



BALLYMURN NEWS 31ST MAY 2018



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Finally summer has arrived! I hope you are all enjoying the nice weather and are looking forward to the long weekend. We have had a very busy month here at Ballymurn NS with Communion, GAA matches and standardised testing. The children have been working extremely hard and are looking forward to their final few weeks at school. We have many fun and exciting things to look forward to with Sports Day, School Tours, 6th Class Graduation etc.

Our 2nd Class made their Holy Communion under the guidance of their teacher Ms. Ormonde and their parents. They had a very special day with their families. Sincere thanks to Ms. Ormonde for all her hard work in preparing the class for this Sacrament. Also, thanks to Evelyn Warren, Gemma Barlow and Anne Jackman for their commitment and dedication to preparing the children in the 'Do This in Memory of Me' programme.

School book lists for September 2018 have been issued. Payment is due to the school by Wednesday 6th June. Cost of **€80** includes, book rental, annual fee and purchase of workbooks. We are dealing solely with Book Rental books from now on as per DES guidelines. Buying into the Book Rental scheme is optional, however, should you choose not participate; the onus is on the parent to purchase all the text books on your child's booklist.

We say 'goodbye and farewell' to Mr. Brian Murphy who is leaving our school to take up a permanent teaching position in Piercestown NS. We wish him all the very best for his future teaching career and thank him for his many contributions to our school this year.

Whole School Parent Survey - results for our survey can be found on our website. Thank you to everyone who responded. <http://www.ballymurnns.ie/sse/>

Handwriting - our school was subjected to an 'Incidental Inspection' by the Cigire Jean Pender on 3rd May last. An incidental inspection is one whereby the school receives no advance notice. We received a very favourable report on many aspects of our school's teaching and learning and you can read more on this further on in this Newsletter.

One area of issue that the Cigire identified was that of handwriting and presentation of work in the senior classes. We have been advised to review our handwriting practices in these classes and have all children from 3rd to 6th Class use a **fountain pen** only (no biro/pens) from the beginning of the new school year. Therefore you will see a Faber Castell reusable fountain pen as part of your child's stationary list.

Voluntary Contribution - as previously advised, the Board of Management are requesting a voluntary contribution of **€100 per family** for the 2018/2019 school year. Thank you very much for your support for our school.

Green School Flag - congratulation to everyone on our 'Green School Committee' who have worked tirelessly over the past number of years to ensure our school maintains it's 'green status'. On Tuesday 22nd May, pupils Orla Barry and Lennon Carty travelled to Kilkenny accompanied by Ms. Lawlor and Ms.

Sheehan to collect our 6th **Green Flag**. The theme for this flag is Global Citizenship. Well done to everyone in our school community and particular thanks to our teachers Ms. Lawlor and Ms. Sheehan.

Hurling 365 Flag - congratulations to everyone in our school community who has worked so hard at promoting hurling in our school over the past number of years. In particular, thank you to Mr. Brian Murphy, for continuing the 'hurling 365' before school programme this year. I am delighted to inform you that we have achieved our first '**Hurling 365 Flag**' and this will be presented to our school in late June.

Senior School Nutrition Talk - we were delighted to have Pádraig Murphy, Sports Coach and Nutritionist, from Murphy Fitness come today and speak to all the children from 3rd to 6th Class on the subject of health, fitness and nutrition.

School of Excellence - our hard work has paid off ☺ We have achieved our first Science Foundation Ireland Discover Science and Maths **Plaque of STEM Excellence**. It is fantastic to see all of the science and maths work being carried out in our school with such enthusiasm. We shall receive our 'plaque of excellence' in June and shall celebrate this along with our other new flags.

School Reports - all reports shall be given to the eldest child in the family on Friday 15th June. Please note that for children in 1st-6th class who recently completed their standardised English, Irish and Mathematics tests, their results shall be printed on their report. Your child's 'Reading Age' shall also be written on their report. Due to GDPR, we are unable to email reports to parents this year. Therefore your child's/children's report shall be sent home, in an envelope, with your eldest child on 15th June.

School Calendar - for 2018/2019 is attached to this Newsletter. It is also now available on our school website.

Attendance - school attendance rates for May was 95.8%. We have a number of children who are missing a significant amount (+20 days) of school this year. As always, I encourage you as parents to try and have your child attend school as much as possible.

Is mise le meas,

Maria Brophy
Príomhoide

Dates / Upcoming Events:

- 🚩 June Bank Holiday - Friday 1st June - Tuesday 5th June - school closed on these days. We shall re-open on Wednesday 6th June.
- 🚩 Junior School Tour (Junior/Senior Infants/1st Class) - Wednesday 13th June to Blackwater Open Farm
- 🚩 Middle School Tour (2nd/3rd/4th Class) - Tuesday 19th June to Courtown Adventure Centre
- 🚩 Senior School Tour (5th/6th Class) - Wednesday 20th June to Clara Lara, Wicklow
- 🚩 School Reports to be issued to all parents on Friday 15th June
- 🚩 Sports Day - Monday 25th June from 10am. (Weather permitting)
- 🚩 'Flag Celebration Day' - Tuesday 26th June from 10am. (Weather permitting)
- 🚩 Graduation Service for 6th Class - Wednesday 27th June. Further details to follow.

- ✚ End of School Year Mass - Thursday 28th June at 11.30am
- ✚ Summer holidays - school **closed** Friday 29th June at **12pm** for all children.
- ✚ School re-opens on **Wednesday 29th August** at 9.20am for the 2018/2019 academic year

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
- ✚ **1st/2nd Class** - Ms. Chloe Ormonde
- ✚ **3rd/4th Class** - Ms. Sarah Pitt
- ✚ **5th Class** - TBC
- ✚ **6th 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.

Parent Info Update

Communion - Congratulations to all the boys and girls in 2nd Class. A particular 'Thank You' to their teacher Ms. Ormonde for the phenomenal amount of work she put into preparing the children. The artistic work on display in the church was fantastic and a credit to Ms. Ormonde, Leanna Redmond, Monica Nurney and all the Communion children.

This month has been very busy for 2nd Class. They worked very hard to prepare for their First Communion. On the morning of the Communion there was an air of excitement around the village and the sun was shining. The girls looked very pretty in their white dresses and not forgetting the boys who looked dashing in their finery!

The children read extremely well and we heard some beautiful singing from Eimear Devlin and Mollie Doyle Murphy. The children performed a wonderful song at the end of Mass, which brought smiles of joy to all our faces. The day went extremely well and we would once again like to thank Fr Finn for all his hard work and helpfulness throughout the year. Well done again to all boys and girls! ☺

Our 3rd/4th class children did a wonderful job also in providing the choir for the service. Well done to all involved and to their very talented teacher Ms. Pitt.

Incidental Inspection Report (summary) – on 3rd May, Cigire Jean Pender from the Department of Education and Skills made an unannounced inspection visit to our school. Some of her observations were as follows:

- Overall good teaching, learning and assessment practices
- Pupils very engaged
- Very high quality learning environments
- Pupils, in the classes visited were very articulate
- Excellent classroom management
- Pupil self-assessment very good

- Whole school approach to handwriting is needed
- Pen Licence - to be awarded annually i.e.
 - children begin each school year writing in pencil only (even those in 6th Class)
 - when teacher feels they have earned their Pen Licence, it will be given to the child. But failure to continue good handwriting practice may result in licence being taken away.
- Teachers and parents to have **very high** and **consistent** expectations of all our children, in particular in the presentation of their written work.
- Children to be taught **Cursive Script**

She was very positive about the teachers, their work ethic and in particular the fact that they are open and reflective practitioners.

Ms. Lawlor's Junior/Senior Infant Class Report

Our Aistear theme for the final few weeks of school is summer and the role-play area has been transformed into a beach! The children are enjoying fishing for tricky words, cooking barbeques and they are practising using money in the ice-cream shop. We have been learning all about summer and the natural features of the beach.

The Junior Infants are becoming very competent writers and they can now write simple sentences in their copies with ease! Senior Infants have made huge progress with their reading and they're enjoying reading the Engage Literacy readers during station time.

Show and Tell has gone very well over the last few weeks and the children have brought in very interesting objects from home to talk about. We are now looking forward to this good weather continuing for all the fun days ahead in June!

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

We have had another really busy month in 1st and 2nd class. In Geography and Science we have been learning lots about animals. We learnt lots of facts about hedgehogs including that they hibernate, are nocturnal and that they are omnivores.

Another animal we have been learning about is the whale. We learned that a new born baby blue whale is 7 metres long which is longer than the width of our classroom!! We also learned that a baby blue whale is called a calf.

Ms. Redmond came for a visit this month with baby Robert where we asked her lots of questions about how to take care of a baby. We were really excited to see them both!

In 2nd Class we have just started learning about capacity in maths. We have been having lots of fun with water guessing how many cups it will take to fill a bucket or how many bottles it takes to fill a bowl. We then tried this out in pairs and compared our estimates and answers.

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

This month we have begun to learn about another writing genre, **Discussion Writing**. The children have been reading examples and recognising the differences between this genre and exposition writing. We have also started to write our own discussion pieces of writing.

In Gaeilge this month we have been covering the theme 'O cáidí Speisialta'. We have been learning about the theme of holidays and birthdays. We have been doing some listening activities, reading stories, reciting poems and singing songs based on the topic.

This month the children have had the opportunity to learn to play tag rugby on Tuesdays. They have been playing some fun tagging games and also started to play and learn the rules of tag rugby. They have really enjoyed learning to play a new sport.

Mr. Murphy's 4th/5th Class Report

With summer finally upon us the boys and girls of 4th and 5th Class have been knuckling down with their work. We have been studying Ancient Greece and learning about their various Myths and Legends. In English we have been writing our own myths.

We have also been looking into the lives of the Athenians and the Spartans, comparing and contrasting their lifestyles and beliefs. In Art we have been busy constructing our own Spartan Armour with a helmet and shield on the way.

We began Tag Rugby this month also, allowing the children to learn some new skills and gain an insight into the sport of rugby. We finished the novel *Small Steps* in English, which we all agreed was not as good as the previous novel '*Holes*', but was still an enjoyable read and allowed us as individuals to create our own '*5 Small Steps*'.

In Science we have been looking into forces and how certain objects can move faster than others. We experimented with slope using a ruler and a ball and found that the heavier the object and the higher the slope the faster the object would move.

Mrs. Brophy's 5th/6th Report

Our class has had a very busy few weeks. We've completed our standardised testing in English, Mathematics and Irish. Results shall be given on your child's report on 15th June. Some of the children have been very busy managing their teams for our 'Lunchtime Hurling League'. We are looking forward to a very exciting final next month.

In English we are continuing our novel '*Artemis Fowl*' by Wexford author Eoin Colfer. We are also learning about 'Persuasive Writing' and are looking at different types of advertising and how companies use 'jingles/slogans' to sell their products. We recently completed a debate on 'Should children be compelled to do chores around the house'. Some interesting arguments against this motion were:

1. *The legal age for work is 16 in Ireland, so children younger than this should not have to do any chores!*

2. *In secondary school we will be too busy with schoolwork and extra-curricular activities to do chores!*
3. *Children do not own or rent the house and therefore should not be held responsible for any chores!*
4. *Childhood only comes once and we should be allowed to enjoy it without having to do chores!*
5. *I didn't make the mess, use the bathroom etc. I shouldn't have to clean up!*

In Science/Geography the children are learning about volcanoes and how they are formed and erupt. We hope to make a volcano in the next few weeks as part of our Science experiments.

Gaeilge - tá na páistí ag déanamh a lán obair ar an téama 'Caitheamh Aimsire' (hobbies). Tá siad ag obair go díon agus ag déanamh iarracht maith freisin. Táim an bródúil futhu ☺

In History, we have just completed our lessons on 'The Troubles' and Northern Ireland. In Art - the children have been busy creating mosaics, sketch art and underwater themed paintings.

RSE is going very well in our class as we learn all about our bodies and the changes they are going through.



Green School Update

Congratulations!!

We are delighted to share the fantastic news that our school has recently been awarded its Sixth Green Flag Award!

This is our thirteenth year taking part in the Green School Programme. We earned our very first award back in 2005 for reducing Litter and Waste produced in the school. We subsequently won awards for all our work about Energy, Water, Travel and Biodiversity awareness. For the past three years the Committee have been working tirelessly in the background driving the whole school through the development of Global Citizenship.

We have learned so much about the world we live in and how much we are connected to people and places across the globe. We are very grateful to all the pupils, past and present, who have been so enthusiastic and worked so hard on the programme. This is the result of their great work and we are very proud to be one of the 48 schools representing Wexford this year.



We will be celebrating our achievement on Tuesday 26th June and we would love you to come and join in the festivities. We are looking forward to an enjoyable day and we will once again raise another Green School Flag to mark the occasion.

Parents Committee News

The Parents Committee would like to congratulate all the children who made their First Holy Communion recently. A special 'THANK YOU' must be made to the following people who helped make the day run so smoothly:

Volunteers at the celebration in the Parish Hall: Trish Murphy, Sinéad Norris, Jenny Carlyle, Denise O'Connor, Sarah Usher, Niamh Lawlor, Gail Kavanagh and Mag Redmond.

Also, thank you to everyone who donated sandwiches, cakes etc. to the event. Your kindness and generosity is very much appreciated. We look forward to Sports Day on 25th June. Weather permitting we shall be hosting a BBQ on the day.

Thank you our local GAA club for their very generous donation of foods that they had left over from a recent BBQ event. Thank you also to Mandy Doyle for her generous donation of biscuits from the 'cash and carry' throughout the year.

Events supported by the Parents Association to date for the 2017/2018 academic year have been:

- ✚ Book Savings Club
- ✚ Christmas Craft Fair
- ✚ Grandparents Mass - refreshments served
- ✚ Easter Raffle
- ✚ Confirmation children were brought to LeisureMax for an afternoon
- ✚ €500 donation towards cost of all school tours, ensuring that maximum cost per child is €20

Gala Race Night - Ballymurn National School and Ballymurn Celtic Soccer Club have joined together to organise a fundraising Gala Race night in Enniscorthy Dog Track on **Thursday 26th July at 8pm.**

Order forms for tickets will be going home with the children next week. Tickets will cost €10 each and children will have free entry. Any entry money paid on the night will go directly to the dog track and we will not benefit from it so please pre purchase your tickets from us. Further details will be issued to pupils next week. Thank you ☺

School Sports Update

Girls Rackard League Camogie and Mini 7s by Ms. Pitt

On Thursday May 18th the girls had their Mini 7s County Semi-Final in Bellefield. We played Ballyroebuck first and we were beaten by 5-3 to 3-4. We then played Kiltaly in the second match and unfortunately we were beaten by a goal. Ballyroebuck then went on to qualify for the county final.

Well done girls for getting so far in the competition, we came up against two very strong teams. We are very proud of how you played as a team and represented our school so well. The following girls were on the panel: Chloe Murphy, Emma Lawler, Holly Murray, Jessie Redmond, Amy Fortune, Sophie

Cummins, Emer Barry, Keelin Doyle, Muireann McDonald, Ellie Dempsey, Lucy Sludds, Kayleigh Cullen and Briann Carlyle.

We are still in the Rackard League competition; having won our two group games we topped our group in the Wexford District. We played Rosslare yesterday in the district semi-final and won. We now in the **District Final** against Kilmore NS. We wish the girls the best of luck for this match. Once again thank you to the parents for your continued support, it is much appreciated.

Rackard League by Mr. Murphy

Blackwater v Crossabeg-Ballymurn

Our third match of the competition led us to Blackwater, where we played against a very hardy Blackwater NS team. We fought for every ball and lost 5 hurls along the way but came out on the losing side by 3-5 to 2-2. The boys never gave up and battled hard the whole way through.

Crossabeg-Ballymurn V Castlebridge

In our final group game against Castlebridge again we tasted defeat. This time after a spirited performance playing the day before against Blackwater, we couldn't rise to those standards again. We lost out to a scoreline of 4-11 to 1-2. The freshness of the Castlebridge boys was just too much for our boys as they scored some immense points from their star player in the middle of the field.

Crossabeg- Ballymurn V Cushinstown

So into the quarter finals of 'B' we went and a tricky match in Taghmon versus Cushinstown. After a tense opening few minutes where we couldn't seem to find the target from our free's, we fell behind to two quick goals for Cushinstown. The boys never gave up and quickly got themselves back into the game with a wonderful goal. At half-time the score was 3-4 to 1-2. When the second half resumed the boys took to the field like men possessed. They hounded the Cushinstown players constantly and a flurry of goals for us brought the score back to 3-6 to 4-2.

However, just as we had scored the fourth goal to bring us back into the game a superb catch, run and strike from the Cushinstown's full forward put the game out of touch again with a super goal. The boys continued to push with all they had, with Anthony O'Connor as a target man in the full forward line. The boys threw everything at it for the last few minutes as even some sinks were seen being thrown towards the Cushinstown goal. However, in the end they held on to a score of 6-8 to 4-6. The boys can be really proud of their performances this year from a very tough group and I would like to especially thank all the 6th Class boys and their parents for the commitment they have shown the school's Rackard league teams over the year and that they did themselves and the school very proud ☺

Lunch Time League

The lunch time league has really begun to heat up with countless matches being still winnable even into the dying seconds. The players are really showing tremendous skills and thanks to all the boys and girls for volunteering to referee the games too. We will begin the last few rounds now into June followed by our knockout stages and finally our final and winner.

SUPERVISION - Your Child's Safety on School Premises

Monday to Friday ----- 9.10am 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.