



BALLYMURN NEWS 30TH JANUARY **2020**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

January has come to an end and we are really looking forward to the brighter days of Spring, and hopefully an improvement in the weather!

School has been really busy since we returned from our Christmas holidays and preparations are now well underway for many upcoming occasions such as the Confirmation and Pancake Tuesday.

Gymnastics

All classes are really enjoying Gymnastics with their coaches Ken and Mikey. They are learning how to do very creative moves such as 'crab', handstands, 'dish' and developing their Fundamental Movement Skills of balancing and landing.

Fundamental Movement Skills with Crossabeg-Ballymurn G.A.A Club

Crossabeg-Ballymurn G.A.A club have appointed Murt Flynn as their Games Promotion Officer, and have kindly offered us the opportunity to make use of his coaching expertise in our school. Fundamental Movement Skills are so important in children's development as sports players, but also of paramount importance for their physical health and wellbeing. Murt has begun taking all classes for sessions to improve their Fundamental Movement Skills, and the children are thoroughly enjoying it. We look forward to further developing this club- school link.

Credit Union Schools Quiz

We wish the very best of luck to the following pupils who will represent our school on Sunday next at the Primary Schools' Credit Union Table Quiz in the Riverside Park Hotel. U-13: Darragh Lawler, Jamie Green, Thomas Sneyd and Orla Barry. U-11: Eoghan Redmond, Ava Larkin, Ruby Dempsey and Riain Redmond.

Bingo at The Slaney Inn

Bingo takes place each Sunday night at the Slaney Inn, Oylegate and a chosen charity is the benefactor each night. We would like to say a huge thank you to Mark and Gail Kavanagh, and Mark's father Willie, who chose our school to benefit from this for 5 weeks. A grand total of €2200 was raised and will be put to very good use by our school. A sincere thank you also to all of the parents and staff members who gave up their Sunday evenings to help out with this event.

Tara Bishop Memorial 5k Fun Run

Last Sunday saw Team Temple Street go up against Team School for the annual Tara Bishop Memorial 5k Fun Run, in what was a fabulous community event that saw 405 walkers, joggers and runners take part. Niall Sheil took 1st place in the men's category

and Jackie Carthy was 1st in the female category. Tomorrow at assembly, the winning pupils will be presented with their special plaques and medals in memory of our dear friend Tara.

Huge thanks must go to Bobby and Mag Redmond for all their hard work in organising such an amazing event. Sincere thanks also to KDK who sponsored the event and to all of you who came out in support and made it all possible. It was a fantastic day and we hope that everyone enjoyed themselves. The event raised €4276.50 to be split 50/50 between our school and Temple Street Children's Hospital.

Non Uniform Day: Friday is an optional non uniform day for the pupils. If children wish to come to school with no uniform, they must bring in €1. The funds from non-uniform day are used to subsidise the running costs of the school.

Bloomfield Childcare Breakfast and Afterschool Club

A reminder that Breakfast and Afterschool Club services are available in our school. 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.

ENROLMENT 2020 - We are now taking enrolments for **all classes** for September 2020. If you or someone you know has a child to enrol for this coming school year, please contact the office for an enrolment form. We will be holding an 'Information Night' for all parents in May, in preparation for the beginning of their children's journey with us. We are also taking names of children who will be joining us in September 2021 and 2022.

Hurling 365

Hurling 365 started back this month after the winter break each Tuesday and Thursday morning. Huge thanks to all the volunteers, both parents and staff who give up their free time to facilitate this.

Peil4All

Crossabeg-Ballymurn Ladies Football Club have commenced Peil4All on Monday mornings for pupils from 1st-6th class at 8.30am. This is a fantastic opportunity for the children to practise their Gaelic football skills, and also for those who haven't played before to try out the sport. Many thanks to the parents and club members for giving up their free time to facilitate this. If any other parent would be in a position to come on board, please contact the school office and let us know.

Primary Language Curriculum Staff Training

As parents may be aware, a primary school English and Gaeilge has been developed and introduced in all schools over the past three years. Staff attended mandatory training for this on Monday, December 16th last in Enniscorthy and we have now been instructed to hold two half day in-services in our school before the summer. The first

of these half-day closures will take place on Friday, March 13th, when school will close for pupils at 12.15pm and the second will take place during Term 3, between Easter and the end of June. I will communicate this date to you when the Department provides further clarification.

Grandparents' Mass

We celebrated another lovely Grandparents' Day today as part of Catholic Schools Week. The children love this annual event, where they get to attend mass with their grandparents and show off their school to them afterwards. Thank you to everyone who makes this event possible each year- the school staff, and the parents who gave up their morning to serve our grandparents their lovely tea/coffee. Many thanks also to Sinéad, Séidhlin and Sarah who are on placement here at the moment and have been so helpful with many different occasions lately. Events like this only work and become successful due to the help of our fantastic volunteers.

School Self-Evaluation

Many thanks to all parents who took the time to complete our recent survey on pupils reading. As part of School-Self Evaluation, we are working on reading fluency this term. Parents/guardians play a really important role in the progression of their child's reading fluency, because practising reading aloud is the best way to become a fluent reader. All pupils have reading homework every night from Monday-Thursday and we ask that all children are given the opportunity to read for an adult each night. A reminder also that homework journals are required to be signed by parents each night.

Attendance - Our school attendance rate this year from September to January is 95.1%. If this rate continued for the rest of the year, it would equate to an average absenteeism rate of 8 days absence per pupil over the course of the 183 day school year. This is a lot of learning time, and although we realise that a lot of absences occur due to illness, we encourage everybody to make a big effort to help us push for an attendance rate of 96-97%.

Reminder on Healthy Lunches - the treat, which you give your child(ren) on Fridays is to consist of **one** small item only.

Le gach dea ghúí,

Emer O'Gorman

Principal

Dates / Upcoming Events:

- **St. Blaise Day** - 3rd February
- **Confirmation Retreat** at Ballyvaloo Retreat Centre (5th/6th Class) Friday 7th February
- **Confession for Confirmation classes**- Tuesday, February 11th (11.30am)
- **Ceremony of Light** for Confirmation classes- Wednesday, 12th February in Ballymurn church (7pm)
- **Mid-Term Break** 20th/21st February - school closed on these days
- **Half-Day School Closure** at 12.15pm on Friday 13th March: Primary Language Curriculum in-service for teachers
- **St. Patrick's Holiday** 16th/17th March - school closed
- **Easter Holidays** - 4th to 19th April inclusive. School shall close at 12.15pm for all children on Friday 3rd April and re-opens on Monday 20th April at 9.20am.
- **May Bank Holiday:** Monday 4th May School closed.
- **First Holy Communion** - Saturday 16th May at 11am
- **June Bank Holiday weekend** - Friday May 29th and Monday June 1st. School closed.

Report from Ms. Lawlor's Junior and Senior Infants

This month we have been learning all about food and the local community. Our role-play area has been transformed into a restaurant. The children have been going into role as customers, waiters, managers and chefs. In science the children explored magnetism and electricity. We played with magnets and during their small world play the children used twine to make electricity wires in their village.

In Maths the children have been learning about 3D shapes. Junior Infants learned how to write the number 5, whilst Senior Infants have been learning about the number 8.

The children have been really enjoying their gymnastic classes every Tuesday. They have been strengthening their muscles and developing their coordination skills through many different activities such as pencil roll, egg roll and forward tumble. They are also enjoying the very beneficial Fundamental Movement Skills programme.

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

First and second class have had a very exciting month. Our theme for Aistear was the bakery and we have been learning how to bake over the past month. We had Jack Warren's dad Joel in to give us a few tips and he helped us to bake chocolate chip cookies. They were enjoyed by all needless to say! Aside from the baking, we have also been busy learning about narrative writing. The kid's creativity has been evident and I

am looking forward to reading lots more of their stories throughout February as well. In maths, to tie in with our bakery theme, we have been learning about weight. We have been comparing the weight of different objects and estimating how heavy we think they are compared to a kilogram. In P.E. we have been so lucky to participate in fundamental movements, gymnastics and GAA this month. These activities are enjoyed by everyone in first and second class and we are very grateful to all of the coaches.

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

This month in 3rd and 4th class we have been learning about Spain in geography. The children have been learning lots of facts about the country's landmarks, location, language, foods, festivals and culture. They have spent lots of time working on their individual projects by using the internet and library books along with information they learned in class to create their projects. They will get to share what they learned whilst doing their projects when they present their projects in class in the coming days.

This month the children have been really enjoying doing gymnastics on Tuesdays. They have been learning lots of new skills such as forward roll, teddy bear rolls, shoulder roll, crab, balances, handstands and much more. It is great for their core strength and flexibility. They have also been enjoying developing their fundamental movements skills with Murt on Mondays, where they are working on their hopping, jumping and skipping doing lots of fun games and activities. We've had a very active start to January as they are also doing Gaelic football coaching on Fridays now.

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

We have had a very busy start to 2020 in 4th/5th Class. Mr. Byrne was teaching Religion to the class for 2 weeks and all children enjoyed exploring 'conscience'. 5th class are also busy preparing for their Confirmation, and have been enjoying studying the 'YouCat' book that Fr. Finn sourced to help them on their Confirmation journey.

In Gaeilge, our theme has been 'Éadaí', and we had some great modelling displays during our 'Seó Faisean' last week. We have moved onto the Aimsir Fháistineach (future tense) in Grammar. In English we have begun to work on a new novel, called 'Kensuke's Kingdom', as well as Narrative Writing.

In Maths, focus has been on number, with 4th learning how to do long multiplication, whilst 5th worked on percentages. Lots of us have been working really hard using Mangahigh to work on our Maths online for homework.

We have studied the Reformation in History and pupils have completed great projects on this topic. We have been learning about Fair Trade in Geography and 'Sound' in Science.

Our tin-whistle practise is going really well, and we have learned lots of new songs recently. We look forward to a very busy, but exciting time ahead in the run up to Confirmation.

Report from Mrs. Brophy's 6th Class

Happy New Year to all of our parents and friends in 6th Class. We have had a very busy start to 2020 already. We had Mr. Byrne with us for 2 weeks teaching history and religion. The children learnt about 'The Reformation' and 'Sacraments' and I am looking forward to reading their history projects next month.

In PE we have started our gymnastics programme and we are also availing of GAA Football coaching every Friday. The children love both types of PE and are thoroughly enjoying themselves.

Maths has seen us learning about Length, Multiplication and Division of decimals. In English we have started our second novel 'The Goldfish Boy' by Lisa Thompson. This is a story about a 12 year old boy who struggles with a mental illness (OCD germ phobia). We are also studying the 'Narrative' writing genre.

In Art we are working with paint and colour. We have sketched and painted scenes from The Reformation in history and also focused in on Cubism art based on works by Picasso.

Our Gaeilge theme this month is 'siopadóireacht' - shopping and we are learning new poems in both languages also. We are also looking at 'Fair Trade' in geography and 'Sound' in Science.