



BALLYMURN NEWS

24TH JUNE 2021



Dear Parents/Guardians,

As I reflect on what's been an extraordinary year, I want to pay tribute to all members of our school community. Firstly, to our pupils, who have shown fantastic resilience, and coped so well with all the changes to the school calendar and routine this year. It's been wonderful this month, as we enjoyed our various fun days, to see them all in good form, enjoying school and having fun with friends.

To our staff, I want to extend a huge thank you. All members of staff have gone above and beyond this year to ensure school runs smoothly for our pupils. From making huge changes to the school at the beginning of the year to implement a Covid Response Plan, to adjusting to teaching remotely, ensuring that the children were still receiving a great education when the building was closed, and most importantly, when school is open under restrictions, they have always ensured that the children were burdened as little as possible, by fears around infection, and the restrictions that ensued. We are so lucky to have such a fantastic group working here in Ballymurn.

Finally, to our parents. At times like this, the link between school and home is tested to the full, and I could not be more thankful to work with such a fantastic group of parents. I really appreciate the way that each and every one of you worked with us in keeping our school as safe as possible. Everybody has been so good at ensuring the children were never in school when they were sick, bringing them for tests when required, to ensure that we avoided outbreaks in our school, and communicating so clearly with us at all times. These efforts meant that we haven't had to close classes, or send pods of pupils home to isolate. Over the last two years, the meaning of the phrase that describes parents as 'partners in education', changed utterly. We, as a staff thank you all most sincerely for the efforts you all made during remote learning, to ensure that your children continued to progress as well as possible.

Although it is difficult to believe, today is the final Thursday of the school year, and this is our final school newsletter of the year. We haven't let Covid restrictions get the better of us in school yet, and have had a really fun June in school, which I would love for you all to read about below.

The Covid Response Plan must remain in place when we return in September, so all routines for entering and exiting school, and classes remaining as bubbles etc, will be unchanged when we return. Hopefully, we will see all of these things phased out during the next school year.

I wish everybody a safe and happy summer break, and look forward to seeing the children again on August 30th.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Emer O'Gorman
Principal

First Holy Communion

The date has finally been set for our First Holy Communion class to have their special day. It will take place on Saturday, September 11th at 11am. Next year, our First Holy Communion will take place on Saturday, May 14th 2022 at 11am. 5th and 6th class will make their Confirmation next year also, but we have not yet received dates for this.

Enrolment for School Year 2021/2022

We are still accepting enrolments for September 2021. 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

Flow Promotions brought their School Tour Roadshow to Ballymurn on June 3rd, and an amazing day was had by every member of the school community. We had some very special visitors such as Minnie and Mickey Mouse, Spongebob, Skye and Chase from Paw Patrol, Poppy and Branch from Trolls, and Spiderman. Some of the children said that school was like Disneyland for the day! There was a super D.J who had an all day disco, and we also had Nore Valley Pet Farm bring some very cute visitors to the school. There was a target zone, where we could measure how fast and far we could kick the ball and some really cool giant games, such as Operation, Jenga, Connect 4, Beat the Buzz and Bowling. We did a really fun obstacle course too. Overall, nobody minded at all that we didn't go away on a school tour this year, because such a brilliant tour came to us.

Sports Day

Sports Day took place on Tuesday, June 22nd. We were so lucky with the weather, and were able to have a glorious day outside on the pitch. We had 14 teams, captained by our 6th class pupils, who had great fun competing in all the races. The winners were as follows:

1st Place: Meath: Leah, Jamie, A.J. Katie, Amelia K, Róisín, Amber and Connor

2nd Place: Waterford: Umboon, Noah, Riain, Daithí Amelia D and Erin

3rd Place: Louth: Lennon, Michaela, May, Jack Mc, Tara, Caoimhe, Charlie and Finn

Following the races, the children were treated to a yummy barbecue by the Parents' Association. The food for this was kindly sponsored by Liam and Cindy from The Chip Van. Many thanks to them for their generosity, and to Mag, Sarah, Barbara, Gail and Denise for all their hard work on the day.

In the afternoon, all classes took part in a station circuit, where the Junior classes played games, had fun with chalk and bubbles, and used the parachutes. The Senior classes did an obstacle course, played hockey and rounders.

The day culminated with the annual staff versus students challenge. This year the sport of choice was rounders, with bragging rights going to the staff, by a light margin.

Active Schools Week/Cumann na mBunscol Week

Active Schools Week/ Cumann na Bunscol Week took place from June 14th-18th. The school was a hive of activity each day and I know that our pupils had a ball. We started the week with a 6km walk around the block for older classes, and a shorter walk for Junior classes. There were lots of hurling and football challenges set by county players each day, that we watched on the Cumann na mBunscol Twitter page, and tried out here. Each class did a Joe Wicks warm-up each morning, and this was followed by many other activities during the day. Each class had an Irish Dancing lesson with Ms. Ormonde, enjoyed an obstacle course created by Ms. Morrissey's class, and had Athletics and G.A.A sessions. Well done to the 6th class boys who were fantastic coaches to the younger children.

Sixth Class Graduation

Sixth Class Graduation will take place at an outdoor ceremony tomorrow on the school pitch. Unfortunately, we are not permitted to invite parents to attend, but we will stream it on Zoom for them. We are saying goodbye to our wonderful Class of 2021, who will be greatly missed around our school next year. They are spreading their wings far and wide, with pupils moving on to St. Mary's C.B.S., Coláiste Bríde, Meánscoil Charman, Presentation Secondary School and St. Peter's College. Go n-éirí an t-ádh le Seán, Glenn, Umboon, Anthony, Lennon, Eoghan, Oisín, Abby, Lucy, Layla, Orla, Sophie, Keira, Holly agus Leah. Tomorrow also marks the last day of the Bishop, O'Brien-Miller, Parker, Carty, O'Gorman, Raleigh-Carley, Preecha, Dooley and Barry families having a member attending our school, and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their support for the school over many years.



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

Is mise le meas,

Emer O'Gorman
Príomhoide

Dates/Upcoming Events

- 6th Class Graduation Day: Friday June 25th
- Summer Holidays: School will close for the summer at 12.15pm on Wednesday, June 30th
- Return to School: August 30th at 9.20am (10am for Junior Infants)
- First Holy Communion: September 11th at 11am

News from our Classrooms

Report from Ms. Ormonde's Crescent Class

We have had the most fantastic month in the Crescent Class. Although we have been sticking to our daily routine and continuing to work hard throughout June, we have also enjoyed mixing with our mainstream classes for fun events. We absolutely loved our school tour day and meeting some of our favourite characters was definitely the highlight for us! We also thoroughly enjoyed running races with our friends (and our teacher!) on sports day. We continue to enjoy practising mindfulness every day and we were delighted to share our mindfulness session with the entire school this month for 'Wellbeing Wednesday.'

As the class teacher in the Crescent Class this year, I would just like to note how proud I am of every child not only in my own class, but in our entire school. The children in the Crescent Class have been funny, kind and hardworking this year and I have enjoyed every moment as their teacher. Our school community have been so inclusive this year and I have to commend the children from junior infants, up to 6th class, for their amazing efforts. I am looking forward to more fun with the Crescent Class during the summer programme 'July Provision' which will get started next month!

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

We have had so much fun in our room in June. We continued to revise all the new words and sounds we learned this year, and worked hard on our reading every day until last week. Everybody had a wonderful day at the school tour, and when we voted for our favourite parts, the disco and the pet farm won out.

We have been learning about the theme 'Siopadóireacht' in Gaeilge, and our Aistear theme 'The Ice-Cream Shop' was closely linked to this. We did Aistear outside as much as possible, and had really good fun doing water play.

In Maths, we continued to learn about Money, and also continued work on number.

We learned all about the upcoming Olympic Games following our Road to Tokyo exploits, and did lovely artwork based on the Olympic rings and torch. We also designed our own Olympic jerseys and medals.

We had so much fun during Active Schools Week, and Sports Day. All of us, (including Ms. O'Gorman) were wrecked every evening from all the fun! We loved doing all the G.A.A skills, and really enjoyed the dance class and obstacle course. The BBQ on Sports Day was another big hit in our class. We've made a list of fun activities that we would like to do before we finish next week, so are currently busy getting through this!

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

It is hard to believe we have come to the final days of our school year already! We have had such good fun during the month of June. It has been a highly active month. The children thoroughly enjoyed the school tour roadshow, followed by active school's week and they had the best day ever on Tuesday for sports day, the burgers and fizzy drinks were a big hit!

The Aistear theme for the month was Summer and our role-play area was transformed into a beach every day. The children practised using money in the ice-cream shop. They talked about safety at the beach, wrote postcards to their friends and examined the natural features of the shore such as shells and seaweed.

In English, the children worked on explanation writing. They discussed how something works or happens during station work and they wrote an explanation about how a hot air balloon flies.

I have had a fantastic three years teaching 1st class and two years with the Senior Infants. They are an amazing bunch of children who are all so enthusiastic about learning, it has been a joy to teach them. Thank you all for your support over the past years too. I wish the children all the best as they journey on, and I hope everyone has a great summer and lots of well deserved fun!

Report from Ms. Boggan's 2nd Class

June has been a great month in 2nd Class. We have been really busy both in the class room and outside participating in lots of fun activities.

In maths we were busy learning about Money and practicing Problem Solving. We were also going back over all our tables learned so far this year. Everyone is after getting really fast answering tables in Last Man Standing, our tables game. We have revised vocabulary and answering questions about Caithaeamh Aimsire and Scoil as gaeilge. We have worked on procedural writing in English where we looked at following recipes and

experiments. We have just completed another novel, Don Conroy's "Witches, A Haunting We Will Go."

In history we discussed important events and our favourite memories. We then created timelines to record these. We discussed foods grown in Ireland in geography and Water Safety in SPHE.

It has been an action packed month outside the classroom also and we took part in many activities. Active Schools Week, Sports Day, GAA coaching, Athletics coaching and we had a fantastic School Tour on the school grounds on June 3rd.

We made our First Confession in the church with Fr.Finn on June 2nd and had a small party in school after to celebrate this special occasion. We have continued practicing our prayers and doing some lovey art in preparation for First Holy Communion in the coming months.

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

It is very hard to think that we are writing our last newsletter report for the year.

June has been a hive of activity both in and out of the classroom. The kids have been enjoying lots of fun between our school tour, active week, wellbeing days and our wonderful sports day. The school tour and sports days were a massive success and the children were full of the joys of life from start to finish. Children loved active week where we saw lots of different skills and challenges involving our GAA sports. We also had Irish dancing, 5km walks and obstacle courses. It is great to see such happy children in our school week in and week out. The boys and girls also got treated to a delicious barbecue, which consisted of tasty burgers, sausages and even a drink of their choice. We are very grateful, so thank you again to the wonderful parents for organising this. The teachers loved this treat just as much as the kids!

In maths we have been exploring interesting and challenging ways of using all of our maths knowledge from across the year. We have been doing lots of word problems, logic puzzles and even worked hard on a Murder Mystery maths task which we worked on in pairs and small groups over a number of days. This was a challenge but I was very proud of how well the children engaged and worked together as a team. We also did a maths tasks based around the idea of 'Escape Rooms'. This involved a huge amount of clue finding, problem solving and being very focused at what was being asked of them. It wasn't easy, but the children did an amazing job and really gave their maths brain a workout!

In English we have been finishing off our wonderful novel Mr Stink. The children loved this from start to finish and the engagement and class discussions will be missed! We have also been doing a number of word and language games to build vocabulary in a fun categories game which needs sharp thinking against the clock! Well done everyone.

In art we have been looking at the use of line to create 3D art. This means that we give the illusion that something has three dimensions and appears to be almost jumping off the page. We did 3D name art, and this took a lot of listening and following instructions before the children could go and add their own personal and creative touches to it. It was certainly a challenge to get the 3D effect, but they all look amazing!

Finally I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to every child, parent and guardian who worked so cooperatively with me this year in a year that was anything but straightforward. It is much appreciated. I want to wish you all a happy , healthy and relaxing Summer break.

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

June was another busy month in our class. Today for example we had a visit from Sgt. Colm Matthews and Garda Séamus Killeen who came to talk to us about their role in our community and how the children can stay safe and healthy in their lives. We are very grateful to both men for their time and expertise.

We worked hard at our school work and finished a number of topics in history (French Revolution), Geography (Fair Trade) and Maths (Variables and Averages).

We also had some great fun activities with our School Tour, Sports Day and of course our Graduation Ceremony which will be held tomorrow. After 8 wonderful years working with the boys and girls in 6th Class, tomorrow we shall be saying 'Slán' to them. These amazing children are:

Umboon, Glenn, Lennon, Seán, Oisín, Anthony, Eoghan, Leah, Lucy, Layla, Abby, Orla, Sophie, Keira and Holly.

We wish each and every one of them the very best of luck as they move across to secondary school. They will always be welcome here at Ballymurn NS and we are all extremely proud of them. We are also saying 'Slán' to a number of families this year and we thank them for all their support and kindness over the years. These families are:

Umboon's, Glenn's, Lennon's, Seán's, Anthony's, Leah's, Lucy's, Layla's, Abby's, Orla's and Sophie's.

On a personal level, I would like to take this opportunity to say 'Thank You' to all the parents and children in 5th and 6th Class. You have been a pleasure to work with this year and I wish you all a very enjoyable and relaxing summer holiday.

General Notices

Just Do You • KIDS •

Age 8-13

Classes will include

Cardio
Strength and Conditioning
Fundamental Movements
Olympic Weightlifting Techniques
Mindset and lots more

And of course it will be lots of **FUN!**

Weather Permitting

JULY

July Classes

Every Monday & Thursday

week1. 5th & 8th

week2. 12th & 15th

week3. 19th & 22nd

@ 3pm .1 hour per class.

Call me today to book your place.

P | 087 319 4111

AUGUST

August Classes

Every Monday & Thursday

week1. 9th & 12th

week2. 16th & 19th

week3. 23rd & 26th

@ 3pm .1 hour per class.

Only €5.00 per class

Limited Numbers - Max 12-15 Per Class

Just do you ♥



Anne Marie Wade Qualified in
Diploma in Personal Training
Crossfit Level 1 Certificate
Crossfit Kids Certificate
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