



Dear Parents/Guardians,

The end of another term is upon us and at this special time of year, we would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas.

It's been a fun-filled term which shall culminate this evening with our fabulous Christmas Carol Service. We raised €3,000 from our Craft Fair and Christmas Cards and we thank you all so much for your support. Details of how these monies shall be used will issue following our next Board of Management meeting on 29th January.

In particular huge thanks must go to:

- ✚ Jacinta Parle and all the teachers, who worked tirelessly for weeks with the children.
- ✚ Mrs. Eileen Redmond and her 'knitter knatters' friends. They donated dozens of wonderful knitted items.
- ✚ Leanna Redmond and Monica Nurney for their never-ending enthusiasm for the Craft Fair. They worked tirelessly to make sure everything was perfect.
- ✚ Gail Kavanagh, Samantha Dooley, Brigid Cummins, Mag Redmond, Sinéad Norris, Sarah Usher, Denise O'Connor and Charlie Gordon for all their work and support both on the day of the Craft Fair and in the run up to it.

Sincere thanks also to our fantastic teachers and SNAs for the amazing work they have done with the children in preparation for the carol service. The children have worked so hard to learn their songs and prepare for their stage performance. I am sure you will see that they will perform well and are an absolute joy to watch. Well done to each of the children for a job very well done ☺ Thank you to Ms. Lawlor for all her work in preparing the children for the Carol Service.

Finally, last but most certainly not least, huge thanks to all of you who come to support these events. We could not do it without you.

ENROLMENT 2019 - We are now taking enrolments for Junior Infants - September 2019. If you or someone you know has a child to enrol for this coming school year, please contact the office for an enrolment form. This form can be downloaded from our website also.

Grandparents Mass - shall be held on Thursday 24th January in Ballymurn Church at 11.30am. Refreshments shall be held in the school following the Mass. All grandparents/parents are welcome to attend and we look forward to seeing you on the day.

Wishing you all a lovely break and best wishes for the New Year. We look forward to seeing you all again on **Monday 7th January, 2019 at 9.20am.**

Le gach dea ghuí,

Maria Brophy
Principal

Dates / Upcoming Events:

- ✚ School closes at **12pm** on Friday 21st December for all pupils
- ✚ Carol Service - Thursday 20th December at 7pm in Ballymurn Parish Church
- ✚ School re-opens on **Monday 7th January, 2019** at 9.20am for all children
- ✚ Grandparents Mass - 24th January at 11.30am
- ✚ Ballymurn Fun Run - Sunday 27th January
- ✚ MIST test - Senior Infants 6th February
- ✚ Mid-Term Break 18th - 22nd February inclusive - school closed on these days
- ✚ St. Patrick's Weekend 18th March - school closed
- ✚ School closes at 12.30pm on Wednesday 27th March - staff meeting
- ✚ First Holy Communion - Saturday 18th May at 11am.

Report from Ms. Lawlor's Junior/Senior Infants:

It's been a very exciting month in the Infant classroom. We've been counting down the days to Christmas and colouring in our advent calendar every day. Ziggy the elf has been getting up to all sorts of mischief!

Our role-play area became Santa's workshop. The children dressed up as elves and were very busy wrapping, packing the sleigh, feeding Rudolf, making toys and writing letters to Santa. In literacy, the Junior Infants are beginning to write simple sentences and words. In Maths, they were learning about the number four and 2D shapes.

Senior Infants have been learning about 3D shapes and were busy constructing these in their Maths class. We have been spending a lot of time practising our songs for the carol service so we are looking forward to singing for the parents on Thursday evening. Have a lovely Christmas everyone!

Report from Ms. Ormonde's 1st/2nd Class

December has been a really busy but fun month for 1st and 2nd Class. Our theme in Aistear this month was Santa's Workshop and the kids were busy designing toys, wrapping presents and writing Santa lists. We really enjoyed this Aistear theme and have loved counting down the sleeps to Christmas Day.

2nd Class made their First Confession this month on the 11th of December. They were a credit to themselves, their family and their school and we were so proud to watch them on the night.

This month we were focusing on money in maths. We loved pretending to go to the shop with our money and buying a variety of items. When you are going to the shop over Christmas be sure to ask your 1st/2nd Class child to sort out their own money and work out how much change they should get.

I would just like to wish each and every pupil and their family a very happy Christmas and New Year and am looking forward to what 2019 brings for us in 1st and 2nd Class.

Report from Ms. Pitt's 3rd/4th Class

This has been yet another busy month in our class. In English this month we have been writing some poetry. We began with writing some acrostic Christmas poems. We also read some Limericks, exploring the AABBA rhyming pattern and wrote some of our limericks. We then had a look at some haiku poems, which have a unique syllable pattern. We also wrote our own haiku poems.

In maths we have been learning multiplication and division this month. 4th Class have been learning division with remainders and also tried long multiplication for the first time. We have also been revising our tables and doing some revision of the numerous topics that we have learned this year. The children love playing tables games in class, please keep practising the multiplication and division tables at home too.

Everybody is excited about Christmas now. We have been busy doing lots of practice for the upcoming carol service. All of the children are very excited to sing the songs that we have been practising together. They can't wait for everybody to hear them on Thursday night.

Report from Ms. Morrissey's 5th Class

The children have been enjoying the build up to Christmas this month. We have been working hard preparing for the upcoming Carol Service and the children have been doing a great job spreading some festive cheer.

In English, we have written some beautiful Christmas narratives which have been a joy to read, really capturing the excitement of this holiday. We have also finished reading our beloved novel 'Wonder' and have been doing some interesting book reviews and activities around it.

We have also been learning about all things Russian! The children have really enjoyed researching this fascinating country and we are lucky to have two pupils to help teach us some basic phrases in Russian. They did a much better job than Ms. Morrissey could have on that! Thanks Cathleen and Katie ☺ We have also studied the Russian artist Kandinsky and will hope to do a Russian folk dance later this week too.

Children are busy preparing for this weeks 'Carol Competition' where groups are writing their own Christmas Carols, adding a melody and actions, and will perform them later this week! Keep up the good work!

Wishing everyone a happy and safe Christmas break ☺

Report from Mrs. Brophy's 6th Class

We have had a very busy month in 6th Class. We finished our first novel 'Wonder' and completed lots of activities around the story. The children thoroughly enjoyed reading this book. We shall commence our next novel in the New Year. In writing we learnt 'recount' genre and compiled a 'book'.

In Geography we learnt about weather and climate and completed our projects on Russia. We learnt about the differences between 'climate' and 'weather', how to measure weather patterns and about the Beaufort Scale. We also studied the many different types of clouds.

PE - we concluded our dance programme with the children knowing four dances. They are 'Walls of Limerick', 'La Vinca', 'French Peasant Dance' and 'Staicín Eorna'. We are looking forward to commencing Gymnastics in January.

Art - we finalised our work for the Craft Fair. Congratulation to all the children in 6th Class for their efforts in making Christmas logs, salt dough angels, fairy doors and snowmen.

Parents Association News

The school management would like to thank all members of the Parents Committee for their hard work and support for all events organised during the school year. In particular we are extremely grateful to all our parents/guardians for ensuring that, despite government cutbacks, we are still able to support the teachers in providing a top-class education for all the pupils at Ballymurn NS.

Remember all parents in the school are members of the Parents Association and we are grateful and appreciate your continued support.

Again a very big thank you from all of us in the Parents Association and we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

Thank you so much for taking part in the Christmas Shoebox Appeal this year with Team Hope. I am delighted to say that 9402 gift-filled shoeboxes are on their way from Co. Wexford to some very grateful children who will be very excited to receive them.

7775 boxes are heading to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Africa with the remaining 1627 going to Albania, Eastern Europe.

If you would like any more information about the work of Team Hope please contact me or go online to www.teamhope.ie.

Thanks again for all your help in making this possible,

Lorna Burt
Co. Wexford Coordinator

Spirituality and Personal Development

A Message from Fr. Finn

Christmas Season

God the creator of the whole world entered into human history a little over two thousand years ago with the birth of Jesus Christ among us. No armies that have ever marched, no parliament that has ever sat and no political rulers that have ever ruled have changed the course of human history as this one person Jesus Christ.

Christmas, the celebration of Christ born in time, brings something special into each yearly event. This is a great season for children, families, for married and single people. It is as if the birth of the Saviour has left an imprint on this season that is mystical, life giving and enriching relationships.

Let us spend this Christmas nourishing the relationships which sometimes, through the year, we take for granted.

Christmas becomes very hectic and very busy for most households and most families. These are all very good things which we involve ourselves in. But it does create stress, anxiety and sometimes fragmented relationships. What we need to do is realise Jesus is the centre. Let us find time and space for sitting down, the lighting of a candle or gaze at a picture of Jesus. This will make a difference in the quality of our celebrations and our relationships.

As we all look forward to the Christmas holidays, please be mindful that Christmas may be a difficult time of year for many people. Please look out for your loved ones or anyone you feel may be suffering or lonely this Christmas. If you are finding Christmas difficult, please reach out and talk to somebody. Don't suffer in silence.

Important Contact Numbers:

1. AWARE - 1800 80 48 48
2. Samaritans - 116 123

Happy Christmas to everybody and every blessing for the New Year.

SUPERVISION - Your Child's Safety on School Premises

Monday to Friday ----- 9.20am to 3.00pm

Infants (Junior & Senior) ----- 9.20am to 2.00pm

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