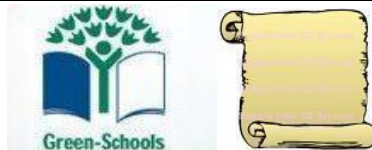


# **BALLYMURN NEWS – 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2019**



Dear Parents/Guardians,

On behalf of all the staff at Ballymurn N.S., I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every family in our school community a very Merry Christmas. I look forward to seeing you all later this evening at our annual carol service in the church, where we will remind ourselves of what Christmas is truly all about- our children and the celebration of the birth of Baby Jesus.

## **Christmas Craft Fair**

Our Craft Fair, which took place on Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, was a huge success, and this combined with the sale of our Christmas Cards, raised €2,128.70 for our school. I would like to thank all of those who supported the Craft Fair by attending on the day- the big attendance and the lovely atmosphere makes all the hard work worthwhile. Thank you to the members of the Parents' Association for all of their assistance on the day and for the preparation that was put into the raffle, Eileen Redmond and all the 'knitter knatters', and to every member of the school staff who worked tirelessly in the lead up to the day to ensure that it would be a success.

## **Board of Management**

The new four year term for our Board of Management commenced on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Many thanks to the outgoing members for giving their time over the past four years. The new board members are as follows:

Chairperson: Mr. Matthew Kelly

Patron's Representative: Fr. Jim Finn

Principal: Ms. Emer O'Gorman

Mothers' Nominee: Mrs. Mairéad Cummins

Fathers' Nominee: Mr. Greg Wade

Teacher Nominee: Ms. Chloe Ormonde

Community Nominees: Ms. Mary Maher and Mr. Eoin O'Connor

## **Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal**

Well done to all pupils and their parents who supported the Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal. We have been informed that 9678 gift-filled shoeboxes are on their way from Co. Wexford to some very grateful children who will be very excited to receive them. 7898 are heading to Swaziland, Africa with the remaining 1780 to Moldova in Eastern Europe.

### **Wexford County Council Recycled Christmas Decoration Competition**

At the beginning of December, many of our children made really creative decorations from recycled materials, and the winners from each class were sent to represent our school in the County Council offices. Leah O'Brien-Miller from 5th class, has been selected as 2nd prize winner in the county, and will receive her prize at a ceremony in Wexford this evening.

### **Oylegate Bingo in aid of Scoil Chroí Ró Naofa**

Mark and Gail Kavanagh have kindly arranged for our school to be the chosen benefactor from Bingo in The Slaney Inn, Oylegate for a five week period, beginning on Sunday, December 15th. This will be a wonderful fundraiser for our school. In order for it to succeed, we need a team of volunteers to help out each Sunday evening. I would urge all parents to please consider giving your time to help out on one of these evenings. If you can help out, please give Leanna a call or an email and she will put you in contact with the Parents' Association to make arrangements, or alternatively, you can inform a Parents' Association member directly.

### **Enrolment for School Year 2020/2021**

We are now accepting enrolments for the school year 2020/2021. If you have a child who is due to start school in September, or know somebody else who does, please request an enrolment form from the school office. An information evening for new parents will take place after the Easter holidays.

### **Girls' Rackard League County Final**

Our Rackard League girls represented us with distinction in a packed St. Patrick's Park on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, and were eventually beaten by a strong Ballindaggin side. It was a huge achievement to reach the final and we want the girls to know that we are extremely proud of them. Thank you to Ms. Pitt for dedicating so much of her time and energy to this team.

### **Grandparents' Day**

Grandparents' mass will be held on Thursday, January 30th at 11.30am in Ballymurn church. Refreshments will be served in the school afterwards, and we would like to extend an invitation to all grandparents/parents to attend.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all staff members for their efforts in preparing the children, and the church for our annual Carol Service this evening. The

children are really looking forward to performing for you all, and I hope that you have a most enjoyable evening.

I wish all members of our school community and their families a very Merry Christmas, and a happy, healthy New Year,

Is mise le meas,

Emer O'Gorman  
Príomhoide

## Dates/Upcoming Events

- School closes at **12.15pm** on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December for all pupils
- Carol Service - Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm in Ballymurn Parish Church
- School re-opens on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2020** at 9.20am
- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> Jan - 6 week Gymnastics Programme commences for all pupils
- Grandparents' Mass - 30<sup>th</sup> January at 11.30am
- Ballymurn Fun Run - Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January
- Mid-Term Break 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> February - school closed on these days
- St. Patrick's Day 16<sup>th</sup> /17<sup>th</sup> March - school closed
- Confirmation - Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2019
- Ceremony of Light (Confirmation classes) - Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February, 7.30pm Ballymurn Church
- First Confession- Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March, 7pm, Ballymurn Church
- First Holy Communion - Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 11am.

# Parents' Association

A huge thank you from all at Scoil Chroí Ró Naofa to the members of the Parents' Association for all their hard work during the year. They have a wonderful morning organised for the children tomorrow, for which we are most grateful. We would love if some new parents were available to assist this group with some of the occasions that are upcoming after Christmas, such as Grandparents' Day, Pancake Tuesday etc. Details will be issued nearer the time to let you know how you can become involved.

## A Message from Fr. Finn

### Christmas Season

God the creator of the whole world entered into human history a little over two thousand years ago with the birth of Jesus Christ among us. No armies that have ever marched, no parliament that has ever sat and no political rulers that have ever ruled have changed the course of human history as this one person Jesus Christ.

Christmas, the celebration of Christ born in time, brings something special into each yearly event. This is a great season for children, families, for married and single people. It is as if the birth of the Saviour has left an imprint on this season that is mystical, life giving and enriching relationships.

Let us spend this Christmas nourishing the relationships which sometimes, through the year, we take for granted.

Christmas becomes very hectic and very busy for most households and most families. These are all very good things which we involve ourselves in. But it does create stress, anxiety and sometimes fragmented relationships. What we need to do is realise Jesus is the centre. Let us find time and space for sitting down, the lighting of a candle or gaze at a picture of Jesus. This will make a difference in the quality of our celebrations and our relationships.

As we all look forward to the Christmas holidays, please be mindful that Christmas may be a difficult time of year for many people. Please look out for your loved ones or anyone you feel may be suffering or lonely this Christmas. If you are finding Christmas difficult, please reach out and talk to somebody. Don't suffer in silence.

**Important Contact Numbers:**

1. AWARE - 1800 80 48 48
2. Samaritans - 116 123

Happy Christmas to everybody and every blessing for the New Year.

