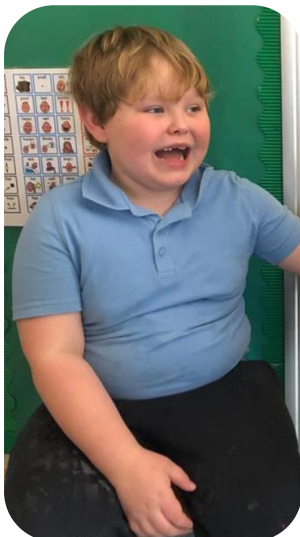


Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to our first newsletter of the 2021/22, particularly to those of you who are new parents in our school. This month, we've been delighted to welcome our new Junior Infants: Milly, Zara, Robyn, Keira, Maisie, Logan, Shane, Alfie, Kyle and Freddie, and also Chulainn, Kate and Alannah, who joined us in other classes.



*We are very proud of  
all our Junior Infant  
boys and girls.*



**First Holy Communion-** Our boys and girls in 3rd class celebrated their First Holy Communion on Saturday, September 11th. I'd like to thank Fr. Finn, all the staff members involved, the Parents' Association for supplying treat bags and a balloon to each child, and finally, the parents of the pupils who received the sacrament for ensuring that the children had such a fabulous day.

### **Hurling 365**

Hurling 365 has been at a standstill since March 2020, and we are so excited that this initiative can now resume. In collaboration with Crossabeg/Ballymurn G.A.A Club, Hurling 365 takes place on two mornings each week, from 8.30-9.10am. Tuesday morning's session is for Senior Infants- 2nd Class, and Thursday morning's session is for 3rd-6th Class. We've had a great response so far for the older age group, but we really need more volunteers from the younger groups. If you feel you could help out, as a coach, or a volunteer supervisor, please let Leanna know in the office.

**Hurling 365 will resume on:**      **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October @ 8.30am for Senior Infants - 2<sup>nd</sup> Class**  
**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October @ 8.30am for 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Class**

The Hall will be unavailable for the time being due to ongoing maintenance so hurling will take place in the senior yard. If the weather is wet we will call training off for that morning.

**Extra-Curricular Activities** - Public Health advice still hasn't permitted the facilitating of inter-school sports, so all Rackard League and Cumann na mBunscoil activities will not resume until further notice.

**Child Safeguarding Statement** - Our Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on September 14th. A copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement can be found on our school website. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) in Ballymurn NS is Ms. Emer O'Gorman and the Deputy DLP is Ms. Chloe Ormonde. If you have any concerns regarding child protection, please contact the DLP, or in her absence, the Deputy DLP.

**Absences** - Although our older pupils have an absence report form in their homework diaries, we have compiled a new form to make the return to school as simple as possible in light of Covid-19. We have had many queries from parents about whether they need to call us etc. when pupils return from illness this year. Before your child returns to school please complete the return to school online form <https://forms.gle/m7sVWNSScagFtpGR7> and you also need to write a note in your child's homework journal or send an email to [office@ballymurnns.ie](mailto:office@ballymurnns.ie)

**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 Contact Details** If you have changed your home address or contact numbers, please email Leanna with your new details ([office@ballymurnns.ie](mailto:office@ballymurnns.ie))

**No Uniform Day on Fridays:** This is voluntary but if children wear their own clothes, they are asked to donate €1 each to the school. The Voluntary Contribution of €100 per family is due by 6<sup>th</sup> October. These monies can be paid in instalments. More information on this was circulated to all families via email. Thank you 😊

**Enrolment for September 2022:** If you, a family member or neighbour have a child joining us for Junior Infants next September please ask them to contact Leanna in the office with the details. We will then be able to keep you up to date with all the enrolment details.

**Curriculum: Irish Reading** Due to fundraising efforts within the school, we have been able to invest in a newly published graded Irish reading system. This is like our system for English readers, where the children will progress up through the levels according to reading ability. 3rd-6th Class will begin to use these readers soon, with 2nd class beginning after Christmas. C.J Fallon, the publishers, have developed an excellent facility online, where parents and pupils can access the audio version of the books online, which will be great for alleviating any stress at home with pronunciation issues! You simply need to go to [www.cjfallon.ie](http://www.cjfallon.ie), and click on the 'FREE ONLINE RESOURCES' banner on the website homepage.

**Mangahigh.com:** Mangahigh is an excellent web based mathematics programme, that has been designed to support the primary school maths curriculum. We have purchased access to mangahigh for 3rd-6th class this year. All children in these classes have been given unique login details to access mangahigh.com and we greatly encourage them to make use of it at home to develop their maths skills. Maths Week begins on Saturday, October 16th, and there will be an exciting competition taking place on Mangahigh for our students to participate in.

**Covid-19 and Supervision:** A reminder that children must not enter the school premises before 9.10am. From this time onwards, our filtered arrival system allows all children to walk straight around the school to their designated classroom door. Those collecting 1st/2nd class are asked to be on the yard at 2.55pm. Dogs are not allowed on the school premises and we ask that if you have a dog on the road, to keep them well back from the gate as the children exit. Please remember that the school cannot take responsibility for pupils who are left on the road outside the school before 9.10am.

**Healthy Eating** - Reminder that the school operates a 'healthy eating policy'. Children are allowed a small treat each Friday and we thank parents for their support in implementing this policy. This is available on our website '[www.ballymurnns.ie](http://www.ballymurnns.ie)'

#### **Primary Language Curriculum Inservice Training**

School will close at 12.15pm on Friday, October 15th, as staff must attend training for the Primary Language Curriculum that afternoon.

**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.

**Grievances**- If any parent/guardian has a grievance they would like to raise with the school, please follow the procedures as laid out in our 'Communication Policy'. This policy is available to read on our website '[www.ballymurnns.ie](http://www.ballymurnns.ie)'

In all cases we endeavour to deal with issues raised as promptly and fairly as possible. We will do our best to resolve any and every situation as far as is practicable.

**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.

In normal times, we would hold our AGM around this time. However, due to the pandemic, it is not currently possible to hold such an event, but we hope to hold it soon after October 22nd, if restrictions lift as expected.

**Hallowe'en Hike** - The Hallowe'en Hike is an annual fundraising event in our school, where we all don our fancy dress and go on our hike as far as Ballymurn Preschool. The Hike will take place at 10am on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October. We would ask that you support us in this fundraising effort. Sponsorship cards will go home with the eldest child today. All cards must be returned to the school by 1st November irrespective of whether monies have been collected by your child. All the children are encouraged to dress up in their Hallowe'en costume on the day of the Hike.

**Christmas Shoe Box Appeal**- All pupils received a flyer this week relating to the Team Hope Christmas Shoebox appeal. We'd love if anybody who is able to could support this great cause. Shoe boxes must be returned to the school on or before Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

**Clothing Collection**: We will be holding a fundraising clothing collection on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. We will accept black bags of clothing from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November. Further details will issue next week.

Le gach dea ghuí,

**Emer O'Gorman**  
**Príomhoide**

#### Dates / Upcoming Events:

- Half-Day (Primary Language Curriculum training)- Friday, October 15th School closes at 12.15pm for all pupils.
- Hallowe'en Hike - 22nd October at 10am (weather permitting). Children are encouraged to dress in their Hallowe'en costumes on this date. **Sponsorship cards will be sent home today with the eldest child in each family.**



- Mid-Term Break - Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October inclusive. School re-opens Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November at 9.20am.
- Clothing collection - Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov 9.20am Bag can be dropped from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> Nov
- 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**

In the Crescent Class, we were all so excited to return to school this September! We were even more excited to welcome 2 new pupils to our class. We settled very quickly into our new school routine, and we have really enjoyed seeing our mainstream peers again after the summer holidays.

This September we have focused on the theme 'all about me.' We learned about the external parts of our body and one of our pupils even taught us about the internal organs of the body using a model. We love to learn from each other in the Crescent Class and we were all so excited to learn from our pupil on this occasion! In art we painted self-portraits. In history we compared photographs of ourselves as babies and ourselves now. Some of the children loved seeing themselves as babies, others not so much!

In maths, all the pupils have started to work on the Numicon programme. For the first month, this has been about exploring these new tactile materials and becoming familiar with them. We look forward to working through this programme at the children's own pace each year. During circle time, the pupils listened to the story 'The Way I Feel.' This is a lovely story which goes through some of the primary feelings that we all experience. The children enjoyed exploring these feelings together and displayed great listening skills for our first month of circle time.

Well done to the pupils in the Crescent Class for an amazing first month back in school! I am so looking forward to what October will bring.

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

September has been such a busy month in Junior and Senior Infants. Our new pupils have settled into our class routine with ease, and are making great progress. They have definitely looked a little more tired going home since they started to stay in school until 2pm!! Senior Infants have been so grown up since they became the eldest in the room, and they are absolutely amazing at looking after their younger classmates.

We've been working hard this month, and have learned about the Human Body, and how to take care of the Environment, both within our school grounds and outside of it. We've read some lovely stories, including 'Don't be Afraid Little Ones' and 'The Monster Bed', and had lots of great discussions around the lives of the characters. Seniors have written recounts about their summer holidays, and been working hard on their handwriting programme, whilst Junior Infants have been developing their fine motor skills, doing lots of cutting, tracing, playdough, beading and tweezer work.

We've been following the Ready, Set, Go practical maths programme, and focussed on the themes 'Mé Féin' agus 'Ar Scoil' in Irish. You might have seen a lovely video of our singing 'as Gaeilge' on Facebook!

We've started doing Literacy Stations in English, and have had great help from Ms. Sheehan and Kelda at this time, where we work really hard on our reading and writing.

Aistear, is the methodology we use in schools for learning through play, otherwise known as 'playtime' each day. Our Aistear theme this month was 'My Home and Family' and everybody really enjoyed our stations which were: Role play, small world, junk art, messy play, water play and construction.

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

1st and 2nd class have settled back into school very well and are doing a great job with getting into routine. They have been working very hard and are learning lots of new things each day.

In maths we have been doing our Mental Maths everyday as well as revision work and lots of work on addition, subtraction and shapes. The children are enjoying the tables games everyday to improve their addition tables.

In English we are working hard on our spellings and activities with the spellings. We have been writing lots of sentences with our new spellings daily. I am nearly finished reading 'Fantastic Mr. Fox' by Roald Dahl to the class, it has been our read- aloud book over the last few weeks and the children have been thoroughly engaged in the story and got great enjoyment from it!

In Art we designed and drew our dream homes. The children had fun with this and described their designs to the class. We also created self-portraits. Which look fantastic.

In music we learned the song 'my grandfathers clock', after exploring artefacts from our grandparents past and school life in the past. In drama the children role-played a conversation between a grandparent and grandchild discussing life now and life in the past.

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

September has been a very busy, exciting and enjoyable month in 3<sup>rd</sup> Class. We have been learning lots of new things and working very hard. The best part of this month, however, was celebrating our First Holy Communion. We had a wonderful day with our families and relations. We would like to say a big 'Thank You' to Fr. Finn for his support also.

In Maths we have been learning about 'place value' and the addition of large numbers using 'hundreds, tens and units'. We are now beginning to study the topic 'time' and are learning how to read the analogue and digital clock. We have also been working hard on revising our addition and subtraction tables.

In English we are doing 'recount writing' and have published our first collection of stories entitled 'My Summer Holidays'. We use the structure of 'title, orientation, sequence of events and personal comment'. The children were excellent at following this prescribed format and wrote fantastic recounts. We have been working hard at our grammar also and have begun reading our first novel 'The Creakers' by Tom Fletcher.

We have just finished working on the theme 'Mé Féin' (myself) in our Irish lessons. The children wrote their first story describing themselves, their family and where they live. They have also been practising their oral language with each other based on this theme. Next month we shall be learning about 'Bia' (food).....yummy J

SESE - in history we learnt how to study our family history. We composed individual 'Family Trees' and a time line depicting our major milestones since birth. We also examined an Irish 'Birth Certificate' and completed our version of same. We learnt about the 'Census' and why the government takes one every five years. In geography we investigated Ireland and in particular Co. Wexford. We learnt about maritime and inland counties, provinces, most northerly and most southerly points in our country and main towns in our country. Finally, in science we learnt about the human skeleton and organs and had great fun constructing our own models.

In P.E. we've been learning lots of new skills under the supervision of our Rugby and GAA coaches. We had a great afternoon of sports recently also to celebrate European Sports Day. So overall, this has been a lovely month and a great start to 3<sup>rd</sup> Class. We are all looking forward to October.

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

We've had a busy month learning and settling back to school and the children have been working hard each day.

In English the children have been focusing on recount writing. They have also been working hard on their joined writing every day. We have Maths stations in our classroom every Tuesday. This gives the children a chance to carry out maths activities in smaller groups and to practise their skills on the school tablets also!

We have been focusing on local history and learning more about our locality in History and Geography. The children really enjoyed a walk around the village to find old things and we were delighted to get a chance to ask some older members of the community questions about the past. They have examined very old roll books and found some familiar names.

The children have enjoyed two Zoom calls during September, one with Mícheál Martin and the other with the DSPCA. They are so excited to see author David Walliams on Zoom next Monday too! In PE the children are showing amazing skills during the rugby and GAA coaching sessions. Well done everyone on all your hard work this September!

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

It has been such a wonderful start to our school year up in 5th and 6th class. The children have been settling in well and working very hard.

In English, we have started our class novel, Kensuke's Kingdom which has really grabbed our attention. We have looked at different strategies to help our comprehension such as prediction, questioning, inferencing and determining importance before, during and after reading.

In Irish, children have been busy speaking and learning all about themselves. The work they have put into their Irish reading and speaking has been fantastic, so let's keep up the great work. Maith sibh!

In maths, we have been extremely busy and hard working. Place value, multiplication, data and lines and angles have been some of the main topics covered so far. The kids are also enjoying getting stuck into some problems and puzzles and talking through how we figured it all out when working in pairs. We even used cocktail sticks as part of a shape challenge to get the brains working!

In SESE we have been really enjoying looking into schools in the past! We looked at hedge schools, Nano Nagle and her work and schools in the Victorian era (where punishment was definitely creative let's say). We have looked at evidence from our own school such as old roll books and registrars, found family members in them, looked at how schools functioned long ago, learned about the history of our own school herein Ballymurn and created a timeline to document the huge changes that have happened since it opened! It's safe to say, the children all agree that school in 2021 is a pretty nice place to be.

In art, children looked at how to make the illusion of 3D art through a 2D surface. We discussed things like a vanishing point and horizons. These look amazing! Kids are also currently in the middle of a construction project, making a scale of our school building! In music we have looked at identifying between the human voice, alto, soprano, tenor and bass. We have also listened and discussed the various music genres such as rock, pop, jazz, country, new age, gospel and opera!

Kids have also been enjoying rugby, GAA, talks from Micheal Martin and the DSPCA. It has been a super busy and fun September!

## A Message from Fr. Finn

All those who have been involved with young people say that they are best prepared for life by paying attention to, and developing their spiritual, mental and physical components of life. This work is best achieved as parents, teachers and parish working together from infancy to adulthood with young people.

From a spiritual point of view this work commences for the young person at Baptism. From here they are assisted by parents and community.

In a practical way this means that:

1. A child experiences their faith in their home, in family life and in parish life.
2. Here they learn how to bless themselves, know their simple and first prayers at a very young age.
3. From there to have confidence and the ability to participate with other children when they start school, in ceremonies and religious discussions.

They are then well placed to reap the full benefit of the professionalism of their teachers over their primary school life. I look forward to working with parents and school in assisting each child to be well prepared so that they can get the best from their future life.

**Fr. Jim Finn**



# Parents' Association

**SCHOOL BOOKS SAVINGS CLUB:** It has not been possible to recommence the school book savings club this year, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the restrictions it places on parental access to the school.

## Notices

### Bloomfield Breakfast Club/After School Club:

Parents wishing to enrol their child in either club should contact Caroline on 0871231227. Breakfast club runs from 8am in the morning and after school child care is provided up to 6pm daily.



**Scoil Rince Aisling**

**Irish Dance Classes**

Teachers:

Chloe Ormonde ODCRN  
Kevin O'Leary ODCRN  
Cáit Doyle ODCRN

**Beginner Classes Resuming**

**Venue:** The Ballagh Community Centre

**Day:** Saturday

**Time:** 10am - 11am

**Venue:** Enniscorthy Gaelscoil

**Day:** Wednesday

**Time:** 4.15pm - 5.15pm

• First class is free!!

Contact us at [scoilrinceaisling.sra@gmail.com](mailto:scoilrinceaisling.sra@gmail.com) to book your place.

