Réamonn - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in the art competition

Abby went on to participate in the second round of the handwriting competition in Castlebridge School. She was awarded a gold medal for coming first in this competition. She will now go on to represent Wexford in the next round of the competition in Limerick. Best of luck Abby!

### **Ms. Lawlor's Junior/Senior Infant Class Report**

The Aistear theme in our classroom this month is ***The Dental Surgery!*** Our play groups have had a focus on building dental surgeries, making teeth, brushing teeth, pretending to be the dentist, dental

nurse, receptionist and patient. The Tooth Fairy was even kind enough to deliver four real teeth to our classroom so we could carry out a tooth experiment!

Outside we have watched our daffodils and tulips bloom. They're beautiful! We are also watching our tomato seeds grow on our classroom window sill. Every Monday we have literacy stations in our room. The children move around 4 groups to practise their writing, reading and fine motor skills. Junior Infants have just finished learning all 42 letter sounds! We will spend the last term using all those sounds to read and write ☺

### **Ms. Ormonde's 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Class Report**

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Class have had a really busy month! We have been learning about space this month. We watched a video of a space rocket taking off at the International Space Station in America. We are starting to do some projects on the planets and we are learning a rap to remember them all! We have also been pretending to be in outer space during drama and making still images from the story 'Aliens in Underpants!' We even wrote a letter to an alien!

In English we have been listening to the story of 'Gobbolino the Witches Cat.' We got this book at the mobile library and we are really enjoying practising our prediction and making connections while we are reading.

2<sup>nd</sup> Class have been busy preparing for their First Holy Communion. We have been doing lots of lovely art work and practising our songs and prayers. 1<sup>st</sup> Class have been so much help and would all like to wish 2<sup>nd</sup> Class the very best of luck on their special day this month.

### **Ms. Pitt's 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Class Report**

This month in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class we have Mr. O'Connor joining us and he has been teaching some great lessons. The children have been learning about 'caitheamh aimsire' (hobbies) in Irish. They have been learning lots of useful phrases and did some listening and writing activities. In maths we have been learning about 3D shapes. They learned about the properties of the various shapes, made 3D shapes using matchsticks and also created the 3D shapes using the nets of the shapes.

In drama the children have been playing some co-operative games and they created freeze frames also. In music they did some fun listening and responding activities, and also got to do some creative body percussion. In art this month we have been focusing on paint and colour. Firstly, we created beautiful cherry blossom trees and then the children learned about Picasso and created interesting Picasso inspired portraits using oil pastels.

### **Mr. Murphy's 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Class Report**

Since Easter, our room has been filled with a flurry of energy and life. We began both athletics and GAA coaching in football this month, where the children's bubbling energy has been released into various individual and team skills coaching.

This month the children also became teachers themselves and taught a maths lesson as a group to the class. They all worked extremely hard on a lesson based on fractions and maybe now see themselves with a future in teaching. In science we are learning about the digestive system and the route food takes through our body. The children drew diagrams of the system as well as learned about the various organs and other important events in our body as well as that pesky appendix. We are continuing this research of the body at the minute by looking into the skeletal system.

In history we learned about the stories of Cú Chulainn and the legends he is connected to, while also performing it 'As Gaielge' for the class. We have also been looking into how gravity works in the world around us. We watched and learned about how a feather and a bowling ball can both land at the same time when dropped from a height in a vacuum while if we did it the results are much different.

We then became designers and are currently creating hi-tech parachutes for our toy soldiers to land safely into battle. We debated over the month on whether nuclear power was a good or bad thing and looked at the different sides of the argument. The children then took part in a lively debate that almost caused the class to go nuclear 😊

### **Mrs. Brophy's 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Class Report**

Another very busy month in the senior class which saw us begin to read our 3<sup>rd</sup> novel this year. We are reading 'Artemis Fowl' by Wexford author Eoin Colfer. It is a very detailed and at times complicated story, however, we are enjoying immersing our imaginations in the world of fantasy and magic. After reading two historical novels, 'Artemis Fowl' is a light relief 😊

In maths we are learning about percentages, focusing on cost price, profit and loss and now 'simple interest'. The children are learning how borrowing money from a financial institution is an expensive business. We are using language such as: principal, time, rate, interest, borrower and lender.

Our history theme for this month has been Northern Ireland. We have looked at 'The Troubles' in the six counties from 1921 to 1985 so far. The children have been learning about the issues between Unionists and Nationalists. They have read about the British army being deployed to Northern Ireland, 'Bloody Sunday' and the 'Hunger Strikes'. We have looked at the first attempt at peace in 1974 with the Sunningdale agreement and how that was ambushed by Unionists. Next month, we shall study the 1985 'anglo-Irish Agreement', the 1998 'Good Friday Agreement' and life in Northern Ireland in 2018.

Gaeilge - as always we are working very hard on our Irish language skills. Táimid ag foghlaim an téama 'Aimsir (weather)'. We have been putting a lot of work into learning our grammar also. Our focus has been on the 'briathra rialta' (regular verbs) across the three tenses (Aimsir Caite - Past Tense), (Aimsir Láithreach - Present Tense) and (Aimsir Fháistineach - Future Tense).

SPHE - we have begun our 'transition to secondary school' programme. The aim of this programme is to support the 6<sup>th</sup> Class children and prepare them for the challenges that moving to second level can bring. We discussed some of the worries/concerns that the children have in relation to going to secondary school. We also spoke about the many things they are looking forward to 😊

# **Sports Results**

## **Boys Rackard League Hurling and Mini 7s - report by Mr. Murphy**

### **Piercestown NS v Crossabeg-Ballymurn NS**

We had a tough start to our Rackard League campaign down in Piercestown, losing out 4-10 to 2-3. The weather conditions and it being our boys first day out, hampered us in the first half, but a spirited second half display showed us encouragement for the remaining matches.

### **Crossabeg-Ballymurn NS v Barntown NS**

Our second match of the Rackard League was at home to Barntown NS. The opening few minutes were a nervy affair where both sides were contesting for the ball with all they had. As the half drew on our boys started to take control and pull away from a very well trained Barntown team. Even our full-back breaking his hurl early on in a block down did not derail our advance leading to a winning scoreline of 4-6 to 0-3.

In the coming weeks we will be battling it out with Blackwater NS and Castlebridge NS for a place in the Rackard League Quarter Finals. I would like to thank all the parents and supporters who come to the matches and who provide lifts to the boys too.

### **Girls Rackard League Camogie and Mini 7s - report by Ms. Pitt**

On Tuesday April 17<sup>th</sup> the girls had their first Rackard League camogie match against Scoil Mhuire, Coolcotts in Clonard G.A.A pitch. The girls played really well together as a team and they had a fantastic win to start the league. They scored many great goals and points. Well done to the girls on a great performance and a special mention also to the 4<sup>th</sup> Class girls who played their first Rackard League match that day. The girls also played a match against Kennedy Park in Clonard G.A.A pitch on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> of April. Again the girls put in a great team performance and recorded another comprehensive win. Well done on a great start to the league.

The girls have also progressed to the second round of the Mini 7s camogie following great wins against Glenbrien and Curracloe in the first round which took place in Crossabeg before Easter. The girls will participate in the second round of Mini 7s this Thursday April 26<sup>th</sup> in Ballymurn with matches against Kilmuckridge and Screen. Good luck to the girls in their upcoming matches. Thank you to the parents for your continued support at the matches and for providing lifts for matches and training, your support is much appreciated.

### **Lunchtime Hurling League**

This year we have started a 7 a side lunchtime league where all children interested from 1<sup>st</sup> Class - 6<sup>th</sup> Class can take part. The pitch is split into 3 sections so the younger children can mark each other while also playing with older players. We have 7 counties involved. All children should have received a fixture schedule. There is a 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class pupil as captain and manager of each team.

As well as this, pupils from 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> referee and umpire the games also. At the end of the league, the top 2 teams will reach the final. We will have a big lunchtime grand final on this day and the winning team will receive a cup and medals. Please encourage your child to practise their hurling every day ☺

## **Parents Association News**

If any parent is available to volunteer to help with the refreshments after the First Holy Communion Mass on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April, please contact any member of the P.A. We are dependent on voluntary donations of both food and people's time in order to continue the tradition of holding a 'Communion Celebration' after the Mass for the children and their families in 2<sup>nd</sup> Class.

Donations of:

- ➡ Sandwiches
- ➡ Cakes/Buns

may be left into the Parish Hall from 10am on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April.



## **Are selfies dangerous? Teach your kids about the pitfalls. Think that selfies are something new?**

Think again. Leonardo da Vinci, Rembrandt and Vincent van Gogh are just some of the renowned painters who 'took' their self-portraits hundreds of years ago. They didn't even need the technology of smart devices and social networks. But there was one other difference, which is more important today than ever before. The painters were very careful when choosing the details for their picture: foreground, background, clothing - basically everything that ended up in the artwork.

Today's kids, as well as their parents, often post selfies on social networks without a second thought. No thorough investigation, just a click and up it goes live - for everyone to see. As a result, many shared images unintentionally reveal sensitive information, such as a person's current whereabouts or precious belongings in the background.

While those are mainly concerns for adults, such behaviour can also put kids in danger. Just think about it for a minute: a child giving away their location can have serious consequences, mostly if there is no one responsible around. There are also digital threats lurking behind spontaneous selfies - such as cyberbullying. A child posting a selfie in an embarrassing pose or situation can easily become a target for cyberbullies all around the world. And for children and teenagers, being the target of such public mockery can be devastating.

A while back, ESET Ireland had the Irish people surveyed about their posting habits, and it turned out that seven out of 10 Irish youths shared photos that would embarrass them if made public! So what can parents do to spare their children these selfie pitfalls? First of all, they need to become good role models. Even adults should pay attention to what they post. Younger children often imitate their parents, which offers a great opportunity to teach them good 'selfiehygiene'.

Every year, more people die taking pictures of themselves than get bitten by sharks. So it's crucial for a parent to explain to their kids that no photo is worth the risk. Children should also always be aware of their surroundings when taking a picture or playing a game on their device - look around not just down. Parents should teach their children that anything posted on the internet stays there forever. No, there is no miraculous 'delete' button or almighty authority that can remove such posts, so it's better to abstain than regret later.

If your children are just starting to learn how to use social media and their smart device, be there for them. Help them set up their privacy and show them how to treat every picture like Sherlock Holmes would - looking for the smallest sensitive details that shouldn't be there or could be harmful. Use a reliable parental control app to keep an eye on what your child is doing online.

Guide them through their internet experience, explain the risks, and help them stay away from trouble. As they get older, be ready for an open dialogue - which can be more effective than just putting your foot down. A good rule of thumb for everything posted online: "If you don't want your grandmother to see it, you probably shouldn't post it."

***INTOUCH 53 APRIL 2018 Urban Schrott, IT Security & Cybercrime Analyst***

**SUPERVISION - Your Child's Safety on School Premises**

Monday to Friday ----- 9.10am to 3.10pm

Infants (Junior & Senior) ----- 9.10am to 2.00pm

Outside of these times there is **no supervision** for children on the school premises.