



## BALLYMURN NEWS 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2018



Dear Parents/Guardians,

'We're all going on our summer holidays!' after a very busy and exciting year here at Ballymurn NS. On behalf of the BOM of Ballymurn NS, I wish to extend thanks and gratitude to our fantastic teaching staff. Each teacher consistently shows dedication, commitment and great interest in all our pupils and their families. They go above and beyond at all times and this is very much appreciated by me as their Principal. I wish each of them a relaxing and enjoyable summer holiday.

**School Tours** - all our children had very exciting school tours this year. Our senior school tour went to 'Clara Lara' in Wicklow, our middle school went to 'Gravity' in Courtown and our junior school went to 'Blackwater Open Farm'. They had a wonderful time and I was absolutely delighted to accept several compliments from the various tour guides and bus drivers on the behaviour of the Ballymurn pupils. Well done to everyone, we are extremely proud of you all! It is fantastic for us teachers to know that we can bring the children anywhere and be able to trust them when outside of 'normal' school. Thank you all very much.

**Sports Day** - was held on Monday and great fun was had by all. Well done to everyone who participated in our fun day ☺ I would in particular to thank Mr. Murphy for all his work in organising and running the events on the day. As always we would be lost without our fantastic Parents Association Committee. Huge thanks to all members who organised and ran the BBQ, giving up their own personal time to help our school.

**SSE (School Self-Evaluation)** - thank you to all our families who returned the Oral Language Survey recently. All children from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Class, along with all members of our teaching staff, were also surveyed. I have collated the results of the teachers and children's surveys. These results shall be posted on our website over the next few weeks, when the parent surveys have been collated also. The data gained from all these surveys shall be used to inform the teaching and learning of oral English and Irish for the coming school year.

**Summer Office Hours** - the office shall be open from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July inclusive from 10am to 2pm. The office shall re-open after the summer break at 9am on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> August.

**Attendance** - school attendance rates for June were 91.8%. This figure is up 2% on this time last year. As always, I encourage you as parents to try and have your child attend school as much as possible. Reminder that school starts at 9.20am **sharp!** Please have your child in school on time daily.

**Congratulations** to the following children who have not missed any days from school during the 2017/2018 academic school year:

🌈 Tara Bishop, Lily Copeland, Jayden Sludds, Ashleigh Carroll, Amber O'Connor, Kiera Carroll, Padraig Byrne and Lucy Sludds.

On behalf of all the teachers, staff and Board of Management, I wish you all a very happy summer. We shall see you all again on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> August ☺

**Maria Brophy, Principal**

### Dates / Upcoming Events:

- ✚ School re-opens for all children (Senior Infants - 6<sup>th</sup> Class) on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> August at 9.20am.
- ✚ Incoming Junior Infants shall commence school on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> August at 10am.
- ✚ Our school calendar for 2018/2019 is now available on our school website 'www.ballymurnns.ie'
- ✚ New School Year Mass - Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September at 11.30am
- ✚ October mid-term break - school shall be closed from Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November inclusive
- ✚ Parent/Teacher Meetings - Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December. Time 3pm - 5.45pm.

## Class Allocation 2018-2019

We have 5 mainstream classes with 1 full-time SET (Special Education Teacher) and one part-time SET allocated for the academic year 2018/2019. These are as follows:

- ✚ **Junior/Senior Infants** - Ms. Niamh Lawlor
- ✚ **1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Class** - Ms. Chloe Ormonde
- ✚ **3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Class** - Ms. Sarah Pitt
- ✚ **5<sup>th</sup> Class** - TBC
- ✚ **6<sup>th</sup> Class** - Mrs. Maria Brophy
  
- ✚ **SET** - Ms. Nicola Sheehan/Ms. Claire Keane
  - Senior Infant Literacy and Numeracy - Ms. Nicola Sheehan/Ms. Claire Keane
  
- ✚ **SET** - Ms. Aileen Byrne (6 hours per week in Ballymurn NS)\*
- ✚ **SNA** - Ms. Monica Nurney

\*Based on current support allocations, Ms. Byrne, SET from Galbally NS shall be in Ballymurn NS for 6 hours per week.

Mr. Cleary and Mr. O'Tiarnaigh shall be taking a 'Career Break' for the 2018/2019 academic year. Ms. O'Shea shall be on 'Secondment' with the PDST for the 2018/2019 academic year.

## Parent Info Update

**Graduation 2018:** 'So long, farewell, auf wiedersehn, goodbye' and of course slán and congratulations to our 6<sup>th</sup> Class pupils who celebrated their graduation from primary school last night. They had a lovely service.

**Féile 2018** - congratulations to Chloe Murphy, Emma Lawlor, Amy Fortune and Jessica Redmond who represented Wexford in the recent Féile competition. Well done everyone, you did us proud ☺

**Ferns Centre of Excellence** - congratulations to Anthony O'Connor and Matthew Bishop who were selected for a regional Rackard League team a few months ago and have trained exceptionally hard winning the regional final recently.

**Sacramental Classes 2018/2019:** Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Class children shall celebrate their First Holy Communion on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2018 at 11am. Ms. Ormonde shall confirm the date for First Confession

following consultation with Fr. Finn in September. Further details shall issue from Ms. Ormonde throughout the new school year.

**Copies:** if your child has unused/half used copies left over from this school year, please recycle them for the coming school year. Just write their new class/teacher name on the copy and send them back in with them in September.

### **Standardised Tests - English and Mathematics**

**Results** - our results in both Literacy and Numeracy are rising yearly, with the majority of our children attaining at or above national norms e.g.

#### **Literacy:**

- **48%** of our children who were tested attained between Sten 5-6
  - National average is 34%
- **23%** of our children who were tested attained Sten 7
  - National average is 16%
- **16%** of our children who were tested attained between Sten 8-10.
  - National average is 16%.

#### **Numeracy -**

- **28%** of our children who were tested attained between Sten 5-6
  - National average is 34%
- **18%** of our children who were tested attained Sten 7
  - National average is 16%
- **45%** of our children who were tested attained between Sten 8-10.
  - National average is 16%.

#### **Gaeilge/Irish**

- **34%** of our children who were tested attained between Sten 5-6
  - National average is 34%
- **34%** of our children who were tested attained Sten 7
  - National average is 16%
- **18%** of our children who were tested attained between Sten 8-10.
  - National average is 16%.

The excellent results being achieved by our pupils in Literacy and Numeracy is testimony to the quality of teaching and learning happening in our school alongside the continued support by you the parent.

### **Ms Lawlor's Infants News Report**

We've had a very busy month in the Infant classroom. The children had a fantastic day out on our tour to Blackwater Farm. Seeing all the animals was great fun, especially when they got to hold and pet the rabbits! Sports Day and Flag Day celebrations were also great days.

The Infants have been giving each other lots of lovely compliments so they will have an ice-cream party to celebrate this kindness. As the year comes to an end I would like to thank all the children for their hard work during the year. It's been a privilege to be their teacher and to have watched them learn and grow so much in a year. Well done everyone. Have a lovely summer!

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

First and second class have had an extremely busy June. First Class went on their school tour to Blackwater farm where they had a great time petting the animals, playing in the playground and taking a tour of the farm. Second Class went to Courtown Adventure Centre where lots of them conquered their fear of heights, played laser tag/archery and finished the day off by swimming. Both classes had so much fun on their tours.

We finished reading our class novel 'Charlie and The Chocolate Factory' this month. We absolutely loved this story and we will be watching the movie in class this week. We will also get to taste some of Willy Wonka's famous chocolate!

I would like to wish all of the children in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Class a lovely summer and I hope you all enjoy your break. See you in September 😊

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

This month we have been revising many different topics in maths and have been working on some problem-solving. We have revised multiplication, time, fractions and measures. We have also had lots of fun playing tables games to practise our times tables.

In art we have enjoyed doing construction, the children created some great constructions with different materials and boxes. They created some very impressive robots and imaginative creatures. We also did some work with fabric and fibre. We made some sock puppets and created Ballymurn headbands and wrist bands. The children also made lovely Father's Day cards using varied ideas to create unique cards.

In English we have been doing some personal letter writing. The children have been learning how to structure a personal letter and have recognised the differences with use of language and structure compared with a formal letter. Following our school tour the children wrote a letter to a friend or family member about their school tour.

### **School Tour**

On June 19<sup>th</sup> our class along with 2nd Class and Mr. Murphy's 4<sup>th</sup> Class went on our school tour to Courtown. The children had an action-packed and memorable day. Firstly, they did the ropes course, climbing wall and zip line. Then they had lunch after a busy, active morning. After lunch the children went on to do laser tag and archery. Finally the children went to the swimming pool and went on the water slide. They had a really enjoyable day.

"I liked when we went down the zip line, it was like you were flying," Katie.

"I liked the waterslide," Anthony.

"I had great fun doing the laser tag and going on the zip line," Glenn.

"I liked the laser tag," Lucy.

"I thought it was really fun and interesting," Mya.

"I liked the Gravity part of the tour," Rachel.

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

This month we had our school tour to 'Gravity' in Courtown. Our class along with the other children from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> Class had a fantastic school tour. They were constantly on the move and many overcame big fears on their adventures through Gravity. The children participated in many activities

such Gravity, Gravity junior, Zip-Lining, Climbing Wall, Laser Tag, Archery and Swimming. Everybody had great fun especially laughing at the teachers as they made their way through the Gravity course.

This week has also been very busy with our Sports Day and Flag Day taking place. The children all had immense fun taking part in the numerous races during Sports Day and we had very few complaints about Mr. Murphy's taste of music. Thanks to all the parents who came and participated in the races and all the other activities that were ongoing that day. We also got our sixth Green Schools flag for Global Citizenship which our classmates Keelin Doyle and Zara Evans taught us all about.

We also gained our first Hurling 365 flag from Mr. Cleary who was accompanied by Wexford Hurlers Mark Fanning and Paudie Foley. Paudie even stayed around to referee our lunchtime league final. Thank you to all the coaches and helpers over the year that enabled us to get this huge achievement for the school.

We finished our novel 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' by C.S Lewis. The children enjoyed this fantasy novel, which brought many laughs to the class. The main characters were called Peter, Susan, Edmond and Lucy Pevensie and throughout the novel the characters developed from being a broken and scared family to joining together to work as a team. Themes and issues addressed in this novel are friendship, relationships, behavioural problems, imagination and feelings.

This month we finished off our Ancient Greece projects. We created a Spartan Shield, Helmet and Sword as we researched into the Ancient Greek life. Thanks to the iPads we received on loan from the education center we were able to conduct further research on the Ancient Greeks.

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

English - we finished our novel 'Artemis Fowl' by Eoin Colfer and examined the techniques of persuasive writing.

Maths - we finished the curriculum with the topic of Capacity. Earlier in the month we had fun with co-ordinates and making pictures with maths i.e. tractor and windmill.

Gaeilge - we completed our standardised testing in both listening and reading. Scores were positively high in comparison to national norms.

We had our school tour to Clara Lara, Sports Day, Flag Day and of course 6<sup>th</sup> Class Graduation Service. We said 'goodbye' to our 19 children in 6<sup>th</sup> Class. We also said 'goodbye' to a number of our families as their last child left our school. These were the families of Anthony O'Connor, Sam Waldron, Killian O'Toole, Conor O'Brien, Chloe Murphy, Kevin Berry, Lee Nolan, Holly Murray and Hannah Robinson. We wish them all the best for the future and thank them for their support to our school over the past 8 years.

# **Green Flag News**

On Tuesday we raised our 6<sup>th</sup> Green Flag. This award was for completing the Global Citizenship Programme. We have worked on this project for the past three years and with celebrated our achievement with a well-deserved party! Thank you to all the people from the community for joining us. Everyone enjoyed tasting foods from around the world in a very relaxed atmosphere. The children



had their faces painted and entertained our guests with a song about Global Awareness. The committee members did themselves proud on the day, giving a lovely speech and hosting the event. Well done to everyone!

# School Sports Update

## **Girls Rackard League Camogie - by Ms. Pitt**

This month has been another busy sporting month for the girls. On June 12th the girls played the District Final against Kilmore N.S in St. Martin's GAA pitch. The girls played a great game and showed great team work to produce some great scores. The girls won with a score of 4-2 to 2-2. Congratulations girls, it is a great achievement to be District Final champions.

With time running short in the school calendar the girls had a second match that week on June 15th which was the County Semi-Final against Davidstown-Courtnacuddy which was played in Bree. Again the girls put in a great performance and had a great win with a score of 6-4 to 2-3. This resulted in the girls earning a well-earned place in the County Final.

The girls were super excited to get into the final and were delighted to have the privilege to play in Wexford Park. The County Final took place in Wexford Park on June 20th. Unfortunately we came up against an exceptionally strong and skilful team that night against Barntown and lost the County Final. We are extremely proud of the girls who although had such tough opposition never gave up and battled hard until the final whistle.

At the beginning of the year we were unsure if there would be enough interest to field a camogie team, however, this group of girls showed some great skill and commitment this year, and did so well. We are so proud of you all. It's a huge achievement to win the District Final and get into the County Final in Wexford Park. The girls also got into the County Semi-Final of the Mini 7s Camogie this year.

The girls' skill level and team work is consistently improving. To the girls in 4th and 5th Class; you have shown great potential and dedication this year and I look forward to seeing you play again next year. To the 6th Class girls, thank you for being a part of the school teams and your dedication over the years, please continue to play in secondary school and best of luck in all your future sporting careers.

Thank you to the parents for your continued support throughout the year, it is very much appreciated. You have been fantastic; cheering the girls on, providing lifts to and from training and matches, and washing the team journeys. Thank you also for presenting me with my very own Crossabeg-Ballymurn half-zip. I was delighted to show my support for the girls in the Ballymurn colours. It has been a pleasure to work with all the girls this year. Well done girls on a great year.

Rackard League Ballymurn girls on the panel were as follows: **Emma Lawler, Chloe Murphy, Holly Murray, Jessica Redmond, Amy Fortune, Sophie Cummins, Bríann Carlyle, Kayleigh Cullen, Ellie Dempsey, Keelin Doyle, Muireann McDonald and Lucy Sludds.**

## **Ballymurn Cup 2018:**

After weeks of hard fought competition and excellent hurling we finally reached the end to this year's Ballymurn Cup where Clare and Limerick battled each other to be crowned this year's winner.

Both teams were led out by Matthew Bishop and Anthony O'Connor who had been representing our school over the past few weeks in a regional tournament where the best players from each school were competing.

The boys enjoyed this programme immensely and were on the winning side of the Regional games. After the parade of both teams and the National Anthem both teams lined out. Limerick were without their 6<sup>th</sup> Class player Chloe Murphy after an injury she picked up over the past few weeks finally took its toll. So Jack Redmond came in as a substitute for the Limerick team.

Referee for the day Paudie Foley kept a watchful eye on proceedings as Clare raced to a 2-0 lead as Emma Lawler finishing was causing Limerick problems. A late goal just before half-time gave Limerick some hope as they went in at half-time just one goal behind. Riain Redmond and Ashleigh worked very hard for their teams and continued to have close chances as they tried to scramble the ball into the goal a couple of times.

The second half started off with immense speed and skill. Last ditch blocks from Gavin Murphy and AJ Walsh kept the scores even until a Jack Redmond goal drew the sides level. Superb goal keeping on both sides from Evan O'Leary and Seán Bishop kept the teams at deadlock until Clare nudged in front again thanks to that girl again Emma Lawler. Thomas Syned and Sophie Cummins for both teams kept the ball away from their goal with great blocked and defending.

Limerick roared back into action and a goal from Ryan Doyle and Jack Redmond gave the Shannonsiders a one goal lead as the match was drawing to a close. With the score 4-3 Clare pushed on and again drew the teams level with a superb piece of play by Evan O'Leary who scored from his own goal. Harrison Kavanagh and AJ Walsh battled for every ball in the middle of the field whether they were up against themselves or the older children.

Limerick attacked again with Ryan Doyle scoring what looked like the winner. However, with a couple of seconds Clare scrambled the ball home even after superb goalkeeping by Seán Bishop and the goal-frame came in to help Limerick. With time up the match went into extra time where both sides looked tired in the intense heat of the day and the match. With penalties getting nearer Limerick grabbed the all-important winner after a tremendous piece of blocking, passing, tackling and finally shooting. Limerick had won on a score line of 6-5 after extra time. Thanks to all the players who played this year and also to the parents who came to watch.

## Parents Association News

We would like to **thank** everyone who has helped out over the last year and every family that has supported our events. Without your support we would not be able to host the things we do. The Parents Association have used these funds to host the children's Christmas party, BBQ and lots more.

Every year we are always looking for more members to join the Parents Association in particular this year as we are still short of members. Ideally we would like a Parent representing each class. We will be having our **AGM** in September but if you wish to express your interest in joining the committee beforehand you can send us a message on Facebook "Ballymurn NS Parents Association".

**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 2019. The Parents Committee shall be collecting monies for 30 weeks, commencing the second Friday in September. 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 refunded to each participant next May/June to pay for your child(ren) book rental charge.

Thank you to the following parents in particular who helped at our Green Schools Flag Day and Sports Day BBQ: *Mag Redmond, Leanna Redmond, Bobby Redmond, Sinéad Norris, Patricia Murphy, Deirdre Fortune and Gail Kavanagh.*

The BBQ raised €190 ☺ Thanks also to James Devlin and Vinnie Quirke for lending us their BBQ and gas for the day and to Charlotte O'Brien for the loan of her gazebo. Thank you to the soccer club who donated jellies and ice-creams also. The PA now have a healthy balance of €1,992 going into the next school year.

Best wishes to all the children who have left 6<sup>th</sup> Class for secondary school. To all the children in our school, have a great summer ☺ **Thank you to all our parents and friends in the wider school community for your continuous support over the year.**

#### **Ancillary Staff**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful ancillary staff for all their work in the school this year. Firstly thank you to Carmel Flynn who has our school gleaming, bright and fresh every day. Secondly, thank you to Leanna Redmond for doing such a fantastic job in the office. Finally, thank you to our amazing School Caretaker, Charlie Gordon ☺

## **Spirituality and Personal Development**

#### **A message from Fr. Finn**

In the past year we have continued to develop and build on our integrated spirituality in the school. As well as running the Grow in Love and Alive-O programmes successfully, we give the children opportunities through the Masses and the Sacraments to develop their skills and their imagination through posters, symbols and offerings in those liturgies.

During the year we had great preparation for celebration of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. During the classes, as well as instruction given, the children are encouraged to ask questions and seek clarification of spiritual things under discussion. Also, this year, parents continue to engage with the young people and their spiritual formation in their homes and their local church.

We look forward to continuing this work during the 2018/2019 academic school year.