



BALLYMURN NEWS 28TH SEPTEMBER 2017



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Summer has flown by and we are now well settled back into school. As we begin our autumn term, and on behalf of my colleagues and Board of Management, I would like to welcome everyone back. We have had an exciting and fun-filled month back at school. In particular, we welcome our new Junior Infant children.



We are delighted to welcome: *Johnnie Canavan, Lucy Cummins, Gary Dooley, Róisín Farrell, Jacob Hennessy, Amélia Kavanagh, Jackson Kehoe, Ruby Larkin, Liam Moloney, Dean Murphy, Tara Murphy, Tyler O'Toole, Ellie Sheehan, Evan Thompson, Kyle Wade, Caoimhe Walsh and Jack Warren* to Ballymurn NS. We are very proud of how well they've adjusted to their new school environment.

A huge welcome also to our new pupils who have joined us from other schools. We are delighted to have *Sophie and Leah Wall Mulholland*. We also have some new members of staff to introduce to you. *Mr. Brian Murphy*, teaching 4th/5th Class, *Ms. Eileen Redmond*, teaching 1st/2nd and *Ms. Aileen Byrne*, part-time SET (special education teacher) from Galbally NS. I know you will join me in welcoming them into our school community.

Thank you to Anthony O'Gorman (Snr), for putting up the bollards at the entrance to our school, to further ensure the health and safety of all our children.

Child Protection - the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) in Ballymurn NS is Maria Brophy and the Deputy DLP is Niamh Lawlor. If you have any concerns regarding child protection, please contact either of these teachers.

It is a legal requirement that any parents who wish to be involved in school activities e.g. Rackard League, Soccer Blitz etc., must be garda vetted. If you would like to become involved and have not been vetted previously, please contact the school office for a form.

Split the Pot - Our 'Split the Pot' draw has now re-commenced. You can get your envelope from the school office, Peter Doyle's Shop or the Anvil Pub. The draw will take place fortnightly at the school. Each entry costs €2 and you can enter as many times as you like. The winner will be contacted by phone immediately after each draw. The jackpot amount and winner details will be posted on our website weekly. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support with regards to school fundraising. Congratulations to John Byrne who won €82 and Kayleigh Cullen who won €38. Our next draw shall take place on 4th October.

5 Aside Futsal Tournament

8 boys and girls from 3rd and 4th Class who play soccer with Ballymurn Celtic AFC will represent our school in the FAI Schools Futsal 5 Aside in St Joseph's Community Centre Wexford on Monday 23rd October. Letters with all the details have gone home with the children involved. Best of luck everyone 😊

Clothing Collection

Please see the attached flyer with all the details for our clothing collection fundraiser. Bags can be dropped to the school any day until Thursday 9th October. Please try and spread the word to your extended family, neighbours and friends, all donations are much appreciated. The school will receive €5 for every 10KG collected. We are aiming to collect a minimum of 150 bags.

Please note that the school shall close on **Wednesday 18th October 2017 at 12.30pm** to facilitate a staff meeting.

If you have changed your home address or contact numbers, please email Leanna with your new details (office@ballymurnns.ie)

Reminder of **no uniform** every Friday. This is absolutely voluntary but if children who wear their own clothes are asked to donate €1 each to the school. Thank you ☺

Le gach dea ghúí,

Maria Brophy
Principal

Dates / Upcoming Events:

🇮🇪 Staff Meeting - Wednesday 18th October. All children to go home at 12.30pm.

- ✚ Hallowe'en Hike - 27th October at 10am (weather permitting). Children are encouraged to dress in their Hallowe'en costumes on this date. **SPONSORSHIP cards have been sent home today with eldest child in each family.**
- ✚ School Mass to remember our deceased relatives and friends - Thursday 26th October at 11.30am
- ✚ Mid-Term Break - Monday 30th October - Friday 3rd November inclusive. School re-opens Monday 6th November at 9.20am.
- ✚ Sing Out Loud - 3rd and 4th Class - 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 - our annual fundraising event shall take place at 10am on Friday 27th October. We would ask that you support us in this fundraising effort. **All cards** must be returned to the school by 6th November **irrespective** of whether monies have been collected by your child. All the children are encouraged to dress up in their Hallowe'en costume on the day of the Hike.
- Healthy Eating - Reminder that the school operates a 'healthy eating policy'. Children are allowed a small treat on Friday's and we thank parents for their support in implementing this policy. Should you wish read this policy, please consult our website 'www.ballymurnns.ie'
- **Punctuality**- School starts at 9:20 am sharp. Pupils are expected to be in their class line at this time. Arriving late disrupts and distracts the other children and impacts on all the children's learning. It is the responsibilities of the parents/guardians to have their children arrive on time. Furthermore when collecting your child, please arrive on time as children can get upset and distressed if they are waiting.
- **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 ☺
- Sing Out Loud: Our school will again take part in "Sing Out Loud" in the Wexford Opera House on 18th November. Our 3rd and 4th Class children will be taking part. **Practice will take place every Wednesday from 3 - 4pm commencing 4th October.**

Sacramental Classes 2017/2018:

- 2nd Class shall make their First Confession on **Tuesday 20th February, 2018 at 7pm.**
- 5th/6th Class shall make their Confirmation on **Friday 2nd March, 2018 at 2pm.**
- 2nd Class shall celebrate their First Holy Communion on **Saturday 28th April, 2018 at 11am.**

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

Once again this year we are encouraging all our pupils to engage in this wonderful cause. Closing date for receipt of shoe boxes is 10th November, 2017. Leaflets shall be sent home when received by the school from the charity.

Reading Tips for Older Readers (7yrs - 12yrs)

1. Listen to your child reading

It's still really important that your child continues to **read aloud to you** daily as part of his/her homework and this may or may not be from levelled books, depending on how well their reading is coming along. The emphasis will be on reading fluently and with expression, understanding more complex plots and broadening their vocabulary as well as building an understanding of how punctuation and grammar are used. [Want to know more about levelled reading books?](#)

2. Use book talk

Continue to talk about reading in its widest sense (stories, favourite authors and illustrators, series, different types of books including poetry, plays, non-fiction and reference materials, comics and magazines). Join book clubs, public libraries and online forums to discover the wider reading community together.

3. Check understanding

Whatever your child is reading it's good to check that they are grasping the deeper levels of meaning (why things happen or how things work). Ask them to tell you about what they are reading, retell parts of the story, explain a specific section or make connections. Don't forget to explore words and vocabulary with your child too, using dictionaries in print or online.

And most importantly, continue to enjoy what you do together, give lots of encouragement and expand the reading experience to keep your child switched on. Don't forget - if they are reading something they are not enjoying, it's OK to read something else. Reading has really got to be a pleasant experience if you want your child to keep reading.

Ms Lawlor's Junior and Senior Infant Report ☺

What a busy month we've had settling back into school! Our new Junior Infants have settled in very well. They've been learning the new routines of school life such as lining up, putting rubbish in the correct bin, tidying up and lifting their chairs quietly! The Senior Infants have been showing them great example as they are now the oldest children in the class!

Our Aistear theme this month has been 'My family'. The children have been talking about their families a lot. In the home corner they've been busy pretending to be Mammy, Daddy brother or sister. They've been preparing meals, feeding the baby, ironing, fixing household things, setting the table, hanging clothes on the line and lots more!

In Maths, the Junior Infants have been matching and sorting objects. The Senior Infants have been revising their numbers 1-5. We picked some apples from our school garden trees and we are also looking forward to a classroom visit this week. We are lucky to be meeting a family pet, a puppy! I will post photos from time to time on Facebook to keep you all updated on our activities.

Ms. Redmond's 1st/2nd Class Report ☺

Here in the first and second class room we are all well settled back in to school after enjoying a lovely summer. This month we worked really hard and learned lots of interesting things. We learnt all

about the famous author Hans Christian Andersen and discussed some of the well-known fairy tales he wrote. We painted pictures of 'The Ugly Duckling'.

We are learning all about the human body and how we can keep our bodies healthy and fit. We are doing laps of the school each day for the past week, along with all the other classes, to help us keep active and healthy.

Ms. Pitt's 3rd/4th Class Report ☺

3rd and 4th Class have settled back into school very well. They have been working hard and are managing well with the step up to the new class level. We have been learning about Australia this month in class. We have learned about the states, cities, school system, animals, flag, physical features and much more. The children are now busily working on their individual projects which look great so far. I look forward to reading them and seeing the presentations in the coming weeks.

In 3rd Class maths we have been learning about time recently, we did lots of work with the clocks in class telling the analogue and digital times shown. Please continue to work on the topic of time; questioning your children about what time it is in both digital and analogue time whenever possible. We have also been learning about lines and angles in maths. We have been investigating parallel, horizontal and vertical lines. We did a maths trail searching for examples of the different types of lines in real life around the school.

Mr. Murphy's 4th/5th Class Report ☺

It's been a busy month for our class as we have gotten back into the routine of school. September has seen a great start to the year and we have done lots of interesting work already. This month we have been learning the counties of Ireland and where to find them on a map. Also, further afield we have been looking into at the Mysterious Maya in Central America.

In art, we have been creating using the theme of autumn, and particularly trees and leaves. We have also spent the past month debating as a class using our persuasive writing skills to promote our opinions on various topics. We have researched various topics this month using iPods on loan from the Wexford Education Centre, where the children have been working on various displays on plants and animals.

Mrs. Brophy's 5th/6th Class Report ☺

We have been super busy in the senior class this month and learning lots of new things. Our history focus was on 'The Tudors' and how the Reformation impacted on life in Ireland. The children enjoyed learning about Henry VIII and his many wives, Sir Francis Drake and Elizabeth I. In literacy we studied recount writing and the four stages of this genre - title, orientation, sequence of events and personal comment.

We learnt all the counties, rivers and mountains of Ireland in geography and conducted several science experiments investigating how heat works. We looked at conduction, convection and radiation of heat. Using metal, plastic and wood, we observed which was the best conductor of heat and catalogued our results.

Sa gaeilge, bhíomar ag foghlaim an téama 'Mé Féin'. 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.

Art - we have focused on 'fabric and fibre' strand this month. We made pompom and wool art using contact paper to design our pictures. We are currently learning how to crochet and sew, thanks to Trish Murphy and Anne Carlyle, who have volunteered to teach us these skills. We hope to learn how to sew a button or mend a hole in our clothes 😊

Sing Out Loud

The date for this year's Sing Out Loud has been confirmed. It will be on Saturday 18th November at 7pm. Our school choir (3rd and 4th Class) will be performing on the stage of the National Opera house with many other schools. It will be a night of great fun and music with many local acts performing also. Everyone will be welcome to come and hear them sing on the night. Tickets can be ordered through the office. Our school does not receive any funds for organising this event, but it is a wonderful experience for the children to take part in! Rehearsals for 3rd and 4th Class will begin next Wednesday 4th October from 3-4 pm.

Rackard League Update

Rackard League Boys/Mini 7s Boys - by Mr. Murphy

Boys from 5th and 6th Class competed in the 'Mini Sevens Football' competition in Barntown on September 25th. Winning both games against an always strong Barntown team and similarly tough Faythe team was a tremendous start to our campaign. We will find out who our next match will be against shortly.

It was a tough start for the boys in the Roinn A/B Rackard League. We started with a tough loss to Blackwater by 2-5 to 1-1. We have four more group games - Kilmore, Wexford CBS, Barntown and Castlebridge. The boys have put in a great effort so far and hopefully we will gain some confidence from the terrific performance in our mini sevens group. Thanks to all the parents for their time in driving the children to and from the game

Rackard League/Mini 7s Girls - by Ms. Pitt

The girls competed in the first round of the Mini 7s football last week in Murrintown National School. The girls played Murrintown National School first and had a great win. We then went on to play Boolavogue National School and the girls also won that match. They got some great scores and kept both teams scoreless. After winning both matches we then played Glynn National School and unfortunately Glynn beat us on this occasion with a score of 3-2 to 2-0. Hard luck girls, you played very well and put in a great performance. Unfortunately this ends our Mini 7s football for this year. The following girls were on the panel: Emer Barry, Tara Bishop, Rebecca Carlyle, Sophie Cummins, Róisín Flanagan, Amy Fortune, Emma Lawler, Holly Murray and Chloe Murphy.

The girls had their first Rackard League football match this week in which they got off to a great start to the league. The girls won against Kennedy Park National School in Ballymurn on Tuesday. They put in a great team performance and got some great scores. Our next match is this Thursday against the Faythe National School. We will have more group games in the coming weeks. Best of luck in your upcoming matches girls. Thank you to the parents for your continued support providing lifts to and from the matches, and cheering them on in their matches. Your support is much appreciated.

Active School Flag

Report by Ms. Pitt

This year we hope to take part in the 'Active School Flag' initiative. There are four components involved in the process: Physical Education, Physical Activity, Partnerships and Active Schools Week. Upon initial self-evaluation we will be focusing on improving these four areas within our school in the coming year. We will be developing a section on our school website which will document our work for the 'Active School Flag', please visit the website to see more information in the coming weeks.

This week as part of European Week of Sport all of the children in school are participating in a running initiative the 'Run Around Europe Challenge'. Eight laps around the school equals 1km. Each day this week; all of the children are running laps of the school with the aim to run at least 1km a day. The class teachers are recording the numbers of laps ran in total by their class each day and then convert it to kilometres.

We hope that by the end of the week we will reach a European capital city when we total the kilometres that the children have run throughout the week. London is 597km away; we hope to have run that distance or more by the end of the week. We are also going to participate in a 'Take on the Teachers Challenge' on Friday of this week. Some of the children will be taking on the teachers in an active challenge on Friday.

Spirituality and Personal Development

A message from Fr. Jim Finn

All those who have been involved with young people say that they are best prepared for life by paying attention to, and developing their spiritual, mental and physical components of life. This work is best achieved as parents, teachers and parish working together from infancy to adulthood with young people.

From a spiritual point of view this work commences for the young person at Baptism. From here they are assisted by parents and community.

In a practical way this means that:

1. A child experiences their faith in their home, in family life and in parish life.
2. Here they learn how to bless themselves, know their simple and first prayers at a very young age.
3. From there to have confidence and the ability to participate with other children when they start school, in ceremonies and religious discussions.

They are then well placed to reap the full benefit of the professionalism of their teachers over their primary school life. I look forward to working with parents and school in assisting each child to be well prepared so that they can get the best from their future life.

Fr. Jim Finn

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.

Parents Association AGM

We held our AGM on 20th September and the new committee is as follows.

- Chairperson - Lisa Devlin
- Treasurer - Trish Murphy
- Secretary - Sinéad Norris
- Parent Nominees to BOM - Dermot Berry and Sinéad Bishop
- Margaret Redmond
- Gail Kavanagh
- Robert Verscoyle
- Leanna Redmond
- Denise O'Connor
- Kathryn McDonald

SUPERVISION - Your Child's Safety on School Premises

Monday to Friday ----- 9.10am to 3.00pm

Infants (Junior & Senior) ----- 9.10am to 2.00pm

Outside of these times there is **no supervision** for children on the school premises.

Child Protection

The designated liaison person (DLP) for Ballymurn NS is Maria Brophy. The deputy designation liaison person (DDLp) is Niamh Lawlor. If you have a child protection concern, please discuss it with the DLP or DDLp.

Alternatively you can ring 053 94 21374 and ask to speak to a duty social worker.

Grievances

If any parent/guardian has a grievance they would like to raise with the school, please follow the procedures as laid out in our 'Communication Policy'. This policy is available to read on our website 'www.ballymurnns.ie'

In all cases we endeavour to deal with issues raised as promptly and fairly as possible. We will do our best to resolve any and every situation as far as is practicable.

Please note that if you have an issue regarding your child's education, the first port of call is their class teacher.