



## BALLYMURN NEWS 25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2018



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Spring is almost upon us and we at school are all looking forward to an enjoyable term. We have lots of exciting events in front of us, Ceremony of Light, First Confessions and Confirmation among them.

**Fun Run ☺ Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January**, Team Temple Street will go up against Team School for the Ballymurn 5k Fun Run. Huge thanks must go to Bobby Redmond and his family for all their hard work in organising such an amazing event. Sincere thanks also to KDK who are sponsoring the event and making it all possible. It will be a fantastic day and we hope that everyone will thoroughly enjoy themselves. Parents are asked to help by donating buns, biscuits and/or sandwiches to the parish hall from 10.30am on Sunday. Thank you ☺

**Cyber-Bullying:** it has come to the school's attention that a significant amount of children in our school are on 'social media' and using 'Snapchat', 'Instagram', 'What's App' 'Kik', etc. An incident has now been reported to the school in relation to cyber-bullying. This incident occurred outside of school whilst children were under the care and supervision of their parents. **We are urging all parents to remove their children from any form of 'social media' with immediate effect.** There is a lot of discussion in the media at the moment about this issue, should you wish to find out more information. Should you wish to discuss any matter of concern about your child, please make an appointment to speak with his/her class teacher.

**NB\*\* School Closure Dates** - Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, school closes at 12.30pm to facilitate staff training in Primary Science Curriculum. Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March, school closes at 12.30pm to facilitate staff training in Child Protection.

**Photos:** On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February, a photographer shall come to the school. He shall take pictures of Junior Infants and 6<sup>th</sup> Class, both individually and with their siblings. You will receive a sample home within two weeks of the photos being taken along with an order form. If your child/children are in any other class in the school and you would like their picture taken please contact the office before Monday 19<sup>th</sup>. There is **no obligation** on parents to purchase these photographs.

**Book Fair:** Our book fair this year will be different from other years. We would appreciate if you would donate any good quality books that your children have read and no longer want. We shall sell all books donate for between €1 - €2. We will also have a range of stationery for sale. It is hoped that with this change to the book fair, the children will still be able to buy a book to read for a fraction of the price and we will still receive the same amount of funds to add more novels to our class collections. The fair shall run from Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May inclusive.

**Non Uniform Day:** Friday is an optional non uniform day for the pupils. If children wish to come to school with no uniform **they must bring €1**. The funds from non-uniform day are used to subsidise the running costs of the school.

**ENROLMENT 2018** - We are now taking enrolments for all classes for September 2018. 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. We shall be holding an 'Information Night' for **all** parents on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March** at 7.30pm. Any parent considering sending their child to our school in September 2018 is invited to attend. This is a **parent only** event. We are also taking names of children who will be joining us in September 2019 and 2020.

**Hurling 365** started back this month after the winter break with the children all out with their new hurls and helmets. The children are progressing very well and thanks to all the parents who have volunteered for this term. Anthony O'Gorman and Ryan Doyle will be representing the school in the Rackard League Handball competition. We wish them all the best.

**Parking** - Please remember to park with care on the street outside the school. **Do not double park** or block access to staff cars. The car park spaces provided are for Staff use and the school bus **only**. Please **do not** park in these spaces when dropping off or collecting your child from school. Please be conscious of how/where you park taking the children's safety into account at all times. Thank you ☺

**Attendance** - school attendance rates for December 2017 were 94%. As always, I encourage you as parents to try and have your child attend school as much as possible. We are approaching our 100<sup>th</sup> day of school for the current academic year. This day falls on 5<sup>th</sup> February. Any child who has not been absent from school since 29<sup>th</sup> August shall receive a certificate. For your information there are 183 school days in every academic year.

**Reminder on Healthy Lunches** - the treat, which you give your child(ren) on Fridays is to consist of **one** small item only.

Le gach dea ghúí,

**Maria Brophy**  
**Principal**

#### **Dates / Upcoming Events:**

- ✚ Ceremony of Light - Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm in Ballymurn Church (5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Class)
- ✚ St. Brigid's Day - 1<sup>st</sup> February
- ✚ St. Blaise Day - 3rd February
- ✚ MIST - Senior Infants testing - week beginning 12<sup>th</sup> February
- ✚ ASH Wednesday - 14<sup>th</sup> February
- ✚ Mid-Term Break 15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> February inclusive - school closed on these days
- ✚ First Confessions - Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm in Ballymurn Church (2<sup>nd</sup> Class)
- ✚ School Closure at 12.30pm on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February for all pupils
- ✚ Confirmation - Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 2pm in Ballymurn Church (5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Class)
- ✚ 'Open Night' for new/prospective parents - Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm in the school.
- ✚ School Closure at 12.30pm on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March for all pupils
- ✚ 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Class Retreat to Ballyvaloo Centre - Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March
- ✚ St. Patrick's Weekend 19<sup>th</sup> March - school closed
- ✚ Easter Holidays - 26<sup>th</sup> March to 6<sup>th</sup> April inclusive. **School shall close at 12.30pm for all children on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March and re-opens on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April at 9.20am.**
- ✚ World Book Day - Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Children are invited to dress up as their favourite book character.
- ✚ First Holy Communion - Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April at 11am

- ✚ May Bank Holiday mid-term: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> to Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May. School closed on these days and re-opens on Monday 14<sup>th</sup>.
- ✚ June Bank Holiday weekend - Friday 1<sup>st</sup> to Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June. School closed on these days and re-opens on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>.

## Parent Info Update

**Homework** - parents are reminded that 'Homework Journals' are to be signed daily upon completion of your child's work. It is **imperative** that you listen to your child read every day from their 'Oxford Reader' in order to improve their reading and comprehension level. This reading is considered to be a vital part of their homework. Children from 2<sup>nd</sup> class upwards should be revising their 'Maths Tables' nightly also. Parents of children who are attending 'Homework Club' must also hear their child's reading, spellings and tables daily.

### Report from Ms. Lawlor's Junior and Senior Infants

Everyone has settled back to school well after Christmas and our play theme this month is all about people at work and healthy food. Our role-play area has been transformed into an Italian restaurant. The children are taking turns to be waiters, waitresses, chefs and customers. They are learning new vocabulary, practising their writing skills when they take orders and practising their reading skills when they're reading the menus.

We were also delighted to have a class visitor this month, a "real" chef (as the children put it themselves!). Thanks to Joel Warren for teaching us lots about his job and for bringing the children in lots of different fruit to taste. It was great fun.

The children are also enjoying gymnastics classes where they've been learning new skills such as pencil roll, egg roll and forward tumble. In science we did a very exciting experiment called "Dancing raisins". Watching the raisins dance when they were dropped into fizzy water made everyone laugh!

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

This month we have begun preparations for our First Confession in 2<sup>nd</sup> Class. We have started to learn some of the songs including 'The Lost Sheep' and 'I'm Sorry' and 1<sup>st</sup> Class were also a great help. I would like to wish 2<sup>nd</sup> Class the best of luck with their First Confession next month.

In Geography we have been learning about different types of clothes from around the world. In Science we then took part in a 'feely bag' activity where we felt the texture of different materials including wool, denim, leather and cotton. We used our adjectives to describe them.

In art we drew our pictures of our Grandparents and made love hearts for them in preparation for Grandparent's Mass. In Maths 2<sup>nd</sup> Class have been learning about doubles, we even played a card game 'snap' to help us practise our doubles. I have really enjoyed my first month in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Class and I am looking forward to the next few months with them.

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

This month we have been focusing on procedural writing in English. We have looked at different samples of procedural writing, such as puppet making instructions, recipes and playground game instructions. We then did some writing together as a class, in pairs and individually whilst ensuring that we included a title, goal, materials and numbered steps.

In Maths we have been learning about division, chance and fractions this month. We have been doing lots of practice on our tables using interactive games, worksheets and class games. We have been having great fun doing maths stations with Ms. Sheehan and Ms. Atkinson in the past couple of week. We did a variety of hands-on activities for dividing and chance, maths drills, problem-solving and work with the mini whiteboards. The children seem to really enjoy the variety in Maths class when we do station teaching.

In History we have been learning about the Bronze Age. The children learned about when it occurred in different parts of the world and when it happened in relation to the Stone Age and Iron Age. They also learned what bronze is made from and what it was used for. They enjoyed learning about how they cooked their food back in Bronze Age times and what their living conditions were like back then too.

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

After the festive period 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> class began their new year with a bang. In English we worked on New Year's Resolutions and what our 2017 turned out like. We also were learning about procedural writing and created yummy recipes to go into our class cookbook. We began reading our new novel called 'Holes' by Louis Sachar which everyone has been digging into.

In Geography we have been looking at the amazing worlds of Australia and New Zealand. We have been learning about the Aboriginal and Maori people, took part in some dreamtime accompanied by digeridoo music and even tried out a Haka or two. The children are preparing to create amazing projects at the minute for me which I cannot wait to see.

In Art, we have been creating Folk Art based on everyday items and looking at how to draw an object in 3D. In Maths we have been studying length where the children got to create and design their own catapult in groups and try to throw a piece of rubber the furthest in the class and measure by how much using a metre stick. The children also created a fleet of paper airplanes again to measure the distance this time using a trundle wheel.

In PE we have been flexing our muscles in gymnastics. We have already started to fine tune our tumbles, side rolls and headstands. We have been enjoying it immensely and thinking of starting our own circus. In Religion 5<sup>th</sup> class have begun the 'You Shall Be My Witness' programme and our enjoying these sessions with their leaders. Thanks again to the parents who volunteered we really appreciate your help.

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

It has been a busy start to 2018 in our class. We are currently preparing for the Ceremony of Light which takes place on Tuesday evening. We have now completed two weeks of our Confirmation programme under our leaders, Fr. Finn, Lillian Lawlor and Siobhán Whitty. Thank you to Lillian and Siobhán for very generously giving their time to us.

In English we have been looking at the narrative genre in poetry. We are studying 'The Highway Man' by Alfred Noyles, a very famous narrative poem. We have also learnt about Haikus, Kennings and Limericks in our poetry class. The children are also working on their levelled readers and self-assessment cards.

Gaeilge - táimid ag foghlaim an téama 'Siopadóireacht'. Tá na páistí ag obair go díon agus ag déanamh iarracht maith sa rang. Tá dhá píosa fíliocht déanta againn anois 'Scéilín Brónach' agus 'An Canaerí'.

Maths - we've been learning about 'division of decimals' and 'percentages'. Our next topic will be 'time', with a major focus on the 24 hour clock, timetables and international time zones. Please go over the 24 hour clock with your son/daughter to support them in their learning.

Science - the children have been working on the topic of 'Sound'. They have been learning what sound is, how it travels and conducting experiments. The children are learning how to investigate using the scientific skills of 'predicting, results and conclusion'. They then write up their experiment, draw and label diagrams.

History - we studied the 1920s - early 1930s period. The children learnt about the 'Great Depression', 'Prohibition', 'Changing Role of Women', 'Suffragettes' and the societal issues which led to the rise of Hitler and WW2.

**CONGRATULATIONS** - to 6<sup>th</sup> Class pupil, **Chloe Murphy** on her achievement in gaining a position on the County Hurling team.

Further congratulations to **Kelly Dooley** (5<sup>th</sup> Class) who won 2 silver medals in her recent kickboxing competition.

## Parents Association News

**Grandparents Mass** - thank you to Brigid Cummins, Linzi Flanagan, Gail Kavanagh, Mairéad Cummins and Leanna Redmond, who gave up their morning to serve our grandparents their lovely tea/coffee. Events like this only work and become successful due to the help of our fantastic volunteers.

The Parents Association will again this year, hold one big fundraiser. We shall host a Mega Easter Draw, with a range of fantastic prizes (details to follow shortly ☺). Tickets cost €5 each and the draw will take place in the school on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March.

We will send home 5 tickets to each family in the hope that you would sell them to your family and friends. If you feel you would be able to sell more than 5 tickets, please contact any member of the Parents Association. We are hoping to raise enough money to cover all expenses this year. Some of these expenses include:

1. Part funded trip to Leisure Max for the Confirmation children
2. Refreshments after the First Holy Communion for the children and their families
3. The children's Christmas party
4. Refreshments after the Grandparents Mass,
5. Payment for 50% of the cost of the bouncy castles in June
6. Any other events that require the assistance of the Parents Association during the year
7. We are hoping to subsidise the cost of the summer school tours again this year. This will depend solely on ticket sales for the Mega Easter fundraiser

**SCHOOL BOOKS SAVINGS CLUB:** the premise of this savings clubs is to allow parents save weekly/fortnightly/monthly towards the cost of their child's books for September 2018.

The Parents Committee shall be collecting monies for 30 weeks. Parents may lodge money to their account weekly on Fridays from 9.20am - 10am in the school Staff Room. A receipt shall be issued when you make a lodgement. Please note that **no withdrawals** are allowed.

The monies saved shall be issued as a cash payment to parents in May/June. Parents are still encouraged to join our Book Savings Scheme. It is never too late to start saving. Thank you ☺

**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.