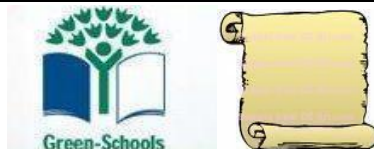


## **BALLYMURN NEWS – 25TH MARCH 2021**



Dear Parents/Guardians,

On behalf of all the staff and students at Ballymurn N.S., I would like to wish you all a very Happy Easter.

This has been a very strange school term, and I never thought writing the Christmas newsletter that it would be now before we were all in school together again. I know that this has not been an easy time for pupils, staff or parents and I would like to thank you most sincerely for your co-operation with our recent period of remote learning. The children were so engaged and really made great progress at home, which we must thank parents for.

### **Homework**

We have decided that after Easter, homework will remain in the form of reading, spellings and oral work. We won't be reintroducing written homework this year, as we as teachers feel that the children have spent enough time completing written tasks at home, and would rather that the prioritised area at home is reading.

### **Morning Drop Off**

Children **MUST NOT** be dropped on the road outside the school before our gates open at 9.10am. Parents must remember that we cannot accept responsibility for pupils who have been left on the public road outside the grounds before 9.10am. It is becoming an increasingly dangerous situation, where children are being left to congregate in what is already a very busy high traffic area at this time of the day. There are also quite a number of pupils in older classes who walk to school, who are congregating on the road outside the school by 9am each day. If your child walks to school, please ensure that they do not arrive at school before 9.10am. I have sent this message before, and it has been ignored by a small number of families. This is very much a safety concern and I ask that you please ensure that your children are not congregating on the road unsupervised each morning. Further to the safety element, it also completely undermines the Covid 19 prevention measures that we take all day, if children are congregating with members of other classes on the road before entering school.

### 6<sup>th</sup> Class 2021

The pupils in 6<sup>th</sup> Class received their Class of 2021 half zips today. They can wear these to school as their uniform for the remainder of the school year.



### Enrolment for School Year 2021/2022

The official enrolment process has now concluded for September 2021, but we accept enrolments all the time. If you, or somebody you know, is interested in a place for your child in our school, please contact the office on 053-9138435 or by email at [office@ballymurnns.ie](mailto:office@ballymurnns.ie) for more information. After Easter, we will arrange some video tours to assist with our new pupils' transition from preschool to Ballymurn N.S.

### Virtual Tara Bishop Memorial 5K Fun Run

Our annual Fun Run took place in a virtual capacity this year, on the weekend of the 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> of January. This turned out to be a really enjoyable weekend for everybody who got involved, and provided us all with something fun to do during a bleak lockdown weekend in January.

The event was so well supported by a huge number of people from within our school and local community, and from lots of different places around the world.

A fantastic €6,310.00 was raised in total, which was split evenly between our school and Temple Street Children's Hospital. As a school, we'd like to say a huge thank you to Bobby and Mag Redmond, who take on the mammoth task every year of organising the event. They leave no stone unturned to ensure that it is a success, and this year was no different. We'd also like to thank KDK Scaffolding for their continued sponsorship of the event, which went towards a commemorative t-shirt for all participants this year,

instead of the usual expenses of running the real life event. Lastly, a huge thank you to all who supported the event- We hope that you will be able to join us in person next year.

### **Autism Awareness Month**

The month of April is Autism Awareness Month, and to celebrate this we will be holding an Autism Awareness Week in school from Monday 12th- Friday 16th April. The children in each class will be involved in activities each day and the week will end with a 'Light it Up Blue for Autism' Day on Friday 16th.

### **School Fitness Challenge**

After Easter, we hope to commence a whole school fitness challenge, where we will give every class the opportunity to get out and run each day, in a bid to improve all of our fitness after all the months we have spent stuck at home. More details will follow after the break.

### **Parish News**

Please see a letter from Fr. Finn about Easter ceremonies in the parish that was emailed to all families yesterday, and has also been copied to this newsletter under the section entitled 'A Message from Fr. Finn'

### **First Holy Communion**

Unfortunately, we have had to postpone the First Holy Communion which was due to take place on May 15th. In May, we will examine the restrictions that are in place and a decision will be made at that point whether or not we will be able to celebrate the sacrament this school year.

### **Covid-19**

We received guidance from the Department of Education reminding us that all strict Covid-19 prevention measures that are in place in school should remain for the remainder of the school year. This leads to quite a restrictive environment in school, where the children do not see children from other classes, and spend as much time as possible in the pod that they are assigned to within their own class bubble. We are not permitted to sing indoors, or to hold any kind of events or go on trips.

The DES have asked us to remind families that just because school is open, it doesn't mean that normal social mixing between children can occur outside of school. We ask you to do your best to restrict movements, practice social distancing and limit social interactions over the Easter break, to give us the best chance of continuing with in school learning for the remainder of this academic year.

We have been asked by the HSE to remind parents that:

- 1.) Pupils must not attend school if they are displaying any signs or symptoms of Covid 19.

2.) Pupils must not attend school if any member of their household is displaying any signs or symptoms of Covid 19, or awaiting results of a Covid19 test. In the case of a household member displaying symptoms, pupils must restrict their movements until the household member has received a negative Covid19 test result.

3.) If any pupil has been told that they are a close contact of a case of Covid 19, they should not attend school.

4.) The Return to Educational Facility Declaration Form must be completed by parents on the day of return every time a child is absent from school.

I look forward to seeing everybody back in school on April 12th.

Is mise le meas,

Emer O'Gorman  
Príomhoide

## Dates/Upcoming Events

- School closes at **12.15pm** on Friday, March 26th for Easter Holidays
- School re-opens on **Monday, April 12th at 9.20am**
- May Bank Holiday Midterm: School closed from Monday, May 3rd to Friday May 7th 2021
- June Bank Holiday: School closed Monday June 7th

# News from our Classrooms

## **Report from Ms. Ormonde's Crescent Class**

We were so delighted to welcome the boys and girls in the Crescent Class back on Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February. Since then, we have settled so well back into our classroom routines and have been thriving. Our theme this month was the farm so we have been learning about farm animals and what sounds they make. We have been making farm puzzles, playing with toy farm animals and listening to stories about farms. We love our new song 'Old MacDonald Had a Farm.'

We have also been exploring our senses this month. We particularly focused on new smells. During circle time we tried out the scents lavender, eucalyptus, lemon and peppermint. We liked some of the smells but we didn't like all of them. We have also been exploring the sense 'touch' by walking along different textures on the ground in the hall. We have loved exploring these senses.

We were also baking this month and our focus was biscuits. The boys and girls are now almost making their own biscuits and we love to taste them when they come out of the oven nice and warm. We also tried out pizzas this week which was a huge hit with the kids. We are looking forward to a nice break over Easter but we will be happy to see everyone again afterwards.

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

We have thoroughly enjoyed being back at school for the past while. The children were so glad to catch up with their friends after so many months. They had done lots of work at home, and we have been very busy since we came back, learning to read new books, and doing lots of writing practise. Our themes in Irish were 'Éadaí', 'Lá 'le Pádraig' and 'An Cháisc' and we learned some lovely new songs and rhymes.

Our Aistear theme this month was 'The Farm' and we had lots of fun playing with the animals in the small world area, playing with our cool jeep made by Jackson in the role play area, and learning lots about what the farmer does. We did some cool Science/Art where we sowed grass in socks to create some very cool 'Grassheads', which we will bring home tomorrow.

We also learned about the Story of St. Patrick, and made St. Patrick's Day badges and did leprechaun rainbow art.

We've been learning the story of Easter this week and have some nice Easter art to bring home for the holidays. A big well done to all the boys and girls, I am very proud of your hard work since you came back.

### **Report from Ms. Lawlor's Senior Infants and 1<sup>st</sup> Class**

It has been a joy to be back teaching and learning in our classroom this month! Everyone settled back to school very quickly and the children are really enjoying being back together with their friends again.

We have been very busy learning in the last month. Our theme was Spring, and the children had plenty of practise counting money in the classroom's garden centre. In Science we did an experiment to investigate how plants grow best. We sowed 4 broad beans and put them in different places around our classroom. So far, the bean that is getting water and light is growing the best.

The children really enjoyed a story we did in Irish called Na Trí Ghabhar agus an Troll (The Three Billy Goat's Gruff). At Aistear time they designed and made a boat or a raft that would be able to carry the three goats across the river so they wouldn't have to cross the bridge! We are looking forward to testing them in the water this week.

I am so proud of how hard the children have been working since they came back to school. They deserve lots of chocolate eggs this Easter! Enjoy the break everyone.



### **Report from Ms. Boggan's 2<sup>nd</sup> Class**

2<sup>nd</sup> class were delighted to return to school this month to resume learning with their peers in the classroom. They have been working very hard for Ms. Lynch and Ms. Kehoe. Ms. Boggan has been working from home, planning all learning for her class, and keeping in close contact with the new teachers to ensure continuity of learning.

In history this month the class have been learning about Irish legends. They have learned about 'Diarmuid agus Gráinne', 'Oisín in Tír na nÓg' and 'The Salmon of Knowledge'. They have also been doing some drama activities based upon the Irish legends such as still images and hot seating.

In SPHE this month the children have been learning about safety and protection and have focused on road safety. They learned about the steps to follow to ensure that they keep safe on the roads, particularly when crossing a busy road.

In English there has been a focus on the descriptive writing genre. The children have been looking at different samples of descriptive writing about people, things, and

animals. They have particularly been focusing on the use of adjectives (describing words) to enhance and develop their descriptive writing pieces.

In religion the children have been doing some work in preparation for The Sacrament of Penance- their First Confession. They have been learning prayers such as 'The Confiteor' and 'The Act of Sorrow' and learning all about The Sacrament of Penance. They discussed about making good choices and learning to say sorry.

In maths the children have been doing lots of practice of tens and units sums. They have been using concrete materials to practise addition and subtraction firstly. Then they did lots of practice of subtraction with renaming and addition sums on their whiteboards before practising sums in their maths books.

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

It has been a huge relief and sense of excitement for all the girls and boys in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class to be back together again with their friends in school. It has been a long run at doing work remotely, and I thank you again for all the hard work that was put in each and every single day.

In 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class this week, we have been enjoying seeing our friends again. We are doing super work at our procedural writing, and even followed a procedure to make some gorgeous Easter paper weaving craft. We were able to identify the title, goal, materials and the method while reading this. We are still enjoying the wonderful novel Mr Stink and can't wait to delve deeper after the Easter holidays.

In Irish we are looking at the theme of An Aimsir (the weather). I was very impressed with how much vocabulary the children had retained and they were excited to play some word games again using these key words. Maith sibh!

In Maths we have working hard on all things fractions, and have been figuring out how to find the fraction of a number and how to find the whole number of a fraction. It has been a very busy start and the children have been working extremely hard all things considered!

In religion we have been looking closely at the Easter story, about the build-up of events leading to Jesus's death and resurrection and discussing all the different emotions that Jesus and his loved ones would have been feeling at this time. The children have had some very interesting responses so far. Well done everyone on working so diligently after such a difficult few weeks.



On that note, I want to wish you all a very happy and healthy Easter break.

### **Report from Mrs. Brophy's 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Class**

We returned to school on the 15<sup>th</sup> March and are so excited to be back with our friends. We got straight into continuing our work after several weeks of remote learning. In English we are still reading our novel 'Private Peaceful' by Michael Morpugo. This novel is set in WW1 and we are learning what life in the trenches was like for the young soldiers. The main character 'Tommo' is only 16 years old as he fights against the Germans in Ypres, France. We have also been learning about 'Recount Writing' with Mr. Barlow.

In Maths we are studying the topic 'Time' and looking at reading timetables, distance maps and international time zones. We are learning how to calculate 'time, speed and distance' also. Did you know that Russia is broken into 11 time zones?!

Sa Gaeilge táimid ag déanamh an téama 'Éadaí'. Táimid ag foghlaim faoi na héadaí difriúil a caitheann daoine sa domhain. San Albain, mar shampla, caitheann na fir an filleadh beag mar éadaí tradisiúnta. Tá na páistí ag obair go dian sa rang Gaeilge agus ag éirí níos mó gach lá J

In Geography, Mr. Barlow, has been teaching us all about the different types of mountains found on Earth, from 'Fold Mountains' to 'Volcanoes'. This is very interesting to learn about. Mr. Barlow has also been teaching us all about '1916' in History and about the 'Proclamation of Independence'. We are studying famous Irish heroes like, James Connolly, Michael Collins and Pádraig Pearse.

Last week we had our first sewing lesson in Art. We learnt how to do a 'tacking stitch'. We shall continue with this in our next lesson and then move onto doing a 'running stitch'. All the children should be able to sew a button or mend hole in their clothes in a few weeks J

Finally, in PE, Mr. Barlow has been teaching us athletics. We are really enjoying having two PE classes a week with him. We play games like tag and practice our running skills. Hopefully the weather will allow us to continue to use the field after Easter.

All of us in 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Class wish you a very relaxing and happy Easter and look forward to seeing everyone back at school on 12<sup>th</sup> April J



# A Message from Fr. Finn



Church of the Assumption  
Ballymurn, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford, Y21 VF97

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Email: [info@crossabegballymurnchurch.ie](mailto:info@crossabegballymurnchurch.ie)

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23 March 2021

Dear Parents,

This past year has been a very difficult year for all of us, in particular, for you as parents and children. We are very grateful to our teachers, staff and school personnel for assisting us in every way possible.

We are now approaching our Easter celebrations over the next two weeks. You will recognise in our parish booklet *Baptismal Programme for Parents and Godparents*, which you received prior to your child's baptism, the central role which Easter plays in our sacramental and personal life. This year we will be celebrating Easter with a difference. Our celebrations because they cannot take place in our churches will be taking place in our homes.

Let us make this Easter both special and unique because we are celebrating in our homes. From a parish point of view we have devised a plan which will give to us adults in the parish and our children a vivid experience and a renewed spirit and understanding of our faith.

The religious programme which the children use in school, *Grow in Love*, contains each year from infants right through to sixth class the central role that Easter plays in our faith. Our celebrations will be streamed from our two churches alternating Crossabeg and Ballymurn through our website and our facebook ([crossabegballymurnparish](https://www.facebook.com/crossabegballymurnparish)).

The schedule is as follows:

Palm Sunday	28 <sup>th</sup> March	9.30 pm
Holy Thursday (the Lord's Supper)	1 <sup>st</sup> April	7.00pm
Good Friday	2 <sup>nd</sup> April	2.00pm
Holy Saturday	3 <sup>rd</sup> April	8.00pm
Easter Sunday Morning	4 <sup>th</sup> April	9.30am

In order to emphasise our celebrations four symbols will be used and they may be collected from the church throughout Holy Week. Special icons are:

- Palm Sunday – branches of Palm.
- Holy Thursday - a special decorative candle.
- Good Friday - a small wooden cross.
- Easter Sunday – bottles of Easter water.

Looking forward to the blessing we will receive as families and community.

Sincerely yours,

  
Fr. Finn Finn.