



BALLYMURN NEWS 27TH SEPTEMBER 2018



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 our 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: Junior Infants - *front row left to right: Anna Lawler, Oscar Lafferty, Amelia Doyle, Robbie Murphy, Zoe Sludds, Mikey Cummins. Back row left to right: Emily Murphy, Jessica Murphy, Rebecca Murphy, Leon Killeen, Holly Mulholland, Ruby Walsh, Dáithí Redmond and Sophie Sneyd* to Ballymurn NS. We are very proud of how well they've adjusted to their new school environment.



We also welcome four new boys to our school. They are twins Jack and Louie Bursey (1st Class), Noah Botha (3rd Class) and Joshua Botha (6th Class). They have also settled in well to our school and are proving to be a wonderful addition to our community. We are delighted to have them with us here in Ballymurn NS.

We also have some new members of staff to introduce to you. Ms. Aoife Morrissey is teaching our 5th Class this year. Ms. Morrissey, from Taghmon, has recently returned home from Australia. Ms. Claire Keane is 'job sharing' with us this year. She is joining us from Dungarvan and is working with Ms. Sheehan in our 'Special Education' department. I know that you will join me in welcoming them into our school community.

Thank you to Charlie Gordon, our amazing caretaker, for all his work in keeping our school looking fantastic over the summer holidays. Also, huge thanks to Carmel Flynn, who has ensured that we have all returned to a spotlessly clean and sparkling school ☺ Both Charlie and Carmel constantly give above and beyond to our school and we would be absolutely lost without them.

Breakfast Club/After School Club - parents wishing to enrol their child in either club should contact Paula on 087 6631288 or Caroline on 087 1231227. After school child care is provided up to 6.15pm daily.

Halloween Camp - shall run from Tuesday 30th October to Friday 2nd November inclusive. Further details are attached to this Newsletter and can be found on our FaceBook page also.

Clothing Collection - deadline for dropping of old clothes to the school is November 9th. Further details can be found on our FaceBook page.

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.

Policies: our Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policies have been reviewed and were ratified by the Board of Management on 25th September. These policies can be found on our school website. Parents are also reminded that if you have a concern/issue which you would like to raise with the school; you must make an appointment to speak to your child's teacher.

It is a legal requirement that any parents who wish to be involved in school activities e.g. Rackard League, Hurling 365 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. This also applies if you are giving a lift to another child to matches.

Please note that the school shall close on **Wednesday 17th October 2018 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. The Voluntary Contribution of €100 per family is due by 28th September. These monies can be paid in instalments. Please contact the office for more information. Thank you ☺

Le gach dea ghúí,

Maria Brophy
Principal

Dates / Upcoming Events:

- ✚ Tractor Run - Sunday 14th October from 11am.
- ✚ Staff Meeting - Wednesday 17th October. **All children to go home at 12.30pm.**
- ✚ Hallowe'en Hike - 26th 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 25th October at 11.30am
- ✚ Mid-Term Break - Monday 29th October - Friday 2nd November inclusive. School re-opens Monday 5th November at 9.20am.
- ✚ 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.
- ✚ 2nd Class First Confessions - 11th December at 7.30pm
- ✚ 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.

Parent Info Update

- Our first ever **Tractor Run** shall be held on Sunday 14th October. Sincere thanks to John Redmond and Martin Kearon for organising this event in aid of our school. We are really looking forward to a wonderful day and hope you will all come out to support us.
- Hallowe'en Hike - our annual fundraising event shall take place at 10am on Friday 26th October. We would ask that you support us in this fundraising effort. **All cards** must be returned to the school by 5th 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 to 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 22nd November. Our 3rd and 4th Class children will be taking part. **Practice will take place every Tuesday from 3 - 4pm commencing 2nd October.**

Sacramental Classes 2018/2019:

- 2nd Class shall make their First Confession on **Tuesday 11th December at 7.30pm.**
- 2nd Class shall celebrate their First Holy Communion on **Saturday 18th May, 2019 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 9th November, 2018. Leaflets have been sent home with your child today.

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 ☺

Our new Junior Infants have settled in to school life with ease! They are very busy learning our classroom promises and routines. The children are practising holding their pencils and making lots of marks and drawings on paper. In Aistear time our theme has been about our families and our homes. The children have been using the new language they've learned during their playtime. Our role-play area was transformed into the home corner where the children have been busy cooking dinners, ironing, matching socks and lots more! In Irish we are also learning the words that belong to the home e.g. caréid, prátaí, cistin, cuntar.

Ms. Ormonde's 1st/2nd Class Report ☺

We have had a fantastic start to the year in 1st and 2nd Class. We were all really excited to see our friends after the summer holidays. 1st Class have settled into their new classroom well and we also welcomed two new boys to our class, Jack and Louie.

This year we have started 'Aistear' in our class. This has proved a huge success with the children. This month we explored the theme of the estate agents where we bought and sold houses in our role play area. We made houses from cardboard, lollipop sticks and other pieces of junk art, we played with playdough, we played with Snow White's cottage and we made houses from Lego. We also learned lots about the different types of houses both in the past and nowadays. We even went on a Ballymurn walk to see what kind of houses there are in our own village.

The mobile library is back again this year and 1st Class really enjoyed taking books out for the first time. We have a new reading corner in our classroom where we have a tent and beanbag and we can enjoy some quiet time with a book. This area has proved popular with the children and it's great to see them reading so much. Keep up the great work!

Ms. Pitt's 3rd/4th Class Report ☺

We have had a busy start to the year, in which we've been learning lots of new things. We have been busy learning about 'Mé Féin' in Irish. The children have learned phrases to describe themselves and their families. We also learned the poem 'An tOchtapas' and the song 'Mo Bhreithlá'. In art we have also been doing some artwork based on the theme of myself. The children did some imaginative drawings of themselves as minions. We also did some 'falling back in space' portraits where the children traced around their hands and feet on a large sheet and drew the rest of their body within the picture as if they were falling into space.

In history we were learning about schools in the past. We discussed about how schools were heated differently, the different punishments and the different resources used in schools in the past. The children did a questionnaire with their grandparents or an older person in which they asked about that person's experience about school in the past. It was very interesting to learn about how school has changed so much over time.

In maths we were learning about time. We did lots of games and activities, practised setting different times on the clocks and practised doing digital and analogue time. Time is one of the more difficult topics in maths and I would encourage the children to practise telling the time at home whenever possible.

Ms. Morrissey's 5th Class Report ☺

In fifth class it has been a very busy start to the new school year. We have been busy reading lots of different narratives and writing stories of our own with a focus on adding SALT! (Similes, adjectives, lots of detail and transition words). The children love our new novel 'Wonder' which we are doing lots of work on!

In maths the pupils have been loving the number theory and exploring things like prime numbers, square and rectangular numbers. Children are also in the middle of project work based on the Renaissance period and an artist of their choice, which also inspired our beautiful artwork this month! The children loved experimenting with mirror writing just as Di Vinci used. It's been a busy few weeks in fifth class and Rackard League is also under way this week!

Mrs. Brophy's 6th Class Report ☺

Our 6th Class have been very busy this month settling back into school. In English we have begun reading our novel 'Wonder' by R.J. Palacio and we are studying the narrative writing genre. The children have written three narratives, which they drafted, edited and are now published. In Maths we have covered Data, Place Value and are moving onto Multiplication. The Victorians and life in the 19th Century has been our topic for History this month.

In SPHE, the children created their own 'Identity Shields' and we have been talking about showing kindness to each other. Printing has been our Art theme and the children have experimented designing their own pictures using materials such as elastic bands, wool and a variety of fruit and vegetables. Tomorrow we shall be printing using cotton wool buds.

Finally, we have been learning 'Mé Féin' sna ceachtanna Gaeilge. Bhí na páistí ag cleachtadh ag caint lena chéile faoi 'mé féin'...cad is ainm duit? Cén aois thú? Cé mhéad daoine i do theaghlach? srl. Tá siad ag foghlaim na briathra neamhrialta, ag déanamh filíocht 'An Fómhar', 'Táim Láidir' agus triail tuisceanna freisin. Tá siad ag obair go díon ☺

Sing Out Loud

The date for this year's Sing Out Loud has been confirmed. It will be on Tuesday 22nd November at 7.30pm. 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 on 2nd October from 3-4 pm.

Rackard League Update

Girls Rackard League and Mini 7s Football by Ms. Pitt:

We were delighted to see lots of interest from the girls in 5th and 6th Class at recent training for Rackard League football. We look forward to the upcoming matches and training sessions. We have three group games for Rackard League. We were due to play Rosslare in our first match; however, it had to be postponed due to bad weather. We will also be playing Lady's Island/Mayglass and Scoil Charman in the next couple of weeks. Mini 7s football will be commencing at the start of October. Best of luck in your upcoming matches girls and thank you to the parents for your continued support.

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.

Our school community recently suffered the tragic loss of one of our pupils, Tara Bishop. Tara was an exceptional young lady who always gave so much to everything she did and everyone she met. She was an amazing academic, an extremely talented artist and one of the most kind, generous, friendly and thoughtful people you could meet. Our thoughts and prayers are constantly with her parents, Peter and Martina, her sister Rachel, her brother Seán and all her family and friends. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam.

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 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 9.30am - 9.50am the school Staff Room.

Parents Association AGM

We shall hold our AGM on **Tuesday 2nd October** at **7.30pm** in the school. All parents/guardians of children in our school are automatically members of the Parents Association, the aim of which is to support the Board of Management and staff in the running of the school.

The AGM will include a brief synopsis of our activities for the recent academic year and also a report from the BOM. Attendance at the AGM is a good way to keep updated about what is going on in our school and to get involved if you should wish to do so. We hope to see you there.

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 (DDLDP) is Niamh Lawlor. If you have a child protection concern, please discuss it with the DLP or DDLDP.

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.