



BALLYMURN NEWS 17TH FEBRUARY 2022



Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is hard to believe that we are now at the February midterm break. It's been an extremely busy January and February in our school. Covid-19 has caused a lot of disruption, and I hope that those who have been affected are recovering well. Overall, our school has done quite well, in that we haven't had massive rates of infection, and we are very grateful to our parent body, who have done everything they can to prevent outbreaks in school. Hopefully, as the weather gets warmer, infection rates in the community will lower and school life will return to somewhat normal. There is still lots going on in our school each day, and I ask that you have a read of the notices below to see what we have been up to.

I wish all families an enjoyable midterm break,

Emer O'Gorman
Príomhoide

Friendship Week

This week was Friendship Week in our school organised by our Student Council. This was greatly enjoyed by all pupils. See full report on the week below from our Student Council members.

Primary Language Curriculum Training

The staff are due to do a half day of inservice training for the new Primary Language Curriculum each term. This term's training will take place on Wednesday afternoon, March 16th, meaning children will finish school at 12.15pm on that day.

New Furniture

We were delighted to take delivery of new chairs for all of our pupils this week. The new chairs are much more comfortable, and the children are very impressed. Any old table tops will be replaced over midterm, meaning that our classrooms will be looking fantastic very soon. Our old chairs are available to anyone who would like to take some. Please let Leanna know if you are interested.

ICT Upgrades

We are delighted to have been able to upgrade lots of I.T equipment in our school due to recent ICT grants that issued from the government, and funds from our Hallowe'en

Hike. All mainstream classrooms have gotten new interactive whiteboard panels or projectors, whilst we have also upgraded some of our laptops. We are soon expecting delivery of 14 new tablets, meaning that we will have over 20 available for pupil use. The Hallowe'en Hike made it possible to buy so many new ones, whilst we will also be investing in a charging station for them. Thank you to everybody who supports our school always!

Stay Safe Programme

Teachers have recently commenced, or soon will commence, the Stay Safe programme with their classes. This is a personal safety programme, and it is important to read the letter that you have received in relation to this, in order to support any questions your child may have on the programme.

Arts in Education Residency Programme

5th and 6th class pupils continue their artist in residency programme on Mondays for the next few weeks. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates from Ms. Morrissey.

School Tours

We are in the process of finalising school tour bookings for this year. Junior/Senior/1st Class tour takes place on June, 2nd and 3rd Class tour on June, and 4th-6th Class Tour on June. Please let the office know if your child will not be able to attend, as it is important that we have accurate numbers for booking buses.

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. You will find the form at the link below. 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. This is a mandatory requirement, and we must report the figures, regardless of the reason for your child's absence.

Hurling 365

Hurling 365 takes place every Tuesday morning for Senior Infants-2nd Class from 8.30am -9.10am, and on Thursday morning for 3rd-6th class. The children are really enjoying this initiative and we are very thankful to all the volunteers who make this happen. If your child has an interest in GAA but has yet to get involved, please consider bringing them along.

Rackard League

It is hoped that Rackard League activities will resume next month in schools. If you are a parent who will be available to attend matches and give lifts etc, please ensure that your Garda Vetting is up to date.

Speak Without Words

When we return after midterm, our school's inclusion committee are hosting a week of activities to encourage everyone in our school to learn to communicate with pupils in different ways, not always with words. This initiative is to help our school community engage in conversations using a variety of forms of communication including using a coreboard, Lámh signs, gestures and facial expressions. We hope this will help all pupils in our school to feel included and heard. The pupils will be practising engaging in conversations non-verbally and we will also watch some videos of real life conversations with non-verbal or pre-verbal individuals. We also look forward to hearing the pupils feedback at the end of the week at our zoom assembly.

Friendship Week: Report by Abbie and Jamie from the Student Council

This week we celebrated friendship week and we did lots of activities to show how important friendship is. On Monday the 14th we started by doing a friendship song "You've Got A Friend In Me". On Tuesday we did friendship art and did our own creation of the art. On Wednesday, we did a friendship acrostic poem throughout all of the classes. On Thursday, we got a lesson with Mr. Banville about friendship. The Student Council also made an obstacle course for all classes to complete. Tomorrow, we are having a Friendship themed assembly. We loved setting this week up and hope everyone enjoyed it.

Green School Update

Hello from the Green School Committee!

We have a new Green Code which we would like to share with you:

Litter here, litter there

Come on now, let's be fair.

Turn off your boards and your lights

All together we can survive.

We have been saving electricity in school by turning off classroom lights when we leave the rooms and are enjoying doing our part to help the environment.

We have sent 20 entries from across the school community to a Water Poster competition. Fingers crossed somebody in our school will be successful.

Dates / Upcoming Events:

- Midterm Break: School closed from February 21st-25th inclusive
- Primary Language Curriculum In-service Training: School closes for pupils on Wednesday, March 16th at 12.15pm
- St. Patrick's Day Bank Holidays: School closed on March 17th and 18th
- Easter Holidays: School closes on Friday, April 8th at 12.15pm and reopens on Monday, April 25th at 9.20am
- May Bank Holiday: School closed on Monday, May 2nd
- Confirmation: Friday May 6th at 11am
- First Holy Communion: Saturday, May 14th at 11am.
- June Bank Holiday Weekend: School closed on Thursday, June 2nd Friday June 3rd and Monday June 6th