



Dear Parents/Guardians,

It's only been three weeks since our last newsletter, as the Halloween break falls earlier than normal. However, there is still lots to update you all on, so I urge you all to read through all the points below.

## **Hurling 365**

Hurling 365 has come back with a bang in Ballymurn. A HUGE thank you to all the volunteer coaches who have signed up to help out over the past few weeks. We've had over 20 children partaking in each session and it's been wonderful to see the pupils wide awake in class after their early morning exercise.

**Absences** - Please remember to fill in our return to school form if your child has been absent from school. This is not just a school policy, all schools are obliged to record reasons for pupil absences on the official roll. <https://forms.gle/kVLJRogK2rsHCKzt7>

As always, we must remind parents that we are also obliged by law to report instances where children have been absent for a cumulative total of twenty days or more during the school year to Tusla.

**Bake Sale** - The Crescent Class held a hugely successful Bake Sale last week. The children, their parents and staff worked so hard preparing tasty treats for their fellow students and everybody had a fantastic morning sampling the fabulous offerings! We'd like to say a huge thank you to all who donated to this worthy cause, raising a whopping €440.38. This will enable the children to go on a nice trip during the year.

**Student Council**- Student Council Elections took place in 3rd-6th class in recent weeks. Our newly elected Student Council members are as follows: Abbie Wade, Jamie Whelan, Riain Redmond, Callum Murphy, Kate van Heerden, Louie Bursey, James Vorster, Kyle Wade and Caoimhe Walsh. Their first undertaking was helping out the Crescent Class with their Bake Sale, and they did a really wonderful job.

**Hallowe'en Hike**- Our Halloween Hike takes place tomorrow at 10am. Parents are welcome to watch us heading off outside the school, but we ask you to ensure to follow social distancing rules if doing so. Thank you so much to everyone who has supported our fundraising for this event.

**Christmas Performance** - As we are still obliged to keep children in class bubbles without mixing, it seems that our Christmas Carol Service in the church will not be possible this year. We have booked a videographer again, who will record the class performances like last year, and a video will issue again for families to watch at home. The children really enjoyed making their productions last year- It was a real treat preparing for a professionally recorded performance, and we look forward to getting into the swing of this again after the midterm break.

**Garda Vetting** - It is a legal requirement that any parents who wish to be involved in school activities e.g. Rackard League, Hurling 365 etc., must be Garda vetted through the school. We realise that many parents are already Garda vetted through the G.A.A and other organisations, but

unfortunately, everybody still needs to go through the school vetting process. If you would like to become involved and have not been vetted previously, please contact the school office for a form. This also applies if you are giving a lift to another child to matches.

**Parent Teacher Meetings** - Thank you to all who have responded to our questionnaire on whether they require an in person meeting or a phone call. The majority of parents so far have opted for the phone call service, which is hugely helpful to us as we try to keep the number of visitors to the school as low as possible. If you have not completed this form yet, please do so at the following link <https://forms.gle/bk6RePfSB5vEM2Ro8> by Monday November 1st, as Leanna will begin to organise a timetable on her return. Those who do not respond will be put on the list for phone call meetings.

**Parking**- Please remember to park with care on the street outside the school. Do not double park or block access to staff cars. The car park spaces provided are for staff use and the school bus only. We also ask that people please do not park directly opposite the school, as our bus for pupils with Special Educational Needs parks there. Please do not park in these spaces when dropping off or collecting your child from school. Please be conscious of how/where you park, taking the children's safety into account at all times.

**Communication** - Parents are reminded that if you have a concern/issue which you would like to raise with the school; you must make an appointment to speak to your child's teacher, through the school office. Because of Covid-19, these appointments will take place over the phone wherever possible. Emails can be sent directly to the class teacher, but if a message is time sensitive, it is best to email it to the office, and Leanna can ensure the teacher gets the message, as a class teacher may not see a direct email in time.

**Parents' Association**- All parents/guardians of children in our school are automatically members of the Parents' Association, the aim of which is to support the Board of Management and staff in the running of the school. In recent years, we have had a small group of parents who have shown huge dedication to the school through their involvement in the PA. Many of their children have now moved on to second level education and they will be leaving their PA positions. We express our gratitude to all of these people for the work that they have done. I would like to strongly encourage new parents to become involved this year. Information regarding the AGM will be email to you after the midterm break.

Le gach dea ghuí,

**Emer O'Gorman**  
**Príomhoide**

#### **Dates / Upcoming Events:**

- Hallowe'en Hike - 22nd October at 10am (weather permitting). Children are encouraged to dress in their Hallowe'en costumes on this date. **Sponsorship cards must be returned to the school by November 1st**
- Mid-Term Break - Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October - Friday 29th October inclusive. School re-opens Monday 1st November at 9.20am.
- Clothing Collection - Monday 1<sup>st</sup> & Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November (see poster at bottom of newsletter)

- Shoe Box Appeal - All boxes must be returned on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November
- Parent Teacher Meetings - Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November (In person meetings)
- Recording of Christmas Performances- Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup>
- Christmas Holidays - school closes at **12.15pm** for all children on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December and will re-open on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2021.

## Class Reports

### Ms. Ormonde's Crescent Class

October has been a very special month for us as we ran our very first school event. We worked so hard this month practising our baking skills and we were delighted to see everyone enjoying their treats. We would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all pupils in our school for coming to our bake sale and to our entire school community for your generous donations. It has not gone unnoticed, and this money will be well spent on social outings for the pupils in the Crescent Class throughout the year.

This month, our focus has been on autumn and Halloween. We have been learning the song 'Dingle Dangle Scarecrow' and the pupils taught the Lámh sign 'sun' to the school during assembly as we have been practising it in our song. We also listened to the story 'The Scarecrow' which tells the lovely story of a Scarecrow who makes friends in the most unexpected way. The children also created their own scarecrows in art which turned out fantastic.

In English this month we have been putting a huge emphasis on communication and language and using positive methods of communication. The pupils have been encouraged to communicate with both adults and their peers in different ways. In the Crescent Class we communicate in different ways such as with a picture communication book, by using gestures and by using verbal language. We have new communication boards up around our classroom, the children's mainstream classrooms and the corridors which we are now modelling for the children. We hope that this will be a school-wide method of communication for the pupils in the Crescent Class going forward.

### Ms. O'Gorman's Junior and Senior Infant Report 😊

We have been learning all about Autumn in Junior and Senior Infants this month, and enjoyed a nature walk around Ballymurn at the beginning of the month. Our horse chestnuts and other Autumn fruits that we collected are now opening up. During Aistear, we enjoyed the themes 'Our School' and 'Hallowe'en'. There were lots of new teachers, secretaries and principals in the classroom earlier this month! The Deadly Diner has been very busy in recent times and there have been lots of poisonous potions and icky dinners produced for the witches and skeletons in our room!

We have been working on the stories 'Oíche Shamhna', 'Sa Chlós' agus 'Sa Chistin' in Gaeilge and have learned many new songs and rhymes. The children are making excellent progress with their oral Irish.

Junior Infants have been doing lots in the area of phonological awareness during stations, and have gotten so good at rhyming and identifying parts of sentences. They have also made great progress

with their new Jolly Phonic sounds, and look forward to bringing home more homework sheets after the break.

Senior Infants have continued to work hard at their reading, and we are seeing really excellent progress in this area.

We had a brilliant Zoom with Brendan from the DSPCA, where we learned lots about animal cruelty, and were instructed on how to mind our pets at Halloween.

We had a fabulous storytelling workshop with esteemed children's author, Caroline Busher, who told us some great stories about the local area. This week, we have been doing different activities for Maths Week, and seen some very cool videos on Maths Week tv. We can't wait for our Halloween Hike tomorrow.

### **Ms. Kehoe's 1st and 2nd Class Report 😊**

This month first and second class have really progressed into daily routines. We did lots of work and on recount writing and writing about our news and our weekends. We finally finished Fantastic Mr. Fox earlier on the month which was a big hit and we will revisit another novel by Roald Dahl soon.

The children have been enjoying GAA coaching each Thursday morning and they are participating greatly with the trainers and as a class.

We have also been exploring the changes we see as we move into the season of autumn and the features of autumn and Halloween also. We explored some common trees in the area that are currently losing their leaves like the sycamore and horse chestnut tree. The children created their own beautiful autumnal trees using paint. We also explored some of the history of Halloween. In art we created spooky Halloween silhouettes.

In maths the children are progressing greatly at their tables and are engaging in their 10 mental maths questions daily.

In Irish the children are learning new phrases and vocabulary and they especially love to play Simon says in Irish!

We also have explored the importance of kindness and friendship. We learned the song 'You've got a friend in me' back at the start of the month which the children really seemed to have enjoyed. Last week and this week we have been learning the 'Monster Mash' to keep in line with the spooky season.

We are all looking forward to Friday for the Halloween hike and to get dressed up. I hope everyone has a lovely midterm break!

### **Mrs. Brophy's 3rd Class Report 😊**

October has been a busy month in 3<sup>rd</sup> Class. We have been working very hard and learning lots of new things. We also had a Zoom talk from the DSPCA and heard how to take care of our pets during Halloween. Our weekly Tag Rugby and GAA coaching sessions are great fun too.

In Maths this month we studied time, analogue and digital. We also learnt subtraction of 3 digits e.g.  $147-125=$ . The children have been working hard at their Maths in class. After Halloween we shall begin working on the topic of Fractions. In English we are continuing to read our novel 'The Creakers' by Tom Fletcher. We are very excited to find out how or if Lucy rescues the adults from the Woleb. We have published two books with our Recount Writing pieces and are really enjoying reading our friends stories. The children have also been busy learning grammar and practicing 'cloze tests'.

In Irish we covered the theme 'Bia' and the children worked very hard designing their own menus, pizzas and learning our song. We have also begun learning about the *past tense* in Irish and answering comprehension questions. The children are working hard at this subject.

In SESE we studied Aboriginal Peoples and read lots of interesting information about them. We also read several Dreamtime legends and made our own picture book of same. We have been continuing to learn about Ireland's counties, provinces and features particular to Wexford. This week we learnt about the Food Pyramid and healthy eating.

Our Art lessons this month focused on using paint. The children painted a scene from our novel and some lovely Halloween pictures. All art work is available for parents to see on your child's 'Seesaw' portfolio.

Finally, we had a visit from author Caroline Busher this week. She spoke to us about story writing and how to frame our stories to capture the reader's imagination. We really enjoyed her visit.

### **Ms. Lawlor's 4th/5th Class Report 😊**

October has been a month of lots of learning and fun in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> class! In English the children are working hard to improve their fluency, expression and clarity when reading. They are doing this by reading lots of books and texts in the classroom. Their favourite reading activity is called Readers Theatre. This is where they read scripts as a character to practise reading more fluently. They have been working on Halloween themed scripts for the past two weeks, so we are looking forward to hearing them read aloud at the end of the week.

We have been enjoying lots of different maths activities for Maths Week. The children had a live call from a math-magician, and we've also taken part in a quiz alongside hundreds of other classes in Ireland. The children have been very quick to solve some fun matchstick puzzles too!

Last week was Climate Action Week so the children enjoyed a talk by author Oisín McGann on the topic. They are now a lot more aware of the changes that are happening to the climate of planet Earth. We have pledged to do our little bit in our classroom to help reverse climate change e.g. switching off the whiteboard and lights when they are not needed. The children have been very creative in art lessons, they've been constructing lots of simple decorations for Halloween using many different materials and clay.

Wishing you all a lovely mid-term break. Happy Halloween!

## **Ms. Morrissey's 5th/6<sup>th</sup> Class Report 😊**

It's hard to believe we have put in our first half term already. The children have been making me very proud with their work ethic and great attitude since day one. They are showing great leadership and example to the rest of the school, keep it up everyone.

In English, we have been continuing to dissect and explore our novel Kensuke's Kingdom. We have been focussing on lots of reading strategies such as prediction, determining importance and questioning. I have loved hearing children justify their opinions on something in the story and especially when they have different viewpoints from one another. We have also been writing some very descriptive pieces of writing, just in line with Halloween. The sense of spooky is well and truly here in our classroom, well done everyone!

In Maths we have really enjoyed Maths Week activities. There have been some online elements, such as a session with part teacher, part magician. He really showed us some amazing maths related concepts in a very interesting way. We have also been busy working in pairs on puzzles, brain teasers and estimation tasks. We have done a lot of hard work on our fractions and long division the last few weeks also. I am very proud with all the progress so far!

In Irish, we have been busy working on the theme of Bia (Food). Children have been working hard on verbs and grammar work also. A huge effort has been put into their reading of the E Leathanach also, keep it up everyone.

In SESE this month we have been looking at a very current and relevant topic, climate change. Children have been learning all about the causes, the effects and what we can do to play our part in reducing the effects of this both at home and in school. Well done!

We have thoroughly enjoyed a busy term of rugby and GAA coaches aswell to keep us active. Happy Halloween to everyone, enjoy the well earned break.



## Ballymurn N.S Clothing Collection!



Do you have too many clothes just lying around the place? Or are you looking for something to do over the mid-term break? Why not clear out your wardrobe and help our clothes collection fundraiser.

Not sure what you can and cant put in well here is a list, so nothing should be stopping you helping us out.

### ☺ What you can put in:

- ✓ Clothes
- ✓ Pairs of shoes
- ✓ Handbags
- ✓ Belts
- ✓ Duvet Covers
- ✓ Curtains
- ✓ Bedlinen
- ✓ Towels
- ✓ Blankets
- ✓ Soft Toys

### ☹ What you cant put in:

- × No pillows
- × No duvets
- × No socks
- × No underwear

Black bags can be dropped off outside the school on **Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd of November.**