



## **BALLYMURN NEWS – 24<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2019**



Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is hard to believe that the Hallowe'en mid-term break is upon us already. School has been extremely busy and the children have been working very hard in class. Excitement is building for our Hallowe'en Hike, which takes place tomorrow at 10am. We encourage all pupils to dress up for the occasion.

Today we celebrated a special Mass remembering all our family and friends who are no longer with us. It was lovely to see some of our parents and friends join us for our mass. Well done to all the children who read, brought up the Gifts and provided beautiful music. Thank you to all who attended.

### **Parents' Association**

The A.G.M took place on Tuesday October 8<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks to those parents who attended. The committee for the new year is as follows: Chairperson: Mag Redmond, Secretary: Gail Kavanagh, Treasurer: Sarah Usher, Committee Members: Barbara Healy, Denise Redmond, Denise O'Connor. The Parents' Association would like to seek names of parents who would be happy to be contacted to help out during the year at various events. They do not expect people to be available every time, but it would be fantastic to have a bank of people who are willing to be contacted when there is something coming up. A note will issue soon in this regard.

### **Sacrament of Confirmation**

The Sacrament of Confirmation for our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Classes has been confirmed by the Bishop's office and will take place on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 11am.

**Hurling 365** - Hurling 365 is back up and running for this school year. Leanna has done an amazing job, organising all of the logistics. I would like to extend a massive thank you to those parents and staff members who have committed to giving their time to give the children in our school the opportunity to participate. They are doing fantastic work with the children. Well done to Brian O'Connor, Gail Kavanagh, Michael Doyle, Daithí Redmond, Mag Redmond, John Sludds, Anthony O'Gorman, Denise O'Connor, Annette O'Gorman, Wesley Courtney, Stephen Redmond, Leanna Redmond, Tracy Sludds, Michael Lafferty, Murt Flynn, Monica Nurney and Ms. Ormonde. I would also like to thank Crossabeg Ballymurn GAA club who supplied us with hurling balls, and who also make their facilities available to us for our Rackard League matches.

#### **Peil 4 All**

Crossabeg/Ballymurn Ladies Football Club are seeking to commence the Peil 4 All initiative in our school. This would run on the same type of basis as Hurling 365, and would be a great opportunity for the boys and girls to get some football training in before school once a week. If any parents are available to help out, please contact the school office.

#### **Acceptable Use of Internet Policy**

We are delighted to announce that we have been in a position to purchase 9 new Samsung tablets for the school, using the ICT grant we received last year. As the children will be getting the opportunity to use these tablets as part of their learning in class, we have decided as a Board of Management and staff, that it is time to introduce an Acceptable Use of Internet Policy in the school. We have attached this policy to the newsletter. I ask all parents to read this policy thoroughly and discuss it with their children. In this digital era, it is imperative that pupils are taught at home and at school, about the internet, and the importance of using it safely and responsibly.

After the mid-term, a copy of the Parent's Undertaking form will be sent home for the parents of all pupils to sign, and 3rd-6th class pupils will also be bringing home a Pupil Undertaking form to co-sign with their parents.

#### **Clothes Recycling Collection**

We are once again collecting clothes for recycling as a fundraiser. The collection will take place soon after the mid-term break, so if anybody does an Autumn clear out, please leave items for recycling into the school anytime, and we will store them until the collection date.

#### **Christmas Craft Fair and Open Day**

Our Christmas Craft Fair will take place on Sunday, December 1st. This year, we are also designating this day as a School Open Day, where any prospective parents of new pupils are welcome to come and have a look around our school to see the fantastic facilities we have to offer.

#### **Marathon**

5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Class participated in the Crossabeg Marathon on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. They had a fantastic day out. Many thanks to Mrs. Brophy and Lillian Lawlor for facilitating this trip and to all parents who gave lifts on the day.

#### **FUTSAL 5 Aside Blitz**

3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Class participated in this interschool's competition today. We had a boys and girls team.

Thank you to Ms. Pitt and David Whelan for coaching the teams at this event.

### **Gymnastics**

All classes will complete a gymnastics module as part of the P.E. curriculum after Christmas. This will be provided by highly-skilled gymnastic coaches, in the parish hall. The children derive great benefits from this module every year. The cost of the six week programme will be €15 per child.

### **Girls' Rackard League**

I would like to extend our congratulations to the girls, who won the Wexford District Final against Blackwater on Tuesday. They have now qualified for the county semi final. Please see the full report by Ms. Pitt below. Huge thanks to Ms. Pitt for all her hard work with the girls.

### **Boys' Rackard League**

The boys have now completed the group stages of Rackard League. They had a great win in the group stages against Barntown and were defeated by Blackwater and Oulart. The structure of this competition is to use the group stages as a quarter final grading system. We have now qualified for the Roinn B quarter-finals against Castletown. This game will take place today in Castletown at 3pm. Best of luck to all of our Ballymurn boys on the team! They are: Pádraig Byrne, Darragh Lawlor, Oisín Copeland, Seán Bishop, Anthony O'Gorman, Lennon Carty, Oisín O' Connor, Jamie Whelan, Eoghan Redmond, Charlie McNicholas and Noah Botha.

### **Christmas Shoe Box Appeal**

The last day to drop Shoe Boxes to the school is Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> Nov. Additional leaflets and stickers are available from the school office.

### **Aldi Rugby Stickers**

We will be collecting the Aldi Rugby stickers up until Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November and hope to have our 4<sup>th</sup> poster filled by the closing date.

### **Sing Out Loud**

We are very busy preparing for our 'Sing Out Loud' concert, which will take place on November 17th in the National Opera House, Wexford. 3rd and 4th class pupils are really looking forward to taking part in this event.

Thank you to Ms. Lawlor and Ms. Sheehan for all their hard work and dedication in preparing the children for this wonderful event. We are really looking forward to seeing everyone on stage on the night. Please note that the Opera House receives 100% of the ticket price, with no profit being made by the school from this event.

### **Maths Week**

We had a wonderful 'Maths Week' here at Ballymurn NS. The children had lots of fun participating in different games and events. All teachers made a great effort to give the children a lot of opportunities to try out different games and do Maths trails. Maths competitions were held whereby the staff and children had to estimate how many sweets were in various containers. The results were as follows:

1. **Junior School Winner** - Amelia Kavanagh and Liam O'Leary
2. **Senior School Winner** - Cathleen Aav

We also participated in the online Mangahigh Maths Week Ninja Challenge 2019. Any pupil who scored over 150 points in this challenge will soon receive a special gold maths medal. Well done to Orla Barry, Cathleen Aav, Umboon Preecha, Oisín O' Connor, Abby Dooley, Lennon Carty, Jamie Whelan, Sophie Cosgrave-O'Reilly and Layla Parker.

Congratulations also to our individual class winners:

**1st Class:** 1st Lucy Cummins 2nd Evan Thompson 3rd Róisín Farrell

**2nd Class:** 1st Saoirse Courtney-Kerrigan 2nd Luke Healy 3rd Louie Bursey

**3rd Class:** 1st Ciara Redmond 2nd Riain Redmond 3rd May Cummins

**4th Class:** 1st Jamie Whelan 2nd Abbie Wade 3rd Ava Larkin

**5th Class:** 1st Orla Barry 2nd Umboon Preecha 3rd Oisín O'Connor/Abby Dooley

**6th Class:** 1st Cathleen Aav 2nd Katie Aav 3rd Muireann McDonald

Thank you to everyone who has supported our school and helped out in any way to add to the childrens' learning experience over the past eight weeks. I wish all pupils, staff and their families a very Happy Hallowe'en and a relaxing mid-term break.

Is mise le meas,

Emer O'Gorman  
Príomhoide

# Dates/Upcoming Events

- Hallowe'en Hike - 26<sup>th</sup> October at 10am (weather permitting). Children are encouraged to dress in their Hallowe'en costumes on this date. **SPONSORSHIP cards must be returned to the office by 5<sup>th</sup> November. Thank you.**
- 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.
- Sing Out Loud - 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Class - Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November in the National Opera House, Wexford
- Parent/Teacher Meetings - Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November, 3pm-5.45pm. Appointments will be distributed after mid-term.
- Christmas Craft Fair and School Open Day- Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December (10.30am to 1pm)
- **School Closure:** Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December- Mandatory in-service training for all teachers in Co. Wexford Education Centre for the new Primary Language Curriculum.
- Christmas Carol Service - 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 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2019.

# News from our Classrooms

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

Our Aistear theme for October was Autumn and Halloween. On a beautiful sunny day we enjoyed a nature walk where the children looked for signs of Autumn. Our role-play area was transformed into a haunted house. The children have been writing down their bubbling potion recipes and sticking them into our magic spell book! They made amazing constructions with plasticine such as brooms, cats, spiders and cauldrons. We turned our water table into a bubbling cauldron and we

read some Autumn themed stories. The children did fantastic art activities. They made a hedgehog and a hoglet, constructed a witch and drew amazing pumpkins.

Junior Infants have learned their first group of letter sounds and are already beginning to read simple words. During Maths Week the 6<sup>th</sup> class teamed up with the infants to do a maths trail around the school. It was great fun!

Junior and Senior Infants have been learning all about Oíche Shamna in Irish. They also learned the rhymes *Five Little Pumpkins* and *Witch Witch* so hopefully they can perform these at Halloween!! We are all looking forward to dress up day on Friday and we will play some traditional Halloween games. Have a lovely mid-term break!

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

October has been a very exciting month in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class. We have been exploring the theme of Halloween this month and it has been so much fun learning the history and traditions of Halloween. In role play this month, we were scientists and made potions in the potion lab and then later sold them to our friends in the potion shop. We dressed up in loads of different costumes and designed new potions. In some of our other stations, we wrote magic spells, made spooky skeletons and made haunted house from lego.

In English we have been continuing our work on recount writing and the children are now independently writing recounts. We have been working on editing our favourite recount which we will publish and display. We have also been doing buddy reading with Ms. O'Gorman's 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> class where the kids have been reading their book to their buddy twice every week. Guided reading stations also started in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class this month where we read 2 books (one familiar and one new), practise our recount writing and practise our handwriting.

Maths week was a great week in our classroom. We had a chance to play Mangahigh this week and it was so much fun. We have also been learning lots of card games and playing them in our stations. We did a maths trail and had to estimate and answer lots of fun questions around the school and on yard.

Wishing everyone a lovely Halloween break and I am looking forward to seeing you all again in November. ☺

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

In Irish this month we have been learning lots of vocabulary in the theme of 'Bia'. We have learned how to ask questions and lots of foods in Irish. We have also learned a new song 'Is Breá Liom Bia' and a poem 'Glasraí'. They have enjoyed playing games in

Irish such as 'Chuaigh mé go dtí an siopa agus cheannaigh mé...' and 'Cluiche Leadóige'. This week we have been learning lots of vocabulary about Oíche Shamhna.

In Maths, we have been learning about lines and angles, subtraction, fractions and data this month. The children did maths trails looking for different types of lines and angles around the school environment. We did lots of practice of subtraction sums on our mini whiteboards. For maths week we did lots of games and made great use of Mangahigh. Keep up all the practise on Mangahigh at home as each week I am adding new activities to practise.

In Science, we were learning about human life processes. We focused on the breathing process. The children learned about the trachea, bronchioles and alveoli. We also learned about how asthma can affect your breathing system.

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

We have been really busy in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> class this month. We have been working on Multiplication, Division and Fractions in maths, and the children have put in excellent effort on mangahigh.com for homework, which is furthering their learning enormously. They have been working hard to master their tables in school on xtramath.org.

We continue to work on our novel, 'Rosie's Troubles' in English and have completed our learning on the Recount and Response writing genres.

In Gaeilge, we have been working on the theme 'Bia' and the children have written recipes as Gaeilge, as well as completing their studies on the Aimsir Chaite for grammar. For Irish reading each night, they have been reading the Eleathanach, which is an age appropriate newsletter, published for pupils of their age, with their interests in mind.

We have studied 'The Troubles' in Northern Ireland during our History lessons, and learned about the U.K in Geography, to help us understand about 'Brexit' and the current media affairs. In Science and S.P.H.E, we have learned about Food Groups, and the constituents of a healthy diet. We have learned about allergies and specific dietary requirements that some people may have. The children designed a week long healthy menu for themselves.

In Music, we have been practising our tin whistle lots, and are getting very good at playing. We also learned about the origins of Irish ballads, and have chosen some of these to learn to sing. For P.E., we have completed our rugby coaching module, and 5th class are looking forward to attending a blitz in Enniscorthy R.F.C after mid-term, to put their new skills into action.

It has been a busy half-term, and we look forward to starting lots of new topics after a relaxing Halloween break.

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

We have had a busy month in Rang a Sé with lots of different things happening. Some of our girls were on the winning District Final Football team and we also took part in the Crossabeg Marathon competition. We are scheduled to take part in a Rugby Blitz next month.

In English we are continuing to read our novel 'When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit' by Judith Kerr and we have moved onto studying 'Explanation' writing. We have published 6 class books since we started back in September. The children are working exceptionally hard in this subject.

In Maths we have been studying Lines and Angles and Division. Long division proved tricky for some of us but we are making good progress with it. We have been learning about WW2 in History, our skin in Science and all about Britain in Geography. Did you know that your skin is the largest organ in your body? Did you know that 7% of your body is made up of skin?

Learning to sew has been our Art topic this month. Everyone can now sew a button onto material and do both tacking and running stitch. The children are working on their creations and we shall post photographs on Facebook when they are finished.

We are looking forward to our Halloween Hike and watching our 'Goosebumps 2' movie tomorrow. Wishing you all a relaxing mid-term break, we shall see you back in school on 4<sup>th</sup> November 😊

### **Girls Rackard League Football by Ms. Pitt**

The girls have been doing very well in their Rackard League matches. They recorded three wins in their three group games played. Their first match was against Rosslare in Rosslare, they then played Blackwater away and finally they played Scoil Charman in Ballymurn. This resulted in the girls topping their group after playing some fantastic football. They worked very well as a team and got some great scores. The girls then progressed to the Wexford District Final against Blackwater. They played the final on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> of October in Blackwater. They had a very competitive game and won the match. Congratulations girls, we are very proud of our district champions! The girls' next match will be the county semi-final against the winners of one of the other districts. I would like to commend the girls on their positive attitude and teamwork. Well done girls and best of luck in your next match! Thank you also to the parents for your continued support, it is very much appreciated. The following girls are on the Rackard League panel: Kayleigh Cullen, Bríann Carlyle, Keelin Doyle, Ellie Dempsey, Lucy



Sludds, Jasmine Killeen, Rebecca Warren, Keira Carroll, Lucy Bishop, Sophie O'Reilly-Cosgrave, Holly Redmond and Leah O'Brien.

# Parents' Association

**SCHOOL BOOKS SAVINGS CLUB:** The Parents' Association have recommenced their savings club each Friday. 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 collect this money each week. Parents may lodge money to their account weekly on Fridays from 9.25am - 9.45am the school Staff Room.

## A Message from Fr. Finn

### Celebrating Hallowe'en and remember our dead by Fr. Jim Finn

Our ancient ancestors having progressed over thousands of years had great respect for time and the marking of time in their yearly calendar. Hallowe'en was the time where one year ended and a new year began.

On the night of Hallowe'en chaos reigned, it was the time of transition, one year was ending but another one had not yet started. People played pranks on each other, the people of the spirit world crossed boundaries and entered the human world, they thought.

St. Patrick and his followers took this festival to announce that through Christ's death all the dead could now go to God and enjoy peace. Our prayers could help them. So on the 1<sup>st</sup> November we celebrate the 'Feast of All Saints' and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November we pray for those who may not have reached God's presence yet.

Let us then thank our favourite Saints on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November for the help they give us and pray for all our deceased relatives for the month of November knowing that if they are not yet in God's presence our prayers will help them.

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

Monday to Friday ----- 9.10am 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.