



BALLYMURN NEWS – 28th NOVEMBER 2019



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Next Sunday, December 1st, is the First Sunday of Advent. Advent is a time to prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus' birthday. The four Sundays of Advent each represent a symbol: Hope, Faith, Joy and Peace. The culmination of Advent is on Christmas Day, when the white candle in the centre of the Advent wreath is lit. The children will learn all about Advent in school over the coming weeks, as well as learning about all the other Christmas traditions that are important to families in Ireland and around the world.

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. All home-baking donations would be very gratefully received by the members of the Parents' Association, who have kindly agreed to once again look after the catering and raffle on the day.

Christmas Carol Service

Our Christmas Carol Service will take place on Thursday, December 19th in Ballymurn Parish Church at 7pm. All classes will participate and all are welcome to attend.

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.

Acceptable Use of Internet Policy

Thank you to all parents who provided feedback on the internet safety policy that was included in the October newsletter. Following these discussions, there are a number of small additions we are going to make to the policy. This will be discussed at Board of

Management level next week, and the final version will be then forwarded to parents. Once the final version is in place, the undertaking forms will be sent home for parents and pupils to sign.

Hallowe'en Hike

We would like to extend a sincere 'Thank You' to all who sponsored the pupils for their Hallowe'en Hike. We raised a total of €1294.50, which will be vital in the running of our school during the year. Although the weather conditions did not allow us to complete the Hike at Hallowe'en, we instead went for a walk in the glorious winter sunshine on Friday, November 15th.

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.

Student Council

We have recently begun the process of establishing a new Student Council in our school. Elections have taken place over the past number of weeks and we extend our congratulations to the newly elected members who are as follows:

2nd Class: Lily Copeland and Luke Healy

3rd Class: Dani Canavan and Harrison Kavanagh

4th Class: Jamie Whelan and Frankie Canavan

5th Class: Lennon Carty and Orla Barry

6th Class: Darragh Lawler and Keelin Doyle

Gymnastics

Payment is due shortly for the gymnastics module which will take place after Christmas. The cost of the six week programme is €15 per child.

Girls' Rackard League County Final

Following their fantastic win in the Wexford District football final, our Rackard League girls qualified for the County Final, after an exciting semi-final win over Kilmuckridge/Monamolin after extra time. Due to the extremely wet weather conditions of late, the game was postponed and a refixture will hopefully be issued soon, when the committee have been granted access to pitches.

Sing Out Loud

On Sunday, November 17th, 3rd and 4th Class pupils took part in Sing Out Loud in the National Opera House in Wexford. All who attended were treated to a really enjoyable performance. We were very proud of the children, who represented our school so well on stage. Many thanks to Ms. Lawlor, Ms. Sheehan and Monica who facilitated this.

Lunchtime League Final

Since September, our first ever Gaelic football lunchtime league has been taking place for pupils from 3rd-6th class. This initiative was kindly supported by Wexford County Board, who supplied us with new gear to run the tournament.

6th class pupils took responsibility for organising the games, and acting as referees and umpires. They did a really impressive job, and I know that all participants really enjoyed taking part.

The final between Kerry and Tyrone took place on Wednesday of this week, and after a very close encounter, Kerry emerged victorious. Anthony Masterson, Wexford football administrator was in attendance to present the shield to the winning captain, Bríann Carlyle, and he commented on the excellent standard of football and great sportsmanship that he saw during the game. Many thanks to Anthony for his attendance, and also to Murt Flynn, who refereed the game. Kerry will now go on to represent our school at an interschools lunchtime league winners blitz later in the year.

Kerry team members: Bríann Carlyle, Gavin Murphy, Leah Mulholland, Anthony O'Gorman, Eoghan Redmond, Charlie McNicholas and Ciara Redmond

Tyrone team members: Kayleigh Cullen, Pádraig Byrne, Seán Bishop, Jamie Whelan, Michaela Quirke, Nikki Fortune and Cillian Byrne

Is mise le meas,

Emer O'Gorman
Príomhoide

Dates/Upcoming Events

- Christmas Craft Fair and School Open Day- Sunday 1st December (10.30am to 12.30pm)
- **School Closure:** Monday 16th December- Mandatory in-service training for all teachers in Co. Wexford Education Centre for the new Primary Language Curriculum.
- Christmas Carol Service - Thursday 19th December at 7pm in Ballymurn Parish Church
- Christmas Holidays - school closes at **12.15pm** for all children on Friday 20th December and will re-open on Monday 6th January, 2019
- Confirmation - Tuesday, March 3rd 2019
- First Confession (2nd Class) and Ceremony of Light (Confirmation classes) - Thursday 27th February, 7.30pm, Ballymurn Church

News from our Classrooms

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

We were learning all about pets in November. During our Aistear playtime the children explored the theme of animals through playing with, plasticine, sand, small toys and construction toys. Our role-play area was transformed into a very busy veterinary surgery. The children played as vets, receptionists and customers. Lots of animals came to visit us in our class and we were delighted to have a turtle donated to us by Petmaster. The children have been taking turns to feed him every morning. The children have also been learning about dinosaurs, and they've been sharing their knowledge about dinosaurs with their teacher too! We've been busy getting our lovely Christmas decorations ready for the Annual Christmas Craft Fair and we look forward to seeing you all there on Sunday!

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

1st and 2nd class were busy learning about the weather this month. We learned how to be a meteorologist and practised in our role play area in Aistear. We made some weather instruments and we even brought them outside to check how much rain fell, the wind speed, the wind direction and the temperature. We watched a really old weather forecast from a long time ago and we compared this to a weather forecast clip for November this year. We also learned all about the water cycle and we drew a diagram of it.

We were working hard on our Christmas crafts for the craft fair this weekend. We loved making our decorations and we can't wait to show them to our families on Sunday. We have just started decorating our classroom for Christmas and we can't wait for December.

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

This month we completed the novel 'Matilda' by Roald Dahl. The children seemed to really enjoy the novel and Roald Dahl's style of writing. They had great fun doing the associated drama activities such as role play, role on the wall, freeze frames, student in role and thought tracking. We have been working on the exposition writing genre in English, with the purpose to persuade others involving argument and debate. They have learned about the structure of an exposition piece of writing: State problem/argument, arguments for and supporting evidence (3 points minimum), arguments against and supporting evidence (1 point minimum) and a conclusion. The children enjoy when we begin the lesson with a moving debate to discuss our ideas for or against the title of the exposition piece, it is great for developing ideas and improving upon their oral language skills.

We have been busy with artwork this month as the children have been working on their crafts for the Christmas Craft Fair. They had great fun creating their candle holders and Christmas trees, and are very excited about everyone seeing their artwork in the upcoming craft fair. In history we were learning about the story of the artist Pablo Picasso, they learned about the Cubism style of art that he is well known for and created some interesting portraits inspired by this style of art. We have been focusing on drawing this month; we also created 'Catching Snowflakes' and 'Snowmen' pictures.

3rd and 4th Class love singing. Well done on a fantastic performance in 'Sing Out Loud' in the Opera House. You were all fantastic; singing and dancing. We were very proud of you all on stage. In class we have been creating some group compositions using body percussion and the percussion instruments to create a winter themed piece. We have also been working on the song 'Over the Rainbow' and practising rhythms. The children

have been learning about the values of different notes and recording what they hear being clapped such as crotchets, quavers, minims, dotted minims and crotchet rests.

Report from Ms. O'Gorman's 4th/5th Class

During November, we have been working extremely hard. We have worked on Exposition Writing, learning how to persuade other people through the genre. We wrote speeches, to influence our classmates to vote for us to be on the Student Council. We also completed our novel, 'Rosie's Troubles'.

In Maths, we worked on Fractions and Decimals, exploring the relationship between them. Some pupils made an excellent effort over the month at Mangahigh, developing their maths and I.T skills at home.

In Gaeilge, we learned about the topic 'Sa Bhaile', and can now confidently discuss our houses and surroundings as Gaeilge, as well as writing about this topic. We began to learn about the 'Aimsir Láithreach' or present tense, as our grammar topic this month.

In History, we looked at the lives of some famous people from the past, namely Bobby Sands and Margaret Thatcher, and compiled reports on each. In Geography, we learned about the mountain ranges of Ireland, and designed brochures for the physical attractions of Co. Wexford. In Science, we learned about conduction, convection and radiation, and the transfer of heat.

4th Class worked so hard practising for 'Sing Out Loud' as part of the music curriculum, and both classes have improved so much at tin whistle. In Art, we have been busy making some beautiful decorations to sell at the Craft Fair, and also created skyscraper art, based on the work of James Rizzi. Our S.P.H.E topics for the month have been quite serious, learning about the effects drugs and smoking can have on people's lives. We have also been working hard in preparation for the Craft Fair, and look forward to showing off our wares on Sunday.

Report from Mrs. Brophy's 6th Class

November has been a busy month in 6th Class preparing for the Christmas Craft Fair. We made lots of beautiful decorations to sell and many thanks to Patricia Murphy for all her help and guidance. We hope you will join us on Sunday 1st December at our Fair.

In Maths this month we have been learning about fractions and 2D shapes. History saw us learning about Margaret Thatcher, Bobby Sands and John Hume. The children completed wonderful projects in Geography on 'Great Britain and Northern Ireland'. They worked very hard and did fantastic research on our nearest neighbour

We have completed our novel 'When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit' by Judith Kerr. The children wrote a book report on the novel and gave it a majority score of 4/5. We shall commence our next novel in January. We have been busy learning about 'Discussion Writing' and have had some lively debates on topics such as 'School should open in July for all children' and 'Internet should be banned for under 11 year olds'.

In Gaeilge we have been covering the theme 'Sa Bhaile' and learning about our homes. The children have been working well learning their poetry and verbs too. We are studying 'Dance' in PE and have begun our Confirmation religious programme also.

We are all looking forward to another busy month in December ☺

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.

SUPERVISION - Your Child's Safety on School Premises

Monday to Friday ----- 9.10am to 3.00pm

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

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