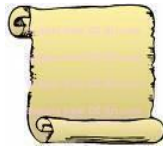


# **BALLYMURN NEWS – 29TH APRIL 2021**



Dear Parents/Guardians,

April has been a busy month in school, and we are delighted to report that the children have settled back in and are working really well. We have been enjoying the good weather, and are looking forward to the rest of the summer term.

## **Standardised Testing**

After the midterm break next week, standardised testing will begin. Because these tests were not completed last year due to the school closures, the Department have asked that we complete them this year, so that they can compile more up to date data on schools. They have asked principals to ensure that parents are aware not to be worried by the results, as the tests are standardised, which means that scores reflect the average student at that class level during a 'normal' school year, and won't take the closures into account. We ask that parents try their best to have students in school on the days these tests take place, but of course, Covid-19 protocols are still in place, so if a child is unwell on the day, they must not come in.

Testing Dates can be seen in the upcoming events section later in this newsletter.

## **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 are, 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.

## **Virtual Tour of our School**

Because we have been unable to welcome prospective parents and pupils to our school for some time now, we have made a video of a virtual tour of our school. It can be accessed at the following link:

Please feel free to share this link with anybody you feel may like to see it.

<https://youtu.be/OOYa7m3FfTM>

### **Rackard League Bingo**

Rackard League competitions are on hold at the minute due to the pandemic, but our pupils are taking part in a monster Rackard League Bingo event this afternoon, where a world record attempt is taking place for the largest virtual Bingo game. Hopefully, we will have reports of some winners later this evening!

### **Athletics**

An Athletics coaching module with Sinéad Ronan will take place on Tuesdays, beginning on May 10th. All classes will take part in one session per week, at a cost of €7 per child. Sinéad has worked with us for a number of years and we look forward to having her back.

### **GAA Coaching**

GAA coaching is taking place every Thursday, with our coaches Declan and Michael. The children are really enjoying these sessions.

### **Autism Awareness Month**

The end of April means that Autism Awareness month is reaching its conclusion. We held a wonderful Autism Awareness Week here in Ballymurn at the beginning of April, which was kindly organised by Ms. Ormonde. The children learned lots about Autism Spectrum Disorder during this week and worked on a whole school collaborative art project entitled 'It's okay to be different, that's what makes you beautiful', to celebrate the occasion.

### **Road to Tokyo School Fitness Challenge**

Ms. Morrissey has signed us up to the 2021 Dare to Believe Olympic School Challenge-Road to Tokyo. This is an initiative by Team Ireland, who are going to represent our country in Tokyo this summer, where they would like students and families around Ireland to make the virtual journey with them to the Tokyo Olympics. This challenge aims to get kids excited about the Olympics and also encourages them to get moving and be physically active every day in the month of May. The challenge runs from May 4th-31st. The Dare to Believe website allows you to log your child's 15 minutes activity blocks, video resources they can do at home and a leader board to see how they earn steps for their class team. We would love if all families would get involved from May 4th onwards, and when we return to school on the 10th, we will also be doing lots of movement in schools to get us on our journey. Each child will bring home a log in sheet this week where you will see the name of their class team and a pin that can be used to access the site.

### **Emergency Works Fencing Project**

Our Emergency Works Fencing project was completed over the Easter holidays. This was a significant construction project, which involved the erection of fencing around the entire perimeter of the school, meaning our yards and playing pitch are now fully enclosed. The Department of Education sanctioned these works to take place because

our school did not have a secure boundary, which was unsafe for young pupils and those with special educational needs.

The school grounds are now locked each evening, as individuals are not insured to use the premises privately outside of school hours, unless there is formal agreement with the Board of Management. We had been experiencing significant issues with litter, as well as our basketball hoops and friendship benches being broken over the past year, by individuals who had no permission to be on the grounds. We hope that people will now respect the reasons that we must lock the gate, and keep our facility safe, clean and secure for our pupils.

### **Covid-19**

We thank you all for your continued support in assisting the school to implement our Covid-19 safety procedures. We have been lucky since we returned in that we have not have any cases, but we must all remember that there is still a high rate of disease in the community, and that many schools are currently going through a very difficult period, trying to control outbreaks. Therefore, we must continue with our adherence to public health advice, and hope that May and June continue to go well for us here in Ballymurn.

### **Placement**

We are very lucky to have had some wonderful local student teachers working with us over the past few months. These talented teachers have done wonderful work with our pupils, and every class has thoroughly enjoyed working with them. A huge thank you to Mr. Barlow, Ms. Kehoe, Ms. N. O'Gorman and Ms. Kavanagh for their hard work.

I hope that all families enjoy the May Bank Holiday Weekend, and that the weather forecast for next week improves dramatically,

Is mise le meas,

Emer O'Gorman  
Príomhoide

# Dates/Upcoming Events

- May Bank Holiday Midterm: School closed from Monday, May 3rd to Friday May 7th 2021
- Wednesday 12th May: Drumcondra Primary Irish Test (2nd -6th class)
- Wednesday 19th May: Drumcondra Primary Reading Test (1st- 6th class)
- Wednesday 26th May: Drumcondra Primary Maths Test (1st-6th class)
- June Bank Holiday: School closed Monday June 7th
- Summer Holidays: School will close for the summer at 12.15pm on Wednesday, June 30th

## News from our Classrooms

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

April seems to have flown by in the Crescent Class. We have enjoyed another month of learning and fun in our classroom. During 'teacher time' some of the pupils have been learning to read the clock. They are extremely excited to be able to tell the time on the real clock now. Some of the other pupils have been learning to build sentences using pictures and words and we have also been working on pencil control and prewriting techniques. The pupils have all been working so hard and I am so proud of their progress.

In circle time we read some stories including 'The Wheels on the Bus,' 'Rosie's Walk' and 'Jack and the Beanstalk.' Last week we made a hen in art and this week we have been working on a beanstalk which is taking a few days to complete. We cannot wait to see how they turn out.

In P.E. this month we have been very adventurous, and we have moved onto the topic of orienteering. This was a huge hit with everyone in the Crescent Class. We had to search under cones and beanbags to find some of our favourite characters who were hiding on us. We love having some of Ms. Lawlor's class join us each week for some fun outdoors. We also love the new fence around our school and we are enjoying spending more time

on yard and in the field where it is now all safe. We are looking forward to some more sunny days in May to continue to enjoy the outdoors.

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

We have had a fabulous month in Junior and Senior Infants since we returned from our Easter break. Ms. G. Kehoe has been working with us as she completes her college placement and the children have been thoroughly enjoying her presence in our room. We will miss her when she finishes with us in May!

Our Aistear theme for the month has been The Garden Centre- We have learned so much about seeds, planting and all things gardening related, and look forward to seeing our sunflowers that we planted grow. We have done some beautiful artwork, based on the stories 'The Tiny Seed' and 'Jack and the Beanstalk'

In S.P.H.E, we concluded our work on the R.S.E programme. We have been doing Literacy stations to improve our reading and writing, and are really enjoying these.

We have also been learning about narrative writing, and have started to write our own little stories, and learned about 'setting' and 'characters', whilst also focussing on the comprehension strategy of 'Prediction'.

As Gaeilge, we have worked on the themes 'Lá Breithe' and 'Sa Bhaile', learning lots of new vocabulary relating to birthdays and our homes. In Maths we've been learning about weight and capacity, and have done lots of practical work exploring these areas.

We've done lots of P.E., and have really enjoyed our G.A.A coaching sessions.

We look forward to having lots more fun in our final term after the week off.

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

We've really enjoyed being back at school following our Easter break. Our Aistear theme for April was Wild Animals and our role-play area was transformed into a zoo. The children have learned about many wild animals such as the oryx, the flamingo and the red panda. We've also been checking in with Dublin Zoo webcams and the children have seen the penguins, the oryx, giraffes, zebras and elephants. They are looking forward to a visit to the zoo sometime soon!

In Maths we've been learning all about measuring length and width. First class have been learning about fractions also. In English, the children have been working hard on how to write a description. They've written two lovely descriptions which I will put up on Seesaw for you to see. We've also enjoyed station teaching once a week, where the children get the chance to work in smaller groups.

In art the children have been very creative and they have made a tower of giraffes, a herd of elephants and a flamboyance of flamingos. Well done on all your terrific work this month! Enjoy the week off everyone.

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

This month 2<sup>nd</sup> class have been doing fantastic work with Ms. McGrath, Ms. Sheehan and Ms. Keane. In SESE the children they have been learning about the Titanic in history. They have been learning about the history of the story of the Titanic. They then did some art work about it, firstly they investigated the features of the ship and they drew their own pictures of the ship. Further art lessons involved creating their own constructions of the Titanic, they loved using their imaginations to create some fabulous models of the Titanic. They also enjoyed doing some drama activities relating to the story of the Titanic and in particular they enjoyed the mime games they played in drama.

In maths the children have been learning about topics of length and capacity. When learning about length they really enjoyed estimating and measuring the lengths of various places and things. They learned about using metres to measure things and estimating the length of items to be  $\frac{1}{4}$  metre,  $\frac{1}{2}$  metre or 1 metre. The children have also enjoyed learning about capacity by comparing, estimating and measuring the capacity of various different containers. They then learned about millilitres and litres, comparing the specific capacities of different containers. The children are doing so well learning their addition and subtraction tables, they thoroughly enjoy practising their tables everyday in their tables games in class.

This month the children have been delighted to have the GAA coaches back and are thoroughly enjoying their P.E sessions every week. They enjoy practising their skills and being active throughout their GAA classes.

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

April has well and truly flown by in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class. We have been very lucky to have a wonderful addition to our class with Ms. N. O' Gorman, who has been doing wonderful work as part of her college placement. We will be sad to see her go when she finishes up this Friday (30<sup>th</sup> April). A big huge thank you for all of the hard work you have put in over your three weeks here.

The children have been busy with clay the last few weeks making some very creative pinch pots. Children were busy painting and designing them to add their own touch of individuality to them. Well done everyone.

We have been very excited to also welcome back the GAA coaches this month. We are really enjoying coming into school on a Thursday morning and starting off the day with some fun and exercise.

We have also started trialling the beep test in the senior classes. It is a really fun way to get children exercising, and it makes it very easy for children to see their own

progress each week. We want exercise to be seen as something that everyone can do, and make it a fun part of our weekly routine. The children have been enjoying this so far and we hope to continue with this right up until June.

The children have been working very hard at our academics, writing procedures, talking about all things weight related in maths, discussing their hobbies in Irish, leaping into the woodlands in SESE and doing lots of listening and responding in music. Keep it up everyone.

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

April has brought some lovely sunshine to our class. We have been very busy with our work and really enjoyed our time with Mr. Barlow. In English we finished our novel 'Private Peaceful' and watched the movie. We are now learning about different types of poetry e.g. Haiku, Kenning, Limericks. We are writing our own poems and will put together a poetry book for our class.

In Maths we have covered the topics of Money, Percentages and this week we started learning about Area. We are working hard at this subject and making great progress. In Gaeilge we have moved onto the theme 'Aimsir' and have been learning about natural disasters around the world. We have also learnt 10 of the 11 irregular verbs in Irish and are making great progress with our grammar.

History saw us learning about the 1916 Rising and the Civil War. We learnt about the Proclamation, 7 signatories and what happened to the leaders of the Rising. We also studied the Treaty which gave Ireland back her 26 counties from Britain. We wrote a comparison between the pro and anti-Treaty viewpoint.

In Geography we have been comparing and contrasting life in Enniscorthy vs Dublin. We looked at areas of housing, wages, transport and the advantages vs disadvantages of living in either place. Did you know that there are 11,000 people living in Enniscorthy? Did you know that 'Luas' is the Irish word for speed? J

We have been continuing with our sewing activities in Art. To date we have learnt the tacking stitch, running stitch and how to sew on a button. We are now going to design and make our own creation using our new skills.

In P.E. we are delighted to be working with our GAA coaches every Thursday. We are also taking part in the weekly 'bleep test' in order to improve our fitness levels. Some of the children in our class are already at level 8 on this test. We look forward to starting our Athletics programme after the mid-term break.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a lovely mid-term break and look forward to seeing you all back at school on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

# General Notices

Crossabeg Ballymurn GAA club would like to welcome boys and girls to come and join us for hurling and football.

If you are interested in registering your child with one of our teams please contact the Coiste na nog Secretary Leanna Redmond on 087 7908030 or our Go Games Co Ordinator/Children's Officer Gail Kavanagh on 086 2424999 for further details.

We look forward to seeing you all at the GAA pitch.