



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.

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. Well done to all the children who read, brought up the Gifts and provided beautiful music. Thank you to all who came ☺

Sincere thanks to John and Martina Hennessy for their very generous donation of two basketball nets and hoop rings, which they also installed for us. The children are getting fantastic use of them.

Gymnastics 2019 - all classes shall commence a six week gymnastic programme in January. Further details shall follow in our November Newsletter.

Hurling 365 - Sincere thank you to all our coaches for giving their time to support our school's Hurling 365 programme. They are doing fantastic work with the children. Well done to Brian O'Connor, Gail Kavanagh, Michael Doyle, Derek McDonald, Daithí Redmond, John Sludds, Anthony O'Gorman, Denise O'Connor, Leanna Redmond, Monica Nurney, Ms. Ormonde and Ms Morrissey. Also thank you to Crossabeg Ballymurn GAA club who supplied us with hurling balls.

Rackard League Jerseys - Rackard League Jerseys: Rackard League jerseys are available to order from the school office until Wednesday November 7th. Order forms and jersey details were e-mailed to parents last week. Jerseys are €30 and are available in a range of colours and sizes. Please contact the school office if you would like more details.

FUTSAL 5 Aside Blitz - 3rd/4th Class participated in this interschool's competition today. We had a boys and girls team. The boys were unlucky with their 3 matches and didn't make it through to the semi-final. However, the girls drew with Castlebridge, beat the Mercy (John's Road) and Crossabeg.

They were then through to the semi-final against Murrintown. Unfortunately, they were beaten in penalties. Keira Carroll (4th Class) scored a hat-trick in one match and all the children played fantastically well. Thank you Ms. Pitt and Brian O'Connor for bringing the children to this event.

NB* Homework Survey - thank you to the 51 families who responded to our recent survey. The results shall be posted on our website (www.ballymurnns.ie) shortly under the '**SSE** or **Oral Language**' tab. As you may be aware our school is focusing on '**Oral Language**' and the promotion of same at home and in school is a priority for our school over the next 3 academic years.

Once all results have been collated and shared with you, a whole school parent information meeting shall be held. I anticipate that this meeting shall take place on Monday 12th November at 7pm. The

focus of this meeting shall be to support our parents in their engagement with their child's homework. Further details shall issue after the mid-term break.

Wishing you all an enjoyable, relaxing and safe Bank Holiday weekend.

Maria Brophy
Principal

Dates/Upcoming Events

- ✚ Hallowe'en Hike - 26th 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 5th November. Thank you.**
- ✚ Mid-Term Break - Monday 29th October - Friday 2nd November inclusive. School re-opens Monday 5th November at 9.20am.
- ✚ Parent Information Meeting - 12th November at 7pm.
- ✚ Sing Out Loud - 3rd and 4th Class - Thursday 22nd November in the Opera House
- ✚ Parent/Teacher Meetings - Wednesday 5th December (3pm to 5.45pm). Appointments shall be given closer to the date.
- ✚ Christmas Craft Fair - Sunday 9th December (10.30am to 1pm)
- ✚ Christmas Carol Service - Whole School - Thursday 20th December at 7pm in Ballymurn Parish Church
- ✚ Christmas Holidays - school shall close at **12pm** for all children on Friday 21st December and re-open on Monday 7th January, 2019.
- ✚ School closed Tuesday 7th May, 2019 for staff training on the new oral language curriculum. This closure is sanctioned by the DES for all schools.

Parent Info Update

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 matchsticks and monkey nuts were in various containers. The results were as follows:

1. **Junior School Winner - May Cummins**
2. **Senior School Winner - Eimear Devlin**

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. $4 \times 7 =$, $8 \times 9 =$, $72/8 =$ 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'.

We realise that in secondary school children are using calculators from the beginning of 1st Year, however, there is no replacement for 'quick mental maths' which we should all have at our 'finger tips'. Knowing our mathematical tables fluently greatly helps with this. The learning of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division tables is set out in the Mathematics Curriculum and is compulsory to be taught in school.

Sing Out Loud - We are very busy preparing for our 'Sing Out Loud' concert, which will take place on November 22nd in the Wexford Opera house. We have 28 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 ☺

Our Aistear theme for October was Halloween and autumn so the Infants have been busy learning all about it. We enjoyed a nature walk where the children looked for signs of autumn. Our role-play area was transformed into a Witch's house. The children have been writing down their bubbling potion recipes and made all the teachers drink them! They practised their magic spells also and made special witch dinners. They made amazing constructions such as brooms, cats, spiders and cauldrons with the plasticine also. We read some autumn themed stories and we especially enjoyed Winnie the Witch books.

Junior Infants have learned their first group of letter sounds and are already beginning to read and write simple words. During Maths Week we played a teddy bear number game and we made some patterns using different coloured paints.

Junior and Senior Infants have been learning all about Oíche Shamna in Irish. They know a lovely Irish song which they could sing for you! They also learned the rhymes *Five Little Pumpkins* and *Witch Witch* so hopefully they can perform these at Halloween!! Have a lovely mid-term break!

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

We have had so much fun in school for the past month. Our Aistear theme was Halloween and our role play area was set up as a costume shop. We loved trying on the different costumes and buying and selling them to our friends. We wrote lots of spooky stories at our writing station and we even made our own slime at the investigation table.

In English we have been learning about narrative writing. We have written lots of narratives and we made sure to include a beginning, middle and end. In maths, our stations each week have been going great. We have been solving problems, playing board games and answering challenging sums on the interactive whiteboard.

We have had a great month and are already looking forward to November!

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

October has been another busy month. We recently had maths week, which the children thoroughly enjoyed. We were learning about data in maths that week. The children worked in small groups and created tallies based on the surveys that they did in the different classes. They then worked together to create bar charts to display their survey results.

We also did some maths problem solving and riddles in class. The children also enjoyed doing some matchstick puzzles which really got them thinking. They also worked in small groups to do a maths trail around the school. Well done to Eimear Devlin in 3rd Class who won the senior school's estimation challenge set by Ms. Lawlor. She even beat all the teachers! ☺

In English we have been learning about narrative writing this month. We have read some examples of narrative stories. We also discussed the three main parts of a narrative story; the orientation, complication and resolution. We then planned and wrote a story together as a class using those three stages. The children then went on to plan and write their own narrative pieces. We have been writing drafts before publishing our final pieces. I have enjoyed reading some great stories.

In SPHE we have been learning about fire safety. We investigated the common dangers that are found in our homes and came up with some fire safety rules to follow. We also looked at different actions and possible consequences to different fire-related scenarios. These all got the children thinking and made them more fire safety aware.

Report from Ms. Morrissey's 5th Class ☺

It has been an action packed month for us! In maths we have had lots of fun especially with the busy activities during Maths Week. We have been undertaking lots of group tasks, problem solving, maths trails, tricky puzzles and estimation tasks. The kids have been working very well in groups working together to solve the problem.

In SESE we have been learning about the Solar System and also about how global warming is changing planet Earth. We didn't realise the small ways in which we can help to reduce this in our day to day life!

In art Ms. Morrissey has really enjoyed seeing the creative pieces of art that the children have created using print techniques. We used materials such as cotton buds, string, sponges of different shapes and sizes, corrugated card and even our fingers and hand prints!

Report from Mrs. Brophy's 6th Class ☺

We've done a lot of work in the senior class this month. Our geography focus was on 'Business and Industry' with particular focus on how local businesses employ local people and keep jobs in our community. We went on a tour of *Hentech Fabrication* on Tuesday 23rd to see a 'live' business in operation. The children have been learning new vocabulary like permanent, temporary, migrant employees, profit and loss in terms of running a business. We also looked at the 9 types of discrimination that employers must be aware of when recruiting and managing employees i.e. gender, race, religion, marital status, orientation, age. Sincere thanks to John Hennessy for providing us with the opportunity to visit his business.

In literacy we studied procedural writing and the four stages of this genre - title, goal, materials and steps. The children wrote their own procedural recipes in both English and Irish. The children have also been studying poetry and have five poems learnt off by heart. We are also still reading our novel

'Wonder' and have been learning about 'Precepts'. The children wrote their own precept definitions also, some of which you can read below:

'During life you may get gifts, but love is the only gift you need' by Jennifer Réamonn

'Sometimes it's good to start over.' by Sophie Cummins

'If you don't have people around you that love you, then you won't find happiness. Love is what makes people happy and is what you need during a hard time' by Amy Fortune

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. Tá cúig dánta ar eolas acu freisin.

Art - we have moved onto the 'fabric and fibre' strand this month. We made 'pom poms', 'puppets', designed 'Halloween Silhouettes' and have also designed our Christmas cards for our Craft Fair.

Maths - we have been revising 'long division', angles and lines this month. The children learnt that corresponding and opposite angles are equal, how to construct triangles and how to measure and draw angles. We also began studying 'Fractions' which we shall continue in November.

Rackard League Update

Girls' Rackard League and Mini 7s - by Ms. Pitt

The girls recently participated in the Girls Rackard League football. They played Scoil Charman in the St. Joseph's pitch. This was a very close match in which our girls played very well together as a team. They won that match with a score of 3-4 to 1-5. We then had a walkover against Rosslare.

Then we played our final group game at home against Our Lady's Island/Mayglass. The girls battled hard in this match against a strong opposition and lost that match. With two wins our girls then qualified for the District Final in which they played against Our Lady's Island/Mayglass in the St. Martin's GAA pitch.

Unfortunately on this occasion Our Lady's Island/Mayglass played extremely well and our girls were beaten. I would like to commend our girls on continuing to try their best when playing against such a strong team. Our Lady's Island/Mayglass were in the final the previous two years, so maybe like them next year will be our year. Thank you also to the girls' parents and guardians for providing lifts to the matches and training, and as always for your continued support.

The following girls were on the panel: Emer Barry, Amy Fortune, Sophie Cummins, Rachel Whelan, Keelin Doyle, Kayleigh Cullen, Ellie Dempsey, Lucy Sludds, Rebecca Warren, Rachel Bishop, Jasmine Killeen, Briann Carlyle.

The girls also recently participated in the Mini 7s football, which was played in Glynn-Barntown GAA club. We had two matches that day. We won the first match against Glenbrien. Our girls showed some great teamwork and determination. They made some great passes and scored some great goals and points.

Then we went on to play Glynn in the second match. They were a very strong team and we were beaten on this occasion. Again the girls never gave up and did their best throughout both matches.

We only had seven girls for the two matches and despite being tired they continue to battle hard with great determination.

Boy's Rackard League by Ms. Morrissey

A huge well done must go out to the boys Rackard League team. They lost the quarter final to a very strong Glynn team; however, they did what was asked of them and put up a massive effort from start to finish. Well done to all involved!

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 2019, 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.

Tractor Run - this fundraiser was held on Sunday 14th October and was an amazing success. We had a total of 115 tractors enter and raised a total of €2,345 towards the school. Huge thanks must go to all who volunteered food, cakes and their time to support this event.

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. It is also extremely disruptive to their classmates and teacher when absent pupils miss various concepts being taught e.g. new maths topics, Irish verbs etc. due to holidays.

Teachers **will not** be providing work to children who are going on holidays during the academic year. It is the sole responsibility of parents to organise for their child to 'catch up' on missed school work.

The BOM of Ballymurn NS strongly advises that parents do not take their children out of school for holidays during term time.