



BALLYMURN NEWS 27TH JUNE 2019



Dear Parents/Guardians,

'We're all going on our summer holidays!' after a very busy and exciting year here at Ballymurn NS. On behalf of the BOM of Ballymurn NS, I wish to extend thanks and gratitude to our fantastic teaching staff. Each teacher consistently shows dedication, commitment and great interest in all our pupils and their families. They go above and beyond at all times and this is very much appreciated by me as their Principal. I wish each of them a relaxing and enjoyable summer holiday.

School Tours - all our children had very exciting school tours this year. Our 1st to 6th Class went to 'WIT Sports Arena' in Waterford and 5th/6th Class cycled part of the 'Greenway'. Our junior and senior infants went to 'Bricks for Kidz' and 'Playzone' in Wexford. They all had a wonderful time and I was absolutely delighted to accept several compliments from the various tour guides and bus drivers on the behaviour of the Ballymurn pupils.

Well done to everyone, we are extremely proud of you all! It is fantastic for us teachers to know that we can bring the children anywhere and be able to trust them when outside of 'normal' school. Thank you all very much.

Sports Day - was held yesterday and great fun was had by all. Well done to everyone who participated in our fun day ☺ I would in particular to thank Ms. Pitt for all her work in organising and running the events on the day. As always we would be lost without our fantastic Parents Association Committee. Huge thanks to all members who organised and ran the BBQ, giving up their own personal time to help our school.

Summer Office Hours - the office shall be open from Monday 1st to Friday 5th July inclusive from 10am to 2pm. The office shall re-open after the summer break at 9am on Monday 26th August.

Attendance - school attendance rates for June were 92%. As always, I encourage you as parents to try and have your child attend school as much as possible. Reminder that school starts at 9.20am **sharp!** Please have your child in school on time daily.

Staffing - we say goodbye to Ms. Morrissey and thank her for all her work this year with 5th Class. We wish her all the best for her future career and hope to work with her again sometime.

Congratulations to the following children who have not missed any days from school during the 2018/2019 academic school year:

✚ Cillian Byrne, Padraig Byrne, Amber O'Connor, Róisín Farrell, Amélia Kavanagh, Jamie Keogh, Robbie Murphy, Anna Lawler and Rónan Devlin

On a personal level this is my last Newsletter as Principal Teacher of Ballymurn NS. I would like to thank you all for your support and friendship over the past 11 years. I look forward to many more wonderful years to come in our fantastic school. Interviews for the appointment of the new principal shall take place next week. You will be advised via text message who the successful candidate is once the process has been completed.

On behalf of all the teachers, staff and Board of Management, I wish you all a very happy summer. We shall see you all again on Monday 2nd September ☺

Maria Brophy, Principal

Dates/Upcoming Events:

- ✚ School re-opens for all children (Senior Infants - 6th Class) on Monday 2nd September at 9.20am.
- ✚ Incoming Junior Infants shall commence school on Monday 2nd September at 10am.
- ✚ Our school calendar for 2019/2020 is now available on our school website 'www.ballymurnns.ie'
- ✚ New School Year Mass - Thursday 26th September at 11.30am
- ✚ October mid-term break - school shall be closed from Monday 29th October to Friday 2nd November inclusive
- ✚ Parent/Teacher Meetings - Tuesday 26th November. Time 3pm - 5.45pm.

Parent Info Update

Graduation 2019: 'So long, farewell, auf wiedersehn, goodbye' and of course slán and congratulations to our 6th Class pupils who celebrated their graduation from primary school last night. They had a lovely service. We said 'goodbye' to several of our families also as they have finished with primary school. These were the families of: Zara Evans, Emma Fanning, Róisín Flanagan, Seán Hennessy, Jamie Kehoe, Ella O'Brien, Evan O'Leary, Amy O'Toole, Jennifer Réamonn, Rachel Whelan and Hannah Whitty.

Sacramental Classes 2019/2020: Our 2nd Class children shall celebrate their First Holy Communion on Saturday 16th May, 2020 at 11am. Ms. Ormonde shall confirm the date for First Confession following consultation with Fr. Finn in September. Further details shall issue from Ms. Ormonde throughout the new school year.

Our 5th/6th Class children shall celebrate their Sacrament of Confirmation on Tuesday 3rd March, 2020 at 11am. Further details shall issue from Mrs. Brophy throughout the new school year.

Copies: if your child has unused/half used copies left over from this school year, please recycle them for the coming school year. Just write their new class/teacher name on the copy and send them back in with them in September.

Standardised Tests - English and Mathematics

Results - our results in both Literacy and Numeracy are rising yearly, with the majority of our children attaining at or above national norms e.g.

✚ Literacy:

- **43%** of our children who were tested attained between Sten 5-6
 - National average is 34%
- **14%** of our children who were tested attained Sten 7
 - National average is 16%
- **16%** of our children who were tested attained between Sten 8-10.
 - National average is 16%.

Numeracy -

- 40% of our children who were tested attained between Sten 5-6
 - National average is 34%
- 20% of our children who were tested attained Sten 7
 - National average is 16%
- 22% of our children who were tested attained between Sten 8-10.
 - National average is 16%.

Gaeilge/Irish

- 34% of our children who were tested attained between Sten 5-6
 - National average is 34%
- 20% of our children who were tested attained Sten 7
 - National average is 16%
- 34% of our children who were tested attained between Sten 8-10.
 - National average is 16%.

The excellent results being achieved by our pupils in Literacy and Numeracy is testimony to the quality of teaching and learning happening in our school alongside the continued support by you the parent.

Ms Lawlor's Infants News Report

Our theme for June was summer/beach. Our role-play area became a beautiful beach. The children learned about the natural features of the beach and about all the different things they might see or do at the beach. They learned about water safety too and they spoke to a lifeguard about staying safe at the pool and the seaside. In the role-play area the children practised writing postcards, using money at the beach shop, fishing for tricky words, cooking on the barbeque and patrolling the beach as a lifeguard.

We are delighted to have tomatoes growing on the vines in our classroom. Only one red at the moment so fingers crossed we'll have some more by the end of the week!! The Junior Infants enjoyed some of The Lighthouse Keeper stories and during art time the children constructed and painted their own lighthouses!

I would like to thank you all your continued support during the year. Have a wonderful summer ☺

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

June is always a fun month in school and it didn't disappoint this year. Our Aistear theme this month was 'under the sea.' This was a fantastic theme and the kids enjoyed being marine biologists for the month. They found lots of sea animals while diving and then researched them to find out more about them. We saw an octopus, jellyfish, crab and even a shark!

We went on our school tour this month as well and the pupils really loved it. They had so much fun and some of the kids favourite part of the tour included playing rounders, racing in donkey derby and most of all racing the teachers on the giant bouncy obstacle course!

We spent some time reflecting on a great year by choosing our favourite Aistear theme and station. We also wrote down some hopes we have for the next school year as we move up into 2nd Class and 3rd Class.

This class have been an absolute pleasure all year and I look forward to working with 1st and 2nd Class again next year. 😊

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

We had another busy month with lots of different activities. In English we have been finishing our novel 'Mr Stink' by David Walliams. The children have thoroughly enjoyed the novel and engaged very well with written and drama activities based on it. The children have been presenting their projects about China to the class. The children got to learn lots of new facts included in the different projects.

We had a great day out for our school tour on June 11th in WIT Arena. The children were led by their two instructors and got to do lots of activities such as inflatable obstacle courses, human table football, rounders, soccer and donkey derby. It was full of fun and activity throughout the day. There were some very tired children in class the next day!

Ms. Morrissey's 5th Class News Report

We can't believe June is coming to a close already! What a quick year! It has been an action packed few weeks between school tours and Active Week. 5th Class had an amazing day out cycling the Greenway and doing lots of fun activities throughout the day at W.I.T Arena. A great day was had by all.

Last week we marked Active Schools Week which saw a huge variety of events being held each day from active travel, to martial arts class, wake up and shake up, a walk of the village, a whole school dance performance and lots more.

Pupils are busy finishing off their Titanic replicas in art this week, using lots of recyclable materials from around the home. They are looking great and we are all looking forward to seeing the final products. We are almost finished our novel Spirit of the Titanic which was the stimulus behind the art project. Children were also very busy constructing 3D shapes from their nets and also using toothpicks and blue tac. Some shapes proved to be more challenging than others!

It has been a busy year and I want to say a big well done to everyone in 5th Class for all their hard work and positive attitudes throughout. I wish you all a very safe and enjoyable break.

Mrs. Brophy's 5th/6th Class News Report

English - we finished our novel 'Knights of the Borrowed Dark' by Dave Rudden. It was a very different genre for us after our previous novels 'Wonder' and 'Goodnight Mr. Tom'. We also wrote our memories of our time in primary school and reflected on what graduation means to us.

Maths - we learnt about 'sets', 'Venn Diagrams' and 'Co-Ordinates' as we wrapped up our lessons in this subject. The children are well prepared as they move forward to 1st Year.

Gaeilge - we completed our standardised testing in both listening and reading. Scores were positively high in comparison to national norms. We also finished off the last few parts of the curriculum.

We had our school tour to Waterford, Sports Day and of course 6th Class Graduation Service. We said 'goodbye' to our 18 children in 6th Class. We wish them all the best for the future and thank them for their support to our school over the past 8 years.

Active Schools Week

Report by Ms. Pitt

We held our 'Active Schools Week' in school this month too from June 17th-21st. We had an action packed week for this. Each day we began with 'Wake Up and Shake Up' exercises for ten minutes. We also did a running challenge every day to see how far the children could run in the week. The children recorded their number of laps around the field each day with the aim to run the equivalent distance to places around Wexford.

We did 'Drop Everything and Dance' in which we learned two dances 'School is Cool' and 'Rock Around the Clock'. We then performed the dance as a whole school on Friday. For homework we decided on active homework instead of regular homework throughout the week. We also recorded how we travelled to school each day and encouraged the children to come to school in an active way.

At lunchtime the children got to use the P.E equipment such as skipping ropes, hoops and hurdles. On Monday we had a penalty shootout with our class, then two children from each class got through to the final. We all spectated at the final, which was very closely contested. Harrison Kavanagh was the eventual winner! Well done Harrison!

On Tuesday we had a poc fada and cic fada competition within our classes. Then later that day we had a 6th Class vs staff dodgeball match. It was very closely fought, 6th Class barely edged out as winners! On Wednesday Bobby O'Neill came to do a martial arts taster session with 3rd-5th Class. The children got to learn a bit of the various types of martial arts. Then we did our 'Walk with a Smile' together as a school around Ballymurn.

On Thursday we had our final of the lunchtime league, we all got to cheer on the two teams in the final. Thank you to Joe Kelly for coming in to referee the final. We also did some freeplay with our P.E equipment. Finally on Friday we did our dances together with the whole school and made a human 'ASW' for Active Schools Week. We also had a power hour with different stations of activities set up such as unihoc, basketball, soccer, skipping, obstacle course and dodgeball. Thanks to all the teachers and students for your participation in Active Schools Week ☺

Parents Association News

We would like to **thank** everyone who has helped out over the last year and every family that has supported our events. Without your support we would not be able to host the things we do. The Parents Association have used these funds to host the children's Christmas party, BBQ and lots more.

Every year we are always looking for more members to join the Parents Association in particular this year as we are still short of members. Ideally we would like a Parent representing each class. We will be having our **AGM** in September but if you wish to express your interest in joining the committee beforehand you can send us a message on Facebook "Ballymurn NS Parents Association".

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 2020. The Parents Committee shall be collecting monies for 30 weeks, commencing the second Friday in

September. 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 refunded to each participant next May/June to pay for your child(ren) book rental charge.

Thank you to the following parents in particular who helped at our Sports Day BBQ: *Leanna Redmond, Bobby Redmond, Sinéad Norris, Mag Redmond, Gail Kavanagh, Deirdre Fortune, Heidi Balashova, Clodagh Botha and Vinnie Quirke.*

The BBQ raised €679 ☺ The PA now have a healthy balance of €950, after purchasing a new BBQ, going into the next school year.

Best wishes to all the children who have left 6th Class for secondary school. To all the children in our school, have a great summer ☺ **Thank you to all our parents and friends in the wider school community for your continuous support over the year.**

Ancillary Staff

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful ancillary staff for all their work in the school this year. Firstly thank you to Carmel Flynn who has our school gleaming, bright and fresh every day. Secondly, thank you to Leanna Redmond for doing such a fantastic job in the office. Finally, thank you to our amazing School Caretaker, Charlie Gordon ☺

Spirituality and Personal Development

A message from Fr. Finn

In the past year we have continued to develop and build on our integrated spirituality in the school. As well as running the Grow in Love programme successfully, we give the children opportunities through the Masses and the Sacraments to develop their skills and their imagination through posters, symbols and offerings in those liturgies.

During the year we had great preparation for celebration of First Holy Communion. During the classes, as well as instruction given, the children are encouraged to ask questions and seek clarification of spiritual things under discussion. Also, this year, parents continue to engage with the young people and their spiritual formation in their homes and their local church.

We look forward to continuing this work during the 2019/2020 academic school year.