



BALLYMURN NEWS – 26TH OCTOBER 2017



Dear Parents/Guardians,

The mid-term break is just upon us and all the children are very excited about the upcoming Halloween celebrations. We have had a very busy start to our new school year and all the children have been working very hard in class. The whole school is looking forward to our Hallowe'en Hike tomorrow at **10am**. All children are encouraged to wear their fancy dress costumes for our hike.

Gymnastics 2018 - all classes shall commence a six week gymnastic programme in January. Further details shall follow in our November Newsletter.

Today we celebrated a special Mass remembering all our family and friends who are no longer with us. It was lovely to see some of our parents and friends join us for our service. Thank you all for coming 😊

Please note that that school shall close on **Wednesday 15th November 2017 at 12.30pm** to facilitate a staff meeting. This academic year our focus is on Maths and Science. Our school has registered to participate in the 'Science Foundation Ireland Discover Science and Maths Award'. Given the national interest in the promotion of STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) at 2nd and 3rd level education, this programme should be of benefit and interest to all our pupils. Staff shall commence the first part of the training programme on November 15th.
http://www.primaryscience.ie/awards_16.php

Wishing you all an enjoyable, relaxing and safe Bank Holiday weekend and mid-term break,

Maria Brophy
Principal

Dates/Upcoming Events

- ✚ Hallowe'en Hike - 27th October at 10am (weather permitting). Children are encouraged to dress in their Hallowe'en costumes on this date. **SPONSORSHIP cards must be returned to the office by 6th November. Thank you.**
- ✚ Mid-Term Break - Monday 30th October - Friday 3rd November inclusive. School re-opens Monday 6th November at 9.20am.
- ✚ Staff Meeting - Wednesday 15th November. **All children to go home at 12.30pm.**
- ✚ Sing Out Loud - 3rd and 4th Class - Saturday 18th November in the Opera House
- ✚ Parent/Teacher Meetings - Wednesday 6th December (3pm to 5.45pm). Appointments shall be given closer to the date.
- ✚ Christmas Carol Service - Whole School - Tuesday 19th December at 7pm in Ballymurn Parish Church
- ✚ Christmas Holidays - school shall close at **12.30pm** for all children on Friday 22nd December and re-open on Monday 8th January, 2018
- ✚ School closed Wednesday 2nd May, 2018 for staff training on the new oral language curriculum. This closure is compulsory and sanctioned by the DES for all schools.

Parent Info Update

- Hallowe'en Hike - **All cards** must be returned to the school by Monday 6th November **irrespective** of how much money has been collected by your child.
- Christmas Fair - Sunday 10th December, 10.30am to 1pm in Ballymurn School.

Maths Week: huge thanks to Ms. Lawlor and all the teachers we had another wonderful 'Maths Week' here at Ballymurn NS. The children had lots of fun participating in different games and events. Three maths competitions were held whereby the staff and children had to estimate how many pins, elastic bands and lego blocks were in various containers. The results were as follows:

1. **Junior School Winner - Lucy Cummins (Junior Infants)**
2. **Senior School Winner - Darragh Lawlor (4th Class)**
3. **Staff V Students Winner - Jasmine Killeen (4th Class)**

Congratulations to all our winners and well done to all the children for the fantastic co-operation and enthusiasm for Maths. Remember to 'open your Maths Eyes' and see that Maths is all around us in our natural environment.

Mathematics Tables - all children in 4th, 5th and 6th class should know their multiplication and division tables off by rote in much the same way as they know the alphabet ☺ Parents, please ensure your child knows his/her tables. Please check regularly by asking your child various calculations. This could be done whilst driving in the car for example. Simply give your child a few tables to answer e.g. $4 \times 7 =$, $8 \times 9 =$, $96/8 =$ etc. As always we value your support in helping us help your child to learn.

Failure to know their multiplication/division tables off by heart, will have a negative impact on your child's confidence and understating in the senior cycle of school i.e. 5th/6th Class. If he/she does not know their table fluently, they will struggle to work at the higher level required when working on life skill topics such as 'fractions, decimals and percentages'.

Sing Out Loud - We are very busy preparing for our 'Sing Out Loud' concert, which will take place on November 18th in the Wexford Opera house. We have 32 children participating in the concert, where we will be performing over 40 songs.

A special thank you and acknowledgement goes to Ms. Lawlor and Ms. Sheehan for all their hard work and dedication in preparing the children for this wonderful event. We look forward to the big night. Please note that the Opera House receives 100% of the ticket price with no monies being earned by the school from this event.

Report from Ms. Lawlor's Junior/Senior Infant Class ☺

We have been busy learning all about autumn and Halloween in our classroom. The children learned about another nocturnal animal, the bat. They also made their own bats from toilet roll holders and they're looking forward to bringing them home for Halloween!

Our Aistear role-play area was transformed into a Witch's hut. There were lots of spells being made in the cauldron and the children were cooking up a storm at the witch's dinner table. There were spiders for starters, eyeballs for mains and ice cream with blood sauce for dessert!

We are also enjoying some fun Maths for Maths Week this week. The children all made a good guess for our estimation competition, we did some matchstick puzzles and we learned a new teddy bear game to play with a friend. I will post some Halloween photos on our Facebook page later in the week. Have a lovely Halloween everyone.

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

This month we worked really hard and learned lots of interesting things about autumn. We learned all about hibernation and talked about the history and customs of Halloween. We painted autumn tress using the autumn colours.

We are very excited about the Halloween Hike and dressing up in scary costumes and of course we are all looking forward to playing some fun Halloween games. I hope all the 1st and 2nd Class pupils have a safe and enjoyable Halloween and mid-term break ☺

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

We recently completed fantastic projects about Australia. The children are presenting their projects to the class over the next couple of weeks. They are sharing with their fellow students the information that they have learnt where they got the information and their favourite parts of their project. The other children in their class then get the opportunity to ask them questions about their project. This is a great confidence building exercise for them.

In English this month we have been focusing on narrative writing. The children have been learning how to structure a narrative piece of writing: using a title, orientation, complication and resolution in their writing. They first plan their writing in the form of a brainstorm and then plan the four parts of their narrative pieces. They have written some great stories so far.

In 3rd Class maths we have been learning about data. The children have been learning how to analyse bar charts and pictograms. We have been surveying and drawing our own bar charts and pictograms in groups also. We have also been playing different maths games and learning a very catchy 'Three Times Tables' song for maths week.

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

It has been another interesting month in our classroom. In October we started to delve more into the world around us. We have been learning about the countries that make up Scandinavia and where to find them on a map. We have been investigating how plants grow and the legacy of Leonardo Da Vinci.

In Art, we have been creating, using the theme of Scandinavia and chalk to create images of a scene of an Aurora Borealis on the Scandinavian landscape. We have also spent the past month learning about recount writing and its various forms. We also began to work on our fractured fairy tales where the children changed up some old fairy tales with their own ideas for a newer generation. We have also been reading the novel 'Millions' by Frank Cottrell Boyce, learning about moral choices and various saints along the way.

Report from Mrs. Brophy's 5th/6th Class ☺

We've done a lot of work in the senior class this month. Our history focus was on 'The French Revolution' with particular focus on how Irishman Daniel O'Connell was appalled by the violence he

witnessed there, which in turn impacted how he approached his goal of 'liberation' for Ireland from the British. We shall be studying 'The Liberator' in full detail next month.

In literacy we studied descriptive writing and the four stages of this genre - title, introduction, characteristics and evaluation. The children wrote very interesting pieces on 'Storm Ophelia' and her effects on Ballymurn. We shall be starting our first novel 'The Silver Sword' by Ian Serraillier after the mid-term break.

We learnt all the lakes, rivers and county town/cities of Ireland in geography and began looking at transport in Ireland. We continued our investigation of 'heat' in science. We carried out experiments to identify how heat travels via conduction, using balloons, a candle and water.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zih8_BqolSO

Sa gaeilge, bhíomar ag foghlaim trí an téama 'Bia'. Tá na páistí ag eirí lena chuid léitheoireach ós ard agus lena chuid cómhra. Tá siad ag baint triail as an teanga agus ag obair go díon sa rang. Is amhránaí an mhaith iad freisin.

Art - we continued to focus on 'fabric and fibre' strand this month. We made 'cup cosies', 'book worms' and are starting to make 'teddy bears' in our crochet class. We also painted our Hallowe'en masks to wear on 31st October 😊

Maths - 5th Class have been learning 'long division' this month. They are quite confident working on this concept.

Rackard League Update

Girls' Rackard League by Ms. Pitt

The girls have played their group games in recent weeks. We played Rosslare at home and put in a very strong performance. We won this match with a score of 9-15 to 2-2. We then went on to play a strong team from Gaelscoil Charman in St. Joseph's pitch. This was a very evenly fought match and was very close throughout. Unfortunately we lost that match by a point with a score of 5-6 to 4-8.

We also played the Faythe at home. Again the girls played a great game and also won this match with a score of 7-19 to 0-1. Our last group game was played this week against Our Lady's Island/Mayglass. This proved to be a very exciting game. With some late scores and a last minute goal the match ended in a draw with a score of 6-5 to 5-8. We then played 10 minutes of extra time and sadly we were beaten by a goal in extra time.

Unfortunately this was our last Rackard League match as we just barely missed out on a place in the district final. We are very proud of how well the girls played throughout the league. They showed great team work and determination throughout the league. A huge thank you to all the parents for washing the jerseys, providing lifts for matches and training, and your continued support and encouragement. The following girls were on the panel: Tara Bishop, Rebecca Carlyle, Sophie Cummins, Róisín Flanagan, Amy Fortune, Emma Lawler, Holly Murray and Chloe Murphy.

Boy's Rackard League by Mr. Murphy

Boys from 5th and 6th Class competed in the 'Mini Sevens Football' competition in Taghmon on October 7th. The boys did themselves proud in their 3 games against very strong opposition in

Taghmon, Murrintown and Piercestown. The boys lost both matches against Murrintown and Piercestown and drew a competitive game with Taghmon.

After our tough start in Rackard League, the boys really picked up from through October with wins over Barntown, Kilmore and Wexford CBS. The group ended with a spirited performance in defeat against Castlebridge who had won the group undefeated but our boys ran them as close as any other team had. We finished 3rd so we entered 'Roinn B'.

We met Ferns in the Quarter Final and even after a heroic second half display, the boys were unable to claw back the lead from a very strong Ferns team. They showed immense heart and determination on the field, which they can be very proud of. We will aim to use this disappointment in the hurling in April. Thanks to all the parents for their time in driving the children to and from the games.

The following boys were on the panel: Ben Redmond, Matthew Bishop, Jack Redmond, Seán Hennessy, Evan O'Leary, Anthony O'Connor, Ryan Doyle, Conor O'Brien and Killian O'Toole.

Parents Association News

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, school tours, etc. The Parents Committee shall be collecting monies for 30 weeks. Parents may lodge money to their account weekly on Fridays from 9.25am - 9.45am the school Staff Room.

Ballymurn Celtic AFC will be holding a children's disco on Thursday 2nd November in Ballymurn Parish Hall between 7pm - 8.30pm. All children from Junior Infants to 6th Class are welcome to attend and the admission is €3 per child. (No charge for Adults).

Spirituality and Personal Development

Celebrating Hallowe'en and remember our dead by Fr. Jim Finn

Our ancient ancestors having progressed over thousands of years had great respect for time and the marking of time in their yearly calendar. Hallowe'en was the time where one year ended and a new year began.

On the night of Hallowe'en chaos reigned, it was the time of transition, one year was ending but another one had not yet started. People played pranks on each other, the people of the spirit world crossed boundaries and entered the human world, they thought.

St. Patrick and his followers took this festival to announce that through Christ's death all the dead could now go to God and enjoy peace. Our prayers could help them. So on the 1st November we celebrate the 'Feast of All Saints' and on the 2nd November we pray for those who may not have reached God's presence yet.

Let us then thank our favourite Saints on the 1st of November for the help they give us and pray for all our deceased relatives for the month of November knowing that if they are not yet in God's presence our prayers will help them.

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.

Under the Education (Welfare) Act, 2000, parents are responsible for making sure their child receives an education. The law also says that every child between the ages of 6 and 16 must attend school or otherwise receive an education. Most children attend recognised schools although some are educated at home or in non-recognised schools

The school must tell the statutory Educational Welfare Services of the Child and Family Agency if your child has missed 20 days or more in the school year, or if it is concerned that your child is missing too much school. This can include days when your child leaves school early on a regular basis.

Taking a holiday during term time means that children miss important school time. It will be difficult for them to catch up on work later on. As a result, they may fall behind with school work and lose confidence in their abilities. The BOM of Ballymurn NS strongly advises that parents do not take their children out of school for holidays during term time.