

BALLYMURN NEWS – 21ST DECEMBER 2021



Dear Parents/Guardians,

On behalf of all the staff and students at Ballymurn N.S., I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every family in our school community a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year. We hope that this new year that we are looking forward to, will bring an end to the pandemic and pray that normal life may soon be able to resume in some way. I extend my thanks to all the staff in the school, who have since August, put such an amazing effort into ensuring that the children experience some level of normality in school, whilst being kept safe each day. I would also like to thank each of our pupils who have continued to adapt to changes and have been a credit to their families, as always, this term.

Christmas Performances

We have been very busy preparing for Christmas celebrations in our school for the last few weeks, and we thoroughly enjoyed performing for a videographer who came to the school to record each class this week. Although this is very different to what we are used to, our students had a really enjoyable few weeks preparing for the occasion, and we greatly look forward to seeing the finished products. The children cannot wait for their families to see what they have been up to, and we hope that families get to spend an enjoyable evening together viewing them. The videos will be posted to a private YouTube channel, and a link to the videos will be sent to parent emails that have been provided to the school. We hope to send the video out to all parents later today. Thank you to all staff for the fantastic effort that has gone into this production.

Enrolment for School Year 2022/2023

In line with the Admissions Act 2018, we will be accepting applications for enrolment for the 2022/2023 school year from **January 10th- February 11th**. Our Admissions Notice has been posted on our website with all of the relevant information. Please contact the school office on 053-9138435 or office@ballymurnns.ie for an application form. I ask that if you have any family/friends/neighbours who have children who will be starting school in September, please tell them to get in touch with us.

Parents' Association

As we approach the end of the year, I'd like to thank most sincerely all members of our Parents' Association for all the support that they have given to us in school. They have a lovely gift prepared for each child on Wednesday, and they will be giving each of the children hot chocolate and cookies to enjoy with their Christmas movie.

Cash for Clothes

Thank you to all who contributed items to our recent clothes recycling collection. We raised €105.

Wexford People Helping People Christmas Food Collection

Thank you to everyone who donated food items to our food appeal this December. Thanks to Bridget Cummins for taking our donations into Wexford for us.

Attendance

Our attendance rate for November was 87.2%. Well done to all pupils and parents on achieving this rate, which is excellent under current circumstances, where families have had to isolate whilst awaiting the results of Covid tests etc. We look forward to doing our very best to keep school attendance rates high for the remainder of the year, and to keep improving on previous figures. If your child is absent from school, please complete the return to school form and send it into the school office with your child on their return to school. <https://forms.gle/s4iensZmtvwXZDMNA>

Christmas Decorations

We would like to say a big thank you to Monica for decorating the school for Christmas. Monica always puts in such an effort for the children and we are extremely thankful to her. Here are some of her beautiful creations.



Congratulations

I would like to say special congratulations to our principal Ms. O'Gorman, on her wedding. Ms. O'Gorman has been the most amazing principal & teacher since she joined us here in Ballymurn N.S. and we were so happy that she finally got to enjoy her special day. She was a beautiful bride, and we wish her all the best for the future in her married life.

Le gach dea ghuí,

Chloe Ormonde
Leas-Príomhoide

Dates/Upcoming Events

- School closes at **12.15pm** on Wednesday 22nd December for all pupils
- School re-opens on **Thursday 6th January, 2022** at 9.20am
- Mid-Term Break 21st - 25th February inclusive- school closed on these days
- St. Patrick's Day 17th March - school closed on Thursday 17th & Friday 18th

News from our Classrooms

Report from Ms. Ormonde's Crescent Class

The Crescent Class have had a very exciting December. We went on our first trip as a class to Wheelock's for their 'Christmas Experience.' We had an amazing time and our work on social skills throughout the past 3 months paid off when we had the chance to practise these skills in a real-life situation. We practised lining up, waiting, and greeting others while we were with the Elves on our Christmas walk. We went on a drive in the Santa train, and we even had two turns as we were so good the first time! We loved meeting Santa himself and the magic chimney dropped a present down for each of the pupils. We cannot thank the staff at Wheelock's enough for making us feel so welcome and included, we had an absolute ball.

I am so proud of the pupils in the Crescent Class for all they have achieved since September this year. They have all worked so hard and made progress in so many ways. I am so looking forward to seeing each of the pupils again in the new year and would like to wish you all, and your families a very happy Christmas.

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

Junior & senior infants have had the best December. It is the most exciting time of year for a lot of our younger pupils and this year was no exception! The pupils did amazing work practising for their Christmas play and they cannot wait for you to see their finished video.

The pupils in junior & senior infants learned all about the post office in Aistear this month. They practised writing letters and they even wrote a letter to Santa which they then brought to the post office & posted. There were lots of excited faces on this walk!

The infants gave Ms. O'Gorman a lovely send off before her wedding day last week. They were super-secret keepers and helped to sign a beautiful card for Ms. O'Gorman before presenting it to her along with some flowers on her last day. The pupils were very excited for her, but we are sure they will be looking forward to seeing her again in the new year.

Report from Ms. Kehoe's 1st/2nd Class

The last few weeks have gone by very fast in 1st and 2nd class. We are very excited for Christmas and the holidays. Our class Elf, 'Teddy Candy', is keeping an extra close eye on things in here over the last few weeks. We have our class Advent calendar to count down the time left to Christmas day also. We were very busy preparing for our Christmas play which was called 'The Great Wait', especially in the last few weeks. We also learned about the birth of Jesus and the time people spent waiting for Jesus to be born. We had great fun learning new songs, our lines and wearing the costumes for the play. The children were fantastic the day the camera man came into record the play. We can't wait to see it very soon from start to finish!

We have been busy continuing our English, Irish and Maths. The children are still enjoying our class novel, 'The Enormous Crocodile' by Roald Dahl and completing activities related to it. We have covered a Christmas topic in Irish. We enjoyed doing lots of winter Art and Christmas art over the last few weeks. We completed some beautiful winter wonderland scenes using paints. We created nativity scenes and we designed and coloured our own mittens to wear in the cold weather. They are beautiful displayed in our room at the moment.

I hope you all have a wonderful and safe Christmas. We look forward to a new school term in January 2022 and seeing everyone after a Christmas period!

Report from Ms. Brophy's 3rd Class

December the month of Christmas and festivity has been a very busy one in 3rd Class. In Maths this month we studied 'decimals' and 'money'. We also learnt our 2x, 4x and 8x multiplication tables at the moment. We are working very hard in our maths stations

and in our classwork. Our next topic in Maths will be 'length'. We also completed our Christmas Maths Assessment.

In English we are continuing with our novel 'Charlotte's Web' by E. B. White and are getting to know our new characters 'Wilbur', 'Fern' and 'Charlotte' very well. We have also been studying the 'Exposition' genre in writing. We wrote a letter to Mr. Zuckerman persuading him not to kill Wilbur for his Christmas dinner.

In Irish we covered the theme 'An Nollaig' and the children worked very hard in class. We shall finish the theme this week by publishing our own letters to Daidí na Nollaig. We also read the story of the first Christmas.

In SESE we studied Irish Legends - 'Children of Lir', 'Fionn and the Salmon of Knowledge', 'Tír na nÓg' and 'Cú Chulainn'. We wrote a diary entry in the role of Aoife explaining why she was so jealous of Lir's love for his children. We have also been working on our Global Goals Advent Calendar. Each day we learn about a new global goal e.g. preservation of water, right to education etc. The children then make a pledge based on what we have learnt.

We have done a lot of Drama this term and worked very hard on their play 'Stable Manners'. The children have learnt lines, songs and put tremendous effort into it. We have done lots of Christmas art too using pastels, chalks, paints and other materials.

In PE we have focused on learning dance. We have learnt folk dances from Poland, Romania, Germany and Ireland. We were very lucky to have Ms. Kehoe come and teach us some hip hop modern dances too.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Ms Lawler's 4th/5th Class

December has flown by in 4th and 5th class. The children were very busy everyday rehearsing for their Nativity show which was called The Magical Christmas Jigsaw. We had a lot of fun putting it all together. The children made some of the props that were needed and they were full of great ideas to showcase all their musical and acting talents. Well done to all the children for a fantastic performance on Monday!

In Maths the children have continued to work hard on fractions and decimals. In English they wrote speeches about whether video games are beneficial or not to children. We hope to have a little debate on this topic before we finish up.

The children did some lovely Christmas art. They created 3D Christmas trees using a technique called paper quilling. They learned some facts about Christmas around the

world and we discussed what Christmas would've been like long ago, when Christmas trees were first introduced.

As we finish up for Christmas, I would like to thank the children for all their hard work this term and especially for adjusting to wearing masks with ease and without complaint when they were asked to do so.

Have a fantastic Christmas everyone and best wishes for a very happy and healthy New Year!

Report from Ms Morrissey's 5th/6th Class

A short and lightening quick December has passed in 5th and 6th class! The children have finally completed the novel *The Boy In Striped Pyjamas*. It was a very touching story which was loved by all, despite the not so fairy-tale ending. Great discussions and debates were had around the themes of the book such as power, friendship, prejudice and inequality.

The class have been very busy rehearsing for the play 'A Christmas Toy Story' for the last few weeks and children have been learning their lines and busy making and prepping some amazing costumes of their own. We are all very excited to perform this on Monday 20th December!

In maths we have been looking at the difference approaches needed to multiply and divide numbers that contain decimals and also lots of measuring with length, perimeters and converting units of length! In Irish we have been learning about all things style and fashion in our Éadaí (clothes) topic.

We hope that everyone has a wonderful Christmas and enjoys a well-earned break. Happy Christmas from all in Ms. Morrissey's room!

A Message from Fr. Finn

Many thanks to everyone, children, school staff and parents who have made such a success of our school since September. This has been a year different from all others.

A great deal of hard work and a unity of purpose by everyone has enabled our school to have a safe and happy atmosphere for everyone.

Let us make the best that we can of this Christmas by staying safe and enjoying the festivities.

Fr. Jim

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve 2.30pm & 5.30pm

Christmas Day 10.00am