



## BALLYMURN NEWS 2<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2019



As we look forward to the May Bank Holiday weekend and hopefully the beginning of a wonderfully warm summer, we have lots of exciting and informative news for you in this month's publication.

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Class are busy preparing for their First Holy Communion under the guidance of their teacher Ms. Ormonde and their parents. We wish them all the best for their big day and will keep them all in our thoughts and prayers. Thank you also to 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Class and our choir mistress, Ms. Pitt, for all their hard work in preparing the hymns which will be performed at the First Holy Communion.

I realise that the beginning of the next school year is still some months away, but for those of you planning a family holiday, school shall re-open, after the summer break, on **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September** at 9.20am for all children. Our full calendar shall be issued with our next Newsletter and will also be on the school website. The school office shall be open from 9am on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August.

**Booklists** shall issue shortly. We shall be operating the book rental scheme again this year with a cost of **€80 per child** to include rented books, workbooks, school journal which the children will own and the annual fee for photocopying, arts and crafts.

This year parents will again have the option of purchasing a Classroom Essentials pack from the school which would include all pens, pencils, twistables, copies, folders, hardbacks etc. that will be listed on your child's book list. The price for these will be slightly cheaper than it would cost you to buy them in the shops. The Classrooms Essentials pack prices are as follows:

✚ Junior Infants €18	Senior Infants €19	
✚ 1 <sup>st</sup> Class €24	2 <sup>nd</sup> Class €28	3 <sup>rd</sup> Class €32
✚ 4 <sup>th</sup> Class €35	5 <sup>th</sup> Class €35	6 <sup>th</sup> Class €35

**Payment for Booklists and Classroom Essentials packs will be due into the office on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June.**

Your child's mainstream class teacher for the coming academic year shall be published, if possible, in our next Newsletter on 30<sup>th</sup> May. As per our split class policy the final decision of the allocation of pupils to a particular class remains the **discretion of the Principal Teacher**. Reminder that our school only has an allocation of 5 mainstream classroom teachers and 1 SET (special education teacher) post sanctioned by the DES.

The class breakdown shall be as follows for 2019/2020:

- ✚ Junior/Senior Infants
- ✚ 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Class
- ✚ 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Class
- ✚ 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Class
- ✚ 6<sup>th</sup> Class

### School Tours 2019:

1. 1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Class

**Date** - Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June

**Venue** - WIT Arena Waterford

**Cost** €28

2. Junior/Senior Infants

**Date** - Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June

**Venue** - Bricks for Kidz & Playzone Wexford

**Cost** €23

As a result of all your support for our recent Easter Raffle, the Parents Association is once again able to subsidise the costs of our school tours by €500. Thank you very much for all your support. A letter with further details shall issue closer to the tour date.

**Punctuality** - please note that all children should be at school for 9.20am and walk into class with their line from the yard. It is disruptive for your child, their classmates and teacher if they are late for school.

**Attendance** - rate for March was 97% and April was 94%.

Is mise le meas,

**Maria Brophy**  
**Principal**

### Dates / Upcoming Events:

- ✚ May Bank Holiday: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May. School closed.
- ✚ Oral Language Staff Training Day - Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May. School closed.
- ✚ DPRT - standardised English testing - Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May (1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Class)
- ✚ DPMT- standardised Maths testing - Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May (1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Class)
- ✚ DPRT Gaeilge - standardised Irish testing - Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May (2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Class)
- ✚ First Holy Communion - Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May at 11am
- ✚ Staff Meeting - Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May. School closes at 12.30pm for all children.
- ✚ 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> June.
- ✚ School reports shall issue to parents on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June
- ✚ Sports Day - Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June
- ✚ 6<sup>th</sup> Class Graduation Service - Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm
- ✚ End of year school Mass - Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June at 11.30am
- ✚ Summer holidays - Friday June 28<sup>th</sup>. School closes at 12pm for all children.

## Parent Info Update

**RSE** (Relationships & Sexuality Education) - these lessons shall commence throughout the school this month. Parents may download a copy of the school's RSE Policy from our website 'www.ballymurnns.ie'. Letters have issued to all parents with further information on these lessons.

**Summer Uniform** - hopefully this year we will have fabulous summer weather ☺ and in this event, children may wear their P.E. polo shirt with either **navy** or **black shorts** to school on the warm, sunny days.

## Community Games

Well done to Oisín O'Connor who was a finalist in the recent Community Games handwriting competition.

**Online Safety:** our 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Class had a visit from Garda Sharon Dempsey from Enniscorthy station on 8<sup>th</sup> April. Garda Dempsey spoke to the children about online safety and cyber bullying. She began by asking the children what social media sites were they using. Here are the answers she received:

- 📱 House Party
- 📱 Snapchat
- 📱 Instagram
- 📱 Twitch
- 📱 TikTok

She then spoke to the children about being aware of fake profiles which they may come across when gaming online. The topic of 'closed conversation - vanishing' also came up. The children were taught that all correspondence they do via social media platforms is owned by the company in question. There is nothing private online.

Garda Dempsey informed the children that the age of criminal responsibility in Ireland is 11 years. Should a child be accused of a crime e.g. bullying (cyber), assault, driving unlicensed or graffiti, then he/she can be arrested and charged.

The children learnt about the role of the JLO (Juvenile Liaison Officer) and Juvenile Caution. There is a children's court that sits in Gorey and Wexford weekly to deal with anyone less than 18 years of age.

Finally Garda Dempsey reminded the children about their responsibilities when online, being a good online citizen and she advised that every family should have a contract about acceptable internet use. Parents can access further information on this at [www.safekids.com](http://www.safekids.com)

## Ms. Lawlor's Junior/Senior Infant Class Report

We continued with the same theme for April, spring and the farm. The children learned about the lifecycle of a chicken. We continue to watch out tomato plants grow on our window sill and we're looking forward to eating a few ripe tomatoes before the summer holidays!

For an art lesson the children made lovely bright sunflowers to brighten up our hallway. They are beautiful. We also read the story *Camille and the Sunflowers*, which tells the story of the artist Vincent Van Gogh.

In Irish we learned about the farm and Easter and the children really enjoyed our Easter egg hunt on the last day. During the month of May we will be learning about different types of transport with a focus on the airport.

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

First and Second Class have been continuing with the 'Incredible Edibles' programme this month. Previously we looked at the Bord Bia mark on the different fruits and vegetables in our local communities.

After this, with the help of Charlie, we started to grow some of our own potatoes and strawberries. We are looking forward to watching them grow. Another task with the incredible edibles programme was to create our own recipe and make it. Each Aistear group came up with a recipe and we had lots of fun making ice-cream Sundays and smoothies before we left for our Easter holidays.

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

In science this month we were learning about magnetism. We had great fun predicting our results of our experiments and testing our theories. We ensured to make each experiment a fair test by ensuring that we had one variable. We did lots of investigations about magnets in class. We discovered what items around the classroom were magnetic and which were non-magnetic by testing them with the magnets.

Then we tested which magnet was the strongest magnet by using a variety of magnets and checking the distance from which it would attract the paper clip. We discovered that the large horseshoe magnet was the strongest magnet. We also did some investigating to see what materials the magnet could work through. We tested it through paper, copies, books, the desk, and glass in the door, bottles and other materials. We also learned about the north and south poles of the magnet and how they repel and attract.

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

It has been a very short and busy month for us this April in the run up to Easter Holidays! In maths, we have been learning a lot about decimals, percentages and fractions and how to convert them from one form to another. We have also been practising multiplying of decimal numbers.

In English we have been exploring the explanation writing genre! For Religion we have discussed and reflected on the events of Holy Week in the run up to Easter Sunday. Children sequenced and drew their comic 'Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus'. Fifth class have also been busy doing buddy reading the last number of weeks also with a buddy from 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class. This has been a great success so far!

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

April was a short teaching month, but the senior class still covered a lot of topics. This week we began to read our 3<sup>rd</sup> novel this year, 'Knights of the Borrowed Dark' by Dublin author Dave Rudden. It is very early days but so far the children seem to be enjoying it.

In maths we are beginning to revise some of the more challenging topics i.e. fractions, percentages and decimals. Our history theme for this month has been the American Civil War. The children have been learning about the issues between Yankees and Confederates. They have read about the slave trade, plantation life and some of the famous battles and people of the Civil War. They shall now work on their final project in primary school based on this history topic.

Gaeilge - as always we are working very hard on our Irish language skills. Táimid ag foghlaim an téama 'Aimsir (weather)'. We have been putting a lot of work into learning our grammar also. Our focus has been on the 'briathra rialta' (regular verbs) across the three tenses (Aimsir Caite - Past Tense), (Aimsir Láithreach - Present Tense) and (Aimsir Fháistineach - Future Tense).

SPHE - we had a visit from Garda Sharon Dempsey of Enniscorthy Station who spoke with 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class about cyber bullying and internet safety. Her talk with the children threw up some interesting topics:

# Sports Results

## Camogie

The girls played another group game against Rosslare in Ballymurn. They had a great win against Rosslare. They showed great team work and scored excellent points and goals. That then resulted in the girls getting through to the district final. They again had to play Kilmore. The district final was played in St. Martin's pitch on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. The girls played extremely well as a team and showed such improvement since the first time we played Kilmore. It was a very close match and we were ahead at half time. Unfortunately, Kilmore got a few more scores than us in the second half and went on to win by a goal. Well done girls on the standard of play in the final, it was such a close match with only a score between the two teams when the final whistle blew. We are very proud of how you played and progressed throughout the league this year.

The girls were a pleasure to coach this year, always polite and eager to try their best. Unfortunately that ends Rackard League Camogie for us this year. Thank you to the parents for your support and lifts to matches and training. 6<sup>th</sup> Class girls, well done on your participation over the years and please keep up GAA in secondary school. 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Class girls keep practising for next year's matches. The following girls were on the Rackard League panel this year: Amy Fortune, Sophie Cummins, Jennifer Réamonn, Keelin Doyle, Kayleigh Cullen, Ellie Dempsey, Lucy Sludds, Briann Carlyle, Lucy Bishop and Keira Carroll.

## Hurling

The Rackard League Hurling was a fantastic standard this year. We beat Our Lady's Island in a very close contest and unfortunately were beaten by Kilmore, Rosslare and Taghmon. There was very little between all three games and the boys were unlucky not to progress further based on the talent on the squad. The students who represented the team were: Seán Hennessy, Jack Redmond, Ryan Doyle, Josh Botha, Evan O'Leary, Darragh Lawlor, Padraig Byrne, Oisín Copeland, Marc O'Leary and Thomas Sneyd. Well done to all involved!

## Lunchtime Hurling League

This year we are continuing with our 7 a side lunchtime league where all children interested from 1<sup>st</sup> Class - 6<sup>th</sup> Class can take part. The pitch is split into 3 sections so the younger children can mark each other while also playing with older players. We have 7 counties involved. All children should have received a fixture schedule. There is a 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class pupil as captain and manager of each team.

As well as this, pupils from 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> referee and umpire the games also. At the end of the league, the top 2 teams will reach the final. We will have a big lunchtime grand final on this day and the winning team will receive a cup and medals. Please encourage your child to practise their hurling every day ☺

# Parents Association News

If any parent is available to volunteer to help with the refreshments after the First Holy Communion Mass on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May, please contact any member of the P.A. We are dependent on voluntary donations of both food and people's time in order to continue the tradition of holding a 'Communion Celebration' after the Mass for the children and their families in 2<sup>nd</sup> Class.

Donations of:

- Sandwiches
- Cakes/Buns

may be left into the Parish Hall from 10am on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May.

**SUPERVISION - Your Child's Safety on School Premises**

Monday to Friday ----- 9.10am to 3.10pm

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

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