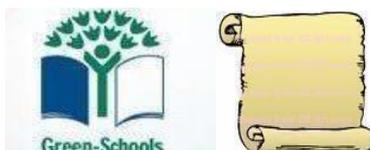


BALLYMURN NEWS – 27TH MAY 2021



Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is hard to believe that we are writing our penultimate school newsletter for the 2020/2021 school year. Although we are still bound by restrictions in school, the children have been very busy, and there is lots going on at the moment. We invite you to read below to see what we have been upto.

Standardised Testing

Our pupils completed their standardised tests over the past few weeks. As communicated by me before, these were conducted on the instruction of the Department of Education and Skills, who were seeking to update the data they have on schools. The results, which you will receive in your child's school report, should be interpreted differently to normal, as they are standardised against a group of children during a normal school year. Therefore, the average scores this year country wide will be lower. Many children's scores will have dropped, but this is completely normal, following the two years we have had since the last tests, and we all must remember that scores have dropped for everybody, and that pupils in every single school have been disadvantaged in the exact same way. We ask that if your child's score has disimproved from two years ago, not to draw their attention to it, as we want to avoid any negative connotations that the children may associate with standardised tests. Next year, we remain committed to looking after pupil wellbeing as our number one priority, and focussing on English, Maths and Irish skills that may have suffered during remote learning periods.

First Holy Communion

We are not permitted to hold our First Holy Communion before the end of this school year, and hope that we will soon have permission to set a date in September for this event. The children will make their First Confession in their class bubble on Wednesday next, June 2nd.

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 for more information.

Lockdown School Tour

All classes are very excited about our big school tour day next Thursday, June 3rd. Flow Promotions will be bringing their roadshow to Ballymurn to transform our grounds into a school tour destination for the day. We look forward to sharing lots of pictures with parents afterwards.

Sports Day

Sports Day takes place on Tuesday, June 22nd. This will be able to run as normal, with the children remaining in their class bubbles for the day, but unfortunately, we cannot invite parents to attend, because Department guidance still forbids us to invite parents to events. The BBQ on the day has been sponsored by Liam and Cindy from The Chip Van, and we extend our most grateful appreciation to them for this extremely kind gesture. Because of this, the children won't have to pay for food from the BBQ. Thank you also to the Parents' Association members, who will take charge of cooking and catering at the event.

The Road To Tokyo

A stellar performance has been put into our May fitness challenge by pupils in all classes. 3rd and 4th Class were very fast out of the blocks and reached their destination last week. Junior and Senior Infants are hot on their heels- All classes can continue to log their exercise endeavours over the next four days until the end of May. In other fitness related news, a big well done to all 3rd-6th class pupils, who have been completing the Bleep test each week, and making some extraordinary personal progress throughout.

Covid-19

We have been asked by Public Health to once again remind parents that children must not attend school if they are displaying any symptoms of Covid-19. There have been multiple outbreaks in schools around the country following cases where symptomatic children attended school for a number of days. Although things look a lot more positive now, due to the number of people vaccinated, we must remember that all pupils and the majority of staff in schools are not yet vaccinated, and we want to try our very best to get to the end of June without any class closures.

I thank you all for taking the time to read our newsletter.

Is mise le meas,

Emer O'Gorman
Príomhoide

Dates/Upcoming Events

- First Confession : Wednesday, June 2nd
- School Tour: Thursday, June 3rd
- June Bank Holiday: School closed Monday June 7th
- Wellbeing Wednesday: Wednesday June 9th
- Active Schools Week: June 14th -18th
- Sports Day: Tuesday June 22nd
- 6th Class Graduation Day: Friday June 25th
- 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

Where are the months going?! We can't believe that there's another month gone by in the Crescent Class. It has been another positive and progressive month for us. This month, we focused on the theme 'capacity' in maths. We were filling containers with water, sand & rice informally during sensory play and formally during 'teacher time.' The children were practising filling containers using non-standard units and making a guess as to how much water/sand/rice it would take to fill a container.

One of the stories we were focusing on this month was 'The Three Little Pigs.' We listened to the story in circle time, sequenced the events of the story using visuals and we even created the 3 Little Pigs houses in art using cardboard rectangles for the brick house, lollipop sticks for the stick house and finally straw. The children really enjoyed creating these houses in art while we were also continually developing our cutting skills.

This month we were very adventurous with our baking skills and moved onto banana bread. The children loved mixing the ingredients which we are getting more familiar with now every week and although they were a little unsure of adding mashed bananas to their nice, tasty ingredients, they enjoyed the finished product. We may have also added a few chocolate chips!

We can't wait for June and all of the fun activities which are ahead of us this month!

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

May has flown by in Junior and Senior Infants, and we have lots to report.

Our Aistear themes for the month have been 'The Veterinary Clinic' and 'The Campsite'. We took care of lots of ill pets in the role play area, and learned all about the Vet's day. After this we had a campsite in our role play area, and were very busy in role as campsite administrators and guests. We made some really cool cats and a special campfire in art, and wrote excellent words and sentences on each topic.

We have been focussing a lot on free writing over the past few weeks and everybody has enjoyed having the freedom to write about whatever topic they choose on the day. During Literacy stations, all teachers have been really impressed with our reading and dictation work.

As Gaeilge, we are working on the theme 'An Teilifís' learning lots of new vocabulary relating to television and the circus.. In Maths we've been learning about money, and have done lots of practical work exploring these areas, meaning we are all well ready for the reopening of the shops!

We've been doing as much P.E as possible, trying to clock up lots of kilometres on our Road to Tokyo journey. We are almost at the training camp in Fukoroi, and hope to reach Tokyo just in time.

We are really looking forward to our school tour next week and all the other fun that June has in store for us.

Report from Ms. Lawlor's Senior Infants and 1st Class

The children have been working very hard during May. We have been busy learning all about different types of transport and our role-play area was transformed into the airport. The children played in role as pilot, flight attendant, security officer and passenger. Tickets were filled in and passports checked for their travels all over the world.

In Maths the children had fun learning about capacity and weight. They estimated and measured and it was great fun to play with the water. In 1st class the children are enjoying Roald Dahl's novel *The Giraffe, the Pelly and Me*. The children have also enjoyed having a student teacher in our room over the past month. Ms Kavanagh has done some fun lessons with the children during this time. They particularly enjoyed a drama lesson about wild animals. Thank you Ms Kavanagh!

In art we've been busy getting very messy making papier mache hot air balloons. They are work in progress so we hope to get them finished very soon! For PE the children have been learning lots of new skills with the athletics and GAA coaches. We are also getting closer to Tokyo in the Olympic Challenge so thanks for logging their activities and hopefully we'll reach our destination next week!

Report from Ms. Boggan's 2nd Class

We have had a great month in 2nd Class. In maths we were busy learning about Area, Data and we have been busy adding with renaming. We have practiced answering questions about Mé Féin as gaeilge and looked at explanation writing in english.

In science this month we were learning about magnetism. We did lots of investigations about magnets in class. We discovered what items around the classroom were magnetic and which were non-magnetic by testing them with the magnets.. We also did some investigating to see what materials the magnet could work through. We also learned about the north and south poles of the magnet and how they repel and attract. We have also heard all about Space. We now know who the first man to walk on the moon was. Do you know his name?

In history we have heard about life when our grandparents were young . We learned about some of the games they played and Ms. Keane brought in a very old camera to show us. It was about 80 years old.

We are all looking forward to a special day next week when we will make our First Confession in the church with Fr.Finn. We are busy practicing our prayers and doing some lovely art in preparation for this.

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

It has been the quickest month yet in the 3rd and 4th classroom! Children have been really enjoying a lot of active aspects this month, with athletics, GAA, beep tests and the Road to Tokyo Challenge! It has been great having lots of fun while improving all our exercise and steps weekly.

We are enjoying some exciting reading groups with a mix of research stations, reading activities and writing tasks. The engagement has been excellent the last few weeks, well done everyone. Children have also been busy with a range of maths tasks and puzzles. The children are particularly enjoying our logic puzzles that we do weekly, where children work really well with a partner to talk through the process. I have loved hearing their maths brains 'thinking aloud' during this. We are almost finished our Woodlands exploration, analysing soil samples this week in our science experiments! As we arrived in Tokyo as part of School Challenge, we did some fun tasks to get a feel for some Japanese culture. We designed the flag of Japan and designed it with a range of Japanese phrases such as hello and goodbye using the Japanese symbols. We also had some fun trying to use chop sticks, this was a challenge but we really enjoyed trying! We explored origami in art, which is the art of paper folding to create paper cranes (type of bird). This was also quite challenging in places, but the children did a great job. We have also been looking at a composer called Mussorgsky in music, learning some facts about his life and exploring his famous work called Pictures at An Exhibition. This was a lovely integration of music and art responses, the children did a brilliant job at some listening and responding tasks! Well done all, we are looking forward to another busy and active month ahead!

Report from Mrs. Brophy's 5th/6th Class

May, the first month of summer, was a busy one for our class when we returned to school after the mid-term break. Sport was a key feature as we continued our journey to Tokyo, our athletics programme, GAA Coaching and our weekly 20m 'Bleep Test'. Some of the children are making wonderful progress on their times in this test.

In English we are still studying poetry. At this stage we have looked at Haiku, Kennings, Acrostic, Cinquain, Limericks and Narrative. Our narrative poem is 'The Highwayman' by Alfred Noyes. We have been learning all about the features of poetry from personification to onomatopoeia.

Gaeilge sees us finishing up on the theme of 'Caitheamh Aimsire' (past-times/hobbies). We have been doing lots of comprehensions, verbs and translation sentences. The children are becoming quite confident in their work.

In Maths we covered, Area, 'The Circle' and Directed Numbers. We are working hard in this subject as there is a lot to cover before the end of June.

In SESE we have been learning about North America and Northern Ireland 'The Troubles'. We have been studying the continent of North America from Canada to

Panama. In June as part of our art lessons, we shall construct some of the more famous North American cities.

Our 6th Class shall graduate from primary school on Friday 25th June and we look forward to sharing their special day with them. The children can wear their own clothes to the service which shall be officiated by Fr. Finn. Weather permitting we shall hold the service in the field and have a special treat for the children afterwards.

We are also looking forward to our Sports Day and School Tour.

General Notices

Rowing

Our rowing club, Edermine Ferry is back on the water and we are taking new members this year, any child who was 10 since October 2020 is eligible to join.

Rowing is a great way to get out and meet new friends and we train 3 nights a week during the summer so lots to keep juniors occupied.



We want your unwanted clothes and shoes .
We would be grateful if you could donate any clothes and shoes you may not need anymore..
Your support is greatly appreciated.
Please contact Evelyn on 0861091092.



Presents

The Little Puckers

GAA NURSERY

Saturdays
10.30 am

Starting
5th June



Registration
€20 for year

Ballymurn
GAA pitch

Open to all kids born in 2016 & 2017

Contact: Eoin @ 087 2707422 or Leanne @ 087 7908030

This is a Parent Stay & Play Event!