



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Spring is almost upon us and we at school are all looking forward to an enjoyable term. We have lots of exciting events in front of us, like Pancake Tuesday, St. Patrick's Day and of course Mother's Day. The children are working very hard in their classes and in particular at Gymnastics with their coaches Ken and Mikey. They are learning how to do very creative moves such as 'crab', handstands, 'dish' and even a group routine in the senior classes.

**Fun Run - last Sunday** saw Team Temple Street go up against Team School for the now annual Ballymurn 5k Fun Run. This year our 'fun run' was particularly special to all of us here in Ballymurn as it was held in memory of our friend Tara Bishop who would have celebrated her 13<sup>th</sup> birthday today. Thank you to Tara's parents, Peter and Martina and her siblings, Rachel and Seán, for supporting this event and allowing us to honour Tara's memory in this small way.

Huge thanks must also go to Bobby Redmond and his family for all their hard work in organising such an amazing event. Sincere thanks also to KDK who sponsored the event and to all of you who came out in support and made it all possible. It was a fantastic day and we hope that everyone enjoyed themselves. The event raised €6,435 to be split 50/50 between our school and Temple Street Children's Hospital 😊

**Craft Fair:** our Christmas Craft Fair was another amazing success. We raised €3,000 and were sponsored 2:1 by a very generous benefactor, who gave us €6,000 towards our school funds. Thank you all for your support on the day and for always helping us.

**Photos:** On 14<sup>th</sup> February, a photographer shall come to the school. He shall take pictures of Junior Infants and 6<sup>th</sup> Class, both individually and with their siblings. You will receive a sample home within two weeks of the photos being taken along with an order form. If your child/children are in any other class in the school and you would like their picture taken please contact the office before 7<sup>th</sup> February. There is **no obligation** on parents to purchase these photographs.

**Non Uniform Day:** Friday is an optional non uniform day for the pupils. If children wish to come to school with no uniform **they must bring €1**. The funds from non-uniform day are used to subsidise the running costs of the school.

**PRE-SCHOOL 2019** - we are delighted to announce the opening of 'Bloomfield Pre-School' in September 2019. The pre-school will be situated in our school and is open to any child who is 3 years old on or by 1<sup>st</sup> September. The children shall be taught the full ECCE curriculum, including 'Aistear' and 'Síolta'. An information morning shall be held after the mid-term break in February. Details of the date and time shall issue shortly. For further information, please call Paula on 087-6631288 or Caroline on 087-1231227 or email [bloomfieldbaypreschool@gmail.com](mailto:bloomfieldbaypreschool@gmail.com)

**ENROLMENT 2019** - We are now taking enrolments for all classes for September 2019. If you or someone you know has a child to enrol for this coming school year, please contact the office for an enrolment form. All children enrolling for Junior Infants must be **4 years of age by 28<sup>th</sup> February**

in the year of enrolment. We shall be holding an 'Information Night' for **all** parents on **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May** at 7.30pm. Any parent considering sending their child to our school in September 2019 is invited to attend. This is a parent only event. We are also taking names of children who will be joining us in September 2020 and 2021.

**Hurling 365** started back this month after the winter break with the children all out with their new hurls and helmets. The children are progressing very well and thanks to all the parents and staff who have volunteered their time for this term.

**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 ☺

**Attendance** - school attendance rates for December 2018 were 94.8%. As always, I encourage you as parents to try and have your child attend school as much as possible. We are approaching our 100<sup>th</sup> day of school for the current academic year. This day falls on 5th February. Any child who has not been absent from school since 29<sup>th</sup> August shall receive a certificate. For your information there are 183 school days in every academic year.

**Reminder on Healthy Lunches** - the treat, which you give your child(ren) on Fridays is to consist of **one** small item only.

Le gach dea ghuí,

**Maria Brophy**  
**Principal**

#### Dates / Upcoming Events:

- ✚ St. Brigid's Day - 1<sup>st</sup> February
- ✚ St. Blaise Day - 3rd February
- ✚ MIST - Senior Infants testing - Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February.
- ✚ Mid-Term Break 18<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> February inclusive - school closed on these days
- ✚ St. Patrick's Holiday 18<sup>th</sup> March - school closed
- ✚ School Closure at 12.30pm on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March for all pupils to facilitate staff meeting.
- ✚ Easter Holidays - 15<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> April inclusive. School shall close at 12pm for all children on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April and re-opens on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April at 9.20am.
- ✚ May Bank Holiday: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May. School closed.
- ✚ Oral Language Staff Training Day - Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May. School closed.
- ✚ 'Open Night' for new/prospective parents - Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm in the school.
- ✚ First Holy Communion - Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May at 11am
- ✚ June Bank Holiday weekend - May 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> June inclusive. School closed on these days and re-opens on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>.

## Parent Info Update

**Homework** - parents are reminded that 'Homework Journals' are to be signed daily upon completion of your child's work. It is **imperative** that you listen to your child read every day from their 'Oxford

Reader' in order to improve their reading and comprehension level. This reading is considered to be a vital part of their homework. Children from 2<sup>nd</sup> class upwards should be revising their 'Maths Tables' nightly also. Parents of children who are attending 'Homework Club' must also hear their child's reading, spellings and tables daily.

#### **Report from Ms. Lawlor's Junior and Senior Infants**

This month the children have been learning all about people who help us in our community. Our role-play area was transformed into a Garda Station. The children went out in their garda car, arrested criminals, drew wanted posters, took fingerprints and filled in incident reports. The highlight of the month was definitely when a real garda came to visit us in our classroom. The children learned a lot about his job from him. I'd say there are a good few children in the class who would now like to be a garda when they grow up! For our Aistear theme next month we will be off to explore the Rainforest!

The children were delighted to have many of their grandparents in to visit our classroom after mass on Grandparents' Day. It is such a special day for them and they love to show their grandparents all their work up on the wall.

Gymnastics is going very well. The children are doing lots of activities to build their core strength. I will post some photos of these lessons on Facebook soon.

#### **Report from Ms. Ormonde's 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Class**

January has been one of our most exciting months in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class so far this year. Our Aistear theme this month was 'The Arctic.' We really loved learning about The Arctic, it was so interesting. We learned about the Inuit people who live in The Arctic, the different countries that are part of The Arctic and of course the animals who live there.

In English we were doing report writing. First, we used the iPads to research different animals and then we used these facts to create a report. You can see our reports on the Snowy Owl on display in the classroom.

In maths we were covering the topic 'length.' We were estimating whether objects would be around a meter, taller than a meter or shorter than a meter and then we did some measuring to compare our answers. We are getting so good at our doubles and near doubles and love our daily game 'around the world.'

Show and tell is also going great in our classroom. We have loved brining in our favourite objects to the classroom and showing them to our class. In SPHE we have started the Stay Safe programme and we talked about the different types of feelings we can have.

#### **Report from Ms. Pitt's 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Class**

This month in geography we have been learning about a European country which is Italy. We learned about the capital city, many famous landmarks, popular Italian foods and many other facts about the country. The children have been eagerly working on their projects about Italy in their scrapbooks.

They used information they learned in class, information books and the internet to research information for their projects. They are going to present their projects to their class to share what they have learned.

In history we were learning about a time long ago which was the Stone Age era. We learned about how they farmed, what clothes they wore, the houses they lived in and what they ate. We also learned about the cave paintings and decorative jewellery they wore.

In science we learned about different states of matters that materials can be. We particularly focused on water and its changing states. We learned about how it can exist as a solid, liquid or gas. We discussed how it changes from one form to another.

#### **Report from Ms. Morrissey's 5<sup>th</sup> Class**

This has been an extremely busy month with loads of interesting learning happening across the different subject areas. In English, we have been getting started on our new novel, *Goodnight Mister Tom* and doing lots of letter writing, poetry, drama and art ideas based on this. Children have been busy with project work which is also linked to the context of the novel, 'The Battle of Britain' during World War 2 being the focus.

In Maths the children have been working hard learning long division strategies and all things decimal. Keep up the good work everyone.

In Irish we have been looking at the topic of clothes and children's own personal style. The children have been using a lot of vocabulary to describe different costumes and outfits, even superhero and clown costumes. We also took part in a fashion show which helped children to use all their new language and phrases.

In Art children have been responding to some very descriptive war poems, creating masterpieces once again. Secondly, children have been working on construction techniques, creating small model Anderson bomb shelters just like during World War 2. We hope to add the finishing touches to them later this week, but they are really starting to take shape.

In SESE, we have been busy investigating in Science doing a range of experiments. This involved lots of predicting, discussion, investigating and sharing our findings.

In drama the children have gone back in time as war evacuees, taking on characters and also developing a small group drama based on a range of war images.

We have fit a lot of learning into this month and hopefully this work ethic will continue into the coming months.

#### **Report from Mrs. Brophy's 6<sup>th</sup> Class**

It has been a busy start to 2019 in our class. In English we have begun our WW2 novel 'Goodnight Mr. Tom' and the children have been learning about the lives of evacuated children during this time in history. We have also been studying recount genre in our writing. In maths we spent the month learning about percentages. We focused on VAT, profit and loss and PCP. The children learnt about interest and how much goods can cost when bought over an extended period of time.

In history, we studied The Renaissance period and looked at famous people like Leonardo Da Vinci, Michelangelo and Shakespeare. Electricity was our theme for science and the children had the opportunity to make their own 'circuits' and light bulbs. They also examined 'static electricity'. I am looking forward to reading their 'Electric' projects next month.

Gaeilge - an téama a bhí againn 'Ar Scoil' (at school). D'fhoghlaim na páistí faoi scoileanna fadó agus inniú. Is féidir leo bheith ag caint faoi a laethanta scoile agus rinne siad a lán obair ar na mbriathra rialta freisin.

Gymnastics has been going very well in 6<sup>th</sup> Class also. Next week we shall be practising our routines in groups to perform for our class at the final session on 12<sup>th</sup> February. The children have all proven to be extremely flexible and agile in their gymnastic abilities.

## Parents Association News

**Grandparents Mass** - thank you to Sarah Usher, Niamh King and Brigid Cummins who gave up their morning to serve our grandparents their lovely tea/coffee. Events like this only work and become successful due to the help of our fantastic volunteers.

**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.

The Parents Committee shall be collecting monies for 30 weeks. Parents may lodge money to their account weekly on Fridays from 9.20am - 10am in the school Staff Room. A receipt shall be issued when you make a lodgement. Please note that **no withdrawals** are allowed.

The monies saved shall be issued as a cash payment to parents in May/June. Parents are still encouraged to join our Book Savings Scheme. It is never too late to start saving. Thank you ☺

### 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.