



Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is a pleasure for me to compile our first school newsletter as Principal Teacher of Ballymurn N.S.

Summer seems like a distant memory at this point and we are now well settled into the school routine. On behalf of the staff and our Board of Management, I would like to welcome everyone back. It has been a busy, but exciting first month back at school. In particular, we welcome our new Junior Infant children.



We are very proud of how well they've adjusted to their new school environment.

**Parents' Association A.G.M:** Over the years, the Parents' Association in Ballymurn N.S. have been an amazing support to the school. The Association are avid fundraisers for the school and provide invaluable help and support at school events. This year, we really need some new members on the committee. Some of our current members have been working tirelessly for many years and their children have now moved on to

secondary education- I would like to say a huge thanks to all of these parents for their efforts and enthusiasm. As with any organisation, people are the lifeblood of the Parents' Association and we now need people to come on board and get involved in supporting your children's school. It would be fantastic if we could get some parents of pupils in the Junior classes in the school involved. The **A.G.M** will take place on **Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, at 7.30pm** in the school. I really would like to encourage all parents to attend the A.G.M and learn more about what is involved in our Parents' Association.

**Window Replacement Project:** At the beginning of the summer holidays, Mrs. Brophy and the Board of Management commenced a huge Summer Works project, replacing all windows in the old part of the school, which has resulted in a much better insulated, warmer environment for our school community to enjoy. I would like to thank them for all their hard work in completing this project.

Charlie and Carmel, our amazing caretaker and cleaner, did an exceptional job over the summer- before, during and after the window replacement works, to ensure that we all came back to a spotless school after our holidays. We want to say a huge thank you to them for this hard work.

**Child Safeguarding Statement** - Our Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 18<sup>th</sup> September. A copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement can be found on our school website. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) in Ballymurn NS is Emer O'Gorman and the Deputy DLP is Niamh Lawlor. If you have any concerns regarding child protection, please contact the DLP or the Deputy DLP.

**Garda Vetting** - 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 through the school. We realise that many parents are already Garda vetted through the G.A.A and other organisations, but unfortunately, everybody still needs to go through the school vetting process. 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.

**Staff Meeting-** Please note that the school will close on **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019 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](mailto:office@ballymurnns.ie))

**No Uniform Day on Fridays:** This is voluntary but if children wear their own clothes, they are asked to donate €1 each to the school. The Voluntary Contribution of €100 per family is due by 30<sup>th</sup> September. These monies can be paid in instalments. Please contact the office for more information. Thank you.

**Mangahigh.com:** Mangahigh is an excellent web based mathematics programme, that has been designed to support the primary school maths curriculum. We have purchased

access to mangahigh for 3rd-6th class this year. All children in these classes have been given unique login details to access mangahigh.com and we greatly encourage them to make use of it at home to develop their maths skills. Maths Week begins on Saturday, October 12th, and there will be an exciting competition taking place on Mangahigh for our students to participate in.

**Supervision:** A reminder that before 9.10am and after 3.00pm, there is no supervision for children on school premises. Children must stay around the back of the school at their line in the mornings before the bell rings.

**Healthy Eating** - Reminder that the school operates a 'healthy eating policy'. Children are allowed a small treat each Friday and we thank parents for their support in implementing this policy. A hard copy of this policy was circulated to families at the beginning of the year and it is also available on our website '[www.ballymurnns.ie](http://www.ballymurnns.ie)'

**Punctuality-** School starts at 9:20 am. 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 responsibility of the parent/guardian 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.

**Communication** - Parents are 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.

**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](http://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.

**Hallowe'en Hike** - our annual fundraising event takes place at 10am on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October. We would ask that you support us in this fundraising effort. All cards must be returned to the school by 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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 Wednesday November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Leaflets will be sent home next week.

Le gach dea ghúí,

**Emer O'Gorman**  
**Príomhoide**

### Dates / Upcoming Events:

- Staff Meeting - Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October. **All children to go home at 12.30pm.**
- Hallowe'en Hike - 25<sup>th</sup> October at 10am (weather permitting). Children are encouraged to dress in their Hallowe'en costumes on this date. **SPONSORSHIP cards will be sent home shortly with the eldest child in each family.**
- School Mass to remember our deceased relatives and friends - Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October at 11.30am
- Mid-Term Break - Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October - Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November inclusive. School re-opens Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 9.20am.
- Parent/Teacher Meetings - Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November (3pm to 5.45pm). Appointments will be given closer to the date.
- Christmas Carol Service - Whole School - Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm in Ballymurn Parish Church
- Christmas Holidays - school closes at **12.15pm** for all children on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December and will re-open on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2020.

## Class Reports

### **Ms Lawlor's Junior and Senior Infant Report**

September has been a busy month in the infant classroom. The Senior Infants have settled back into school with ease and they've been so kind and caring to our new Junior Infants. Junior Infants have also settled into school life very well and they have been learning new routines and keeping our golden rules which keep our classroom runs smoothly each day.

Junior Infants have been spending time developing their early handwriting skills. They spend time each day cutting, rolling plasticine and other activities which help strengthen the muscles in their hands. They are using froggy legs to grip their pencils and are making lots of marks on paper in preparation for writing. They are looking forward to starting homework next week!

You might hear your child talk about Aistear time. Aistear is the word we use for learning through play. Our Aistear theme for September was *Myself and my Family*. Our role play area was transformed into a family home where the children

could pretend to be any member of the family. They have also enjoyed playing with play dough, construction toys, small world toys, sand and water. The children have really enjoyed making members of their family with the junk art materials this week. I will upload some photos of their play and learning on Facebook each month.

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

1st and 2nd class have had a great first month back in school. Our theme in Aistear this month was 'school' and we have been learning so much about the different jobs that need to be done in a school. Leanna came in to our classroom and we asked her lots of questions about her job and what she has to do in the office. We also learned about different things we can recycle in school which can help keep our school clean. We loved learning about schools in the past and even tried sitting 5 people on 2 small chairs like they had to do in the past!

In art, we have been learning about drawing different types of lines. We also sat outside and used clipboards to draw the school. This was great fun. This week we tried to make 3D lines and the kids did a fantastic job. We then went around to each of the other classrooms in school to show off our great work.

We have really enjoyed our first month back in school and are looking forward to October already.

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

3rd and 4th class have been settling well into the new school year. In English we have been focusing on recount writing for our writing genre. We have been reading different examples of recounts. We have also written recounts together as a class and in pairs. We have been using comprehension strategies such as retelling and summarising too. We have also begun the novel 'Matilda' by Roald Dahl, which the children have been really enjoying. They have particularly enjoyed doing some drama activities linked to the novel.

In maths we have been doing work on place value and addition of thousands, hundreds, tens and units. We've been doing lots of tables revision in class too. This week we have been learning about time in maths. We've been practising telling the time in analogue and digital format. Please encourage your children to practise telling the time in analogue and digital time at home too. All of the children have access to a great maths website Mangahigh, their login details are on the inside cover of their journals. Please encourage them to practise the maths activities as much as possible. Each week I have been adding new maths activities for them to practise online.

The children have recently started tag rugby coaching on Fridays with their coach Michael Bolger. They have been having great fun learning new passing, chasing and dodging skills.

### **Ms. O'Gorman's 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Class Report**

4th and 5th Class have been very busy during the month of September, getting organised for the new school year. They have started to read the novel 'Rosie's Troubles', which is set in 1920s Dublin. They have also been familiarising themselves with 'Response Writing', which involves adding their personal opinion to the Recount genre that they have previously studied.

They have started to use mangahigh.com as an opportunity to develop their I.C.T skills whilst doing their maths homework. If it is not possible for them to do their homework online, they still have the option to do book work from Planet Maths instead. The children have also been working hard at their tables, using a different online programme called xtramath.org. Many children have already achieved their first addition certificate, and some have achieved the subtraction one too!

In Music, we have started to learn tin-whistle, and are now able to play four new songs.

The children have been getting used to compiling a 'Foclóir agus Gramadach' copy for Gaeilge, which will contain all of the vocabulary and grammar that we have learned by the end of the year. They are finishing work on the topic 'Mé Féin' this week, and are very comfortable using their nótaí to learn to speak about themselves. We have also covered An Aimsir Chaite, An Aidiacht Shealbhach agus na hUimhreacha Pearsanta this month.

Geography projects about the countries involved in the Rugby World Cup are in the process of reaching completion, as are History studies based on the Tudor era.

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

Our 6<sup>th</sup> Class have been very busy this month settling back into school. In English we have been studying the Recount writing genre. The children have written several recounts, which they drafted, edited and are now published in two book formats. In Maths we have covered Place Value and Additions and Subtraction. The Tudors and life in the court of Henry VIII has been our topic for History this month.

Geography saw us learning about the 'Fishing Industry' and the primary, secondary and tertiary areas of different industries i.e. farm to meat processor to supermarket shelf. In Science we are learning about the Circulatory System and Respiratory System (Heart and Lungs). Did you know that your heart is the size of your fist? The heart is a muscle? That the air sacs in our lungs (alveoli) are numerous enough to cover a tennis court?!

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 rollers, forks, pastels and variety of fruit and vegetables. Tomorrow we shall be printing using cotton wool buds, wool and elastic bands.

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 réamhfhocail, ag déanamh filíocht 'An Eitleán' agus triail tuisceanna freisin. Tá siad ag obair go díon 📖

The children will be working on their 'Tudor History Project' over the next few weeks and I look forward to reading the finished assignments. We are really enjoying our 'Tag Rugby' coaching with Mr. Bolger too.

## School Activities

### **Lunchtime League**

We have established a lunchtime Gaelic football league for 3rd-6th class in the school. This is a 7-a-side tournament that will run over the next number of weeks. There have been some great games so far, organised and refereed by our fantastic 6th class. Anthony Masterson, football development officer with Wexford G.A.A, visited the school recently with gear to facilitate the league and a shield for the winning team.

### **Girls Rackard League and Mini 7s Football**

The girls participated in the first round of the Mini 7s football on Friday September 20th in Ballymurn. The girls had a tough first match against a very strong Curraclloe match, which Curraclloe won. We then played Screen and showed some great skills and teamwork which resulted in a win for Ballymurn. Unfortunately we didn't manage to progress to the next round as Curraclloe won both of their matches. Well done to the girls for their great effort. The girls were due to play their first Rackard League group game against Rosslare on Monday which was cancelled due to the weather. This match is rescheduled for next Monday, September 30th. Best of luck in the upcoming Rackard League matches!

### **Boys Rackard League and Mini 7s Football**

The boys took part in the Mini 7s competition in Blackwater on Tuesday last. They were in a group with Screen and Blackwater. Despite a great effort by our boys, Blackwater progressed to the next round.

The boys take on Blackwater this afternoon in Round 1 of the Rackard League football competition. The other teams in our group are Barntown, Castlebridge and Oulart. We will be playing each of these in the group stages over the next few weeks.

### **Sing Out Loud**

Our school will again take part in "Sing Out Loud" in the Wexford Opera House. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Class children will be taking part. We have not yet received the date that this event will take place.

## **A Message from Fr. 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

Our AGM takes place on **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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, school tours, etc. The Parents Committee will be restarting this initiative on Friday October 11<sup>th</sup>. More details about this will follow after the A.G.M.

## Notices

### **Bloomfield Breakfast Club/After School Club:**

Free places available for breakfast club and after school.

Dear Parents,

After attending a meeting last week it was made quite clear that so many families are unaware that they may be entitled to FREE breakfast and After school services.

If you are a low- income family, have a medical card, doing a fis course, are receiving a social welfare benefit you are entitled to a Free childcare place.

If you have any questions don't hesitate to give me a call, or drop into Annmarie in the after school room.

We are here to facilitate the needs of the parents in the school, and appreciate the feedback from you.

Kindest regards,

Caroline Kidd

Parents wishing to enrol their child in either club should contact Caroline on 087 1231227. Breakfast club runs from 8am in the morning and after school child care is provided up to 6.15pm daily.

**Message from Sarah Beale and Emily Warren:**

We are part of the Irish Girl Guides in Enniscorthy

Ladybirds: 5-7 years old

Brownies: 7-10 +

We meet in the Meeting House, Spring Valley in Enniscorthy every Thursday at 3.30pm to 5pm.

For more information, please contact: Sarah Beale, Leader of Ladybirds 087 1306095 or Emily Warren, Leader of Brownies 087 3667525