

BALLYMURN NEWS 29TH SEPTEMBER 2022



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to our first newsletter of the 2022/23 school year, particularly to those of you who are new parents in our school. This month, we've been delighted to welcome our new Junior Infants: Archie, Ed, Emily, Timmy, Alfie, Amber, Jack, Jacob, Noah, Elliott, Ruairí, Fia, Seán, Jaxon, Robert, Fionn, Luka, Áine, Warren, Emma and Deirbhile. We also welcome Charlie, Jamie and Mícheál, who have joined us in other classes. We are very proud of how well they've adjusted to their new school environment.



Hurling 365

We would really like to get hurling 365 up and running as quickly as possible but unfortunately we haven't had a great response to our request for volunteers. Some parents who kindly gave up a lot of their time last year aren't in a position to help this year. We have only had one new parent come forward to help. If you would be able to help out in any way please contact Leanna in the office.

Rackard League and Mini- Sevens Girls

This year the girls are in 'Roinn A/B' for Rackard League football following their county final win last year. The girls have played two group games so far. They lost their first game at home against a very strong Piercestown-Murrintown team, the girls really improved in their play in the second half and had some great team play to get some lovely scores. Their second game was away to Glynn; they had a great performance and won the match with a score of 5-4 to 1-1. The girls are entering the Mini-7s football this year too; they will be playing the first round in Blackwater, along with 3 other schools- Blackwater, Monomolin and Ballygarrett. Best of luck girls in your upcoming matches.

Rackard League and Mini- Sevens Boys - The boys have had had some great wins against Oylegate-Glenbrien and Taghmon Camaross and now play in the District Semi-Final next week against opponents who have yet to be confirmed.

The boys travelled to Murrintown yesterday to participate in the Mini- 7s competition and did really well against tough opposition, defeating Glynn and losing narrowly to Oylegate and Murrintown. Best of luck to the boys in the semi-final next week!

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. I'd like to extend a huge thank you to all parents who were on the committee over the past year and gave so much help and support to us for some really lovely occasions during the school year. They also held a fundraiser which helped to offset school tour costs for parents, which I know was much appreciated by all families. We had some new members joining the PA committee last year, which is wonderful, but we also have a few whose children are now moving on to secondary school. Our current Chairperson and Secretary wish to step down this year, and with this in mind, I'd appeal to parents of pupils at the Junior end of the school, or at the Senior end who haven't yet been involved with the PA, to consider becoming involved this year.

This year's Parents' Association A.G.M takes place on Wednesday, October 5th at 7.30pm in the school. We'd love to see lots of parents attend.

Child Safeguarding Statement - Our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is available on our school website, or a copy can be acquired by the school. The annual review will take place at our next Board of Management meeting before Christmas. 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 -Leanna has sent a text to all families containing the link for our back to school form, which must be filled in each time your child returns following an absence from school. This link is also available on our website, [ballymurnns.ie](https://forms.gle/8EzXYXDEk5SnVAH9A), under the tab "Useful Information". <https://forms.gle/8EzXYXDEk5SnVAH9A> As always, we must remind parents that we are 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.

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)

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 30th October. These monies can be paid in instalments. More information on this was circulated to all families via email. Thank you 😊

Homework: Homework recommenced during the month of September for all classes except Junior Infants, who will start very soon. After much staff discussion, we decided to take a similar approach to last year, where we veered away from written homework for 1st class upwards. The reason for this is to ensure that children get enough time to focus on their reading and learning homework such as, English reading, Irish reading, spellings and tables. Maths homework is on Mangahigh for older classes, which is a fantastic resource that allows pupils to be challenged in an enjoyable way online. When children make use of the games and activities on Mangahigh, it has been proven to make a huge difference to their maths abilities. Junior and Senior Infants will still have a small amount of written work each evening, as well as their reading activities. We plan to survey parents about their thoughts on homework during the year, and then update our school 'Homework Policy' to reflect the feelings of pupils, staff and parents on the subject.

Morning Supervision- School gates do not open until 9.10am, and no pupils should be on the premises before this. Morning supervision is outdoors, and on wet days, children must wait in the shelter until school opens at 9.20am. Please ensure that adults who are dropping your kids to school take care to not pull in or turn opposite the school gates. I'd like to thank everyone for their co-operation since my last message on that subject.

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'

Primary Language Curriculum In-service Training

School will close at 12.15pm on Tuesday, October 18th, as staff must attend training for the Primary Language Curriculum that afternoon. The Department have informed us that there will be one half day training for this per term this year.

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.

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'

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.

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 28th October. We would ask that you support us in this fundraising effort. All cards must be returned to the school by 7th 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.

Le gach dea ghuí,

Emer O'Gorman
Príomhoide

Dates / Upcoming Events:

- Half-Day (Primary Language Curriculum training)- Tuesday, October 18th. School closes at 12.15pm for all pupils.
- Hallowe'en Hike - 28th October at 10am (weather permitting). Children are encouraged to dress in their Hallowe'en costumes on this date. **Sponsorship cards will be sent home shortly with the eldest child in each family.**
- Mid-Term Break - Monday 31st October to Friday 4th November inclusive. School re-opens Monday 7th November at 9.20am.
- Clothing Collection - Thursday 10th November 9.20am
- Christmas Holidays - school closes at **12.15pm** for all children on Wednesday 21st December and will re-open on Thursday 5th January, 2023 .

Class Reports

Ms. Ormonde's Crescent Class

Crescent Class The Crescent Class have loved being back in school this month. It has been effortless for them all to settle back into familiar routines with familiar peers and we have had a smooth sailing September! Our theme this month was 'school.' We spent time practising our oral language surrounding this theme, painting school bags in art, choosing school items from a feely bag and visiting all of the classrooms in our school to practise greeting all the teachers. We also got some lovely new sensory resources including our sensory jigsaw path which was a huge hit with everyone! We are looking forward to our 'buddy programme' which will start next week, where we will be inviting

different 5th & 6th class pupils down to our classroom every Friday to read, play games and spend some time with the pupils in the Crescent Class

Ms. O'Gorman's Junior Infant Report 😊

We have had a wonderful September in Junior Infants this year. It's been a busy month, but I have to commend all the boys and girls who settled into school so well.

Aistear, is the methodology we use in schools for learning through play, otherwise known as 'playtime' each day. Our Aistear themes so far have been 'My Home and Family' and 'Autumn' everybody really enjoyed our stations which were: Role play, small world, art, messy play, water play, playdough and construction.

The children have been working on the theme of 'Mé Féin' in Irish, and have already learned lots of new phrases and some lovely songs. They are really enjoying the Bua na Cainte programme that we use. In Maths, we have commenced our Ready, Set, Go Maths programme, which has involved lots of practical activities learning about sets and one to one correspondence. We have been doing Literacy stations with Ms. Sheehan too, and this has involved lots of work on Phonological Awareness and developing fine motor skills in preparation for reading and writing.

We've been learning all about similarities and differences between people in Science with Ms. O' Brien every Friday, and have also commenced learning about Autumn and the changes this season will bring. There have been some fabulous self-portraits done in Art, and we have learned lots of new playground games in P.E.

It has been a very productive first month in school!

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

We've had a very busy September in Senior Infants and 1st class! The children have started the year off with great enthusiasm to learn and they've been so quick to adapt to all the new classroom rules and routines. They are particularly enjoying station learning which happens 3 times a week. We have English and maths stations where the children work in small groups with a teacher. They have also enjoyed using the tablets to play some educational games during this time.

The children in Senior Infants are reading the new Jolly Phonics scheme in our school. These books tie in with the sounds they are revising. 1st class are reading on with the Jolly Phonics and Oxford Tree schemes and are doing great with these books. Every morning the 1st class pair up with a Senior Infant to listen to their reading, practise blending sounds and revise tricky words. Lots of practise will help the children to read more fluently.

Our Aistear theme for the month was *Myself and my family*. The children have been exploring this theme through construction, small world, plasticine, art and role-play stations. Each day the child visits a different station. We can practise our Irish, writing, maths and lots more through this type of play. The role-play area has been a family home. Each month I will upload some photos on our school's Facebook page and hopefully the children will take some photos of their work to upload to Seesaw from time to time. A copy of their sign in codes has been put into their homework folders this week. If at any stage you need to contact me you can email me at niamh@ballymurnns.ie.

Ms. Boggan's 2nd and 3rd Class Report 😊

2nd and 3rd class have settled in really well and have been working very hard. We've had a busy month learning lots of new things.

In maths we have been busy learning about place value, addition, time and angles. Time was one of the trickier topics that we have been working on this year; we did lots of practice in class with the clocks, telling the digital and analogue times. I would encourage all of the children to practise telling the time at home as much as possible too. We've also been busy revising the addition and subtraction tables.

In English we have been reading the novel 'Witches' by Don Conroy, we've been practising reading individually, in groups and in different tones of voices. The children have enjoyed reading about the adventures of the witches in the story. We have also been learning about the features of recount writing, how to structure the piece using an orientation, sequence of events and conclusion, and its grammatical features. We will be doing lots of recount writing in the coming weeks.

In Irish we've been working on the topic of 'Mé Féin' (myself). The children have been learning to ask and answer lots of questions as Gaeilge such as what their name is, their age, their hair colour, their eye colour, how many are in their family and how many brothers and sisters they have. They've been doing great work on forming sentences as Gaeilge about what they see on the poster. They've also been learning a song 'Mo Bhreithlái' and a poem 'An tOchtapas'.

In music we've been learning lots of new songs for 'Sing Out Loud', there's some fantastic medleys such as a noughties medley, Matilda medley and pop medley. The children are really enjoying the songs and 3rd class are looking forward to their performance in November.

Mrs. Brophy's 4th/5th Class Report 😊

September has been a very busy month in our classroom. Firstly we welcomed to new children, Charlie and Jamie and we are delighted to have them with us. All the children have been working very hard since their return to school.

In Maths we have studied Place Value, Operations and we are currently learning about Data. We are having great fun designing bar graphs, line graphs, trend graphs and pie charts. In English we've begun our first novel 'There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom' by Louis Sachar. This novel focuses on a boy named Bradley Chalkers who is struggling socially in school. He is learning how to communicate better and work with his peers in a kinder way. We are really enjoying the story so far.

In Gaeilge we have been working on the theme 'Mé Féin' (myself) and learning how to introduce ourselves and to talk about our families in simple terms. History saw us learning about The Reformation and we are busy working on our project on this topic. We are using our ICT skills on the tablets to carry out our research.

In Geography we are learning about Ireland's counties, provinces and most northerly and southerly points. We also learnt about industry going from using raw materials to the finished product. We shall begin to learn about our heart and how it functions in Science class shortly. Finally, we are busy practicing for our 'Sing Out Loud' event which shall take place in November. That will be such a fun night for all of us.

Ms. Morrissey's 5th/6th Class Report ☺

I am thrilled with all of the positives that have come out of 5th and 6th class in September. They have set the bar high and have been working extremely hard.

In Maths we have been doing lots of work on place value and the main operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We have had a more specific focus on looking at the language of maths and seeing what clues are there in word problems to decide on which operation we need to use. Students have been growing in confidence doing this and have also been working in pairs to solve our weekly challenges. Well done everyone!

In English we have been working really hard at upskilling and improving our writing, using checklists to monitor our written work and have also started a new class novel called *Holes* by Louis Sachar. This is a very unusual and interesting story about a boy who is wrongfully sent to a detention centre for young boys out in the middle of the desert. We have started our reading stations again which involve a great mix of reading, writing and comprehension activities.

In Irish we have been learning about *Mé Féin* (Myself) this month. We have been busy chatting in pairs and asking each other all about ourselves, learning loads of new words and phrases, and working really well on our Irish reading. The students have impressed me with their work ethic especially with the verbs and gramma this month! Maith sibh, iontach ar fad!

We have also been learning about North America this month with a particular view on famous landmarks, native people, indigenous animals, different climates and geographical regions/features. This combines both history and geography as we have been looking a lot at the map of North America while also going back in time to the time of the first native settlers, the Native Americans.

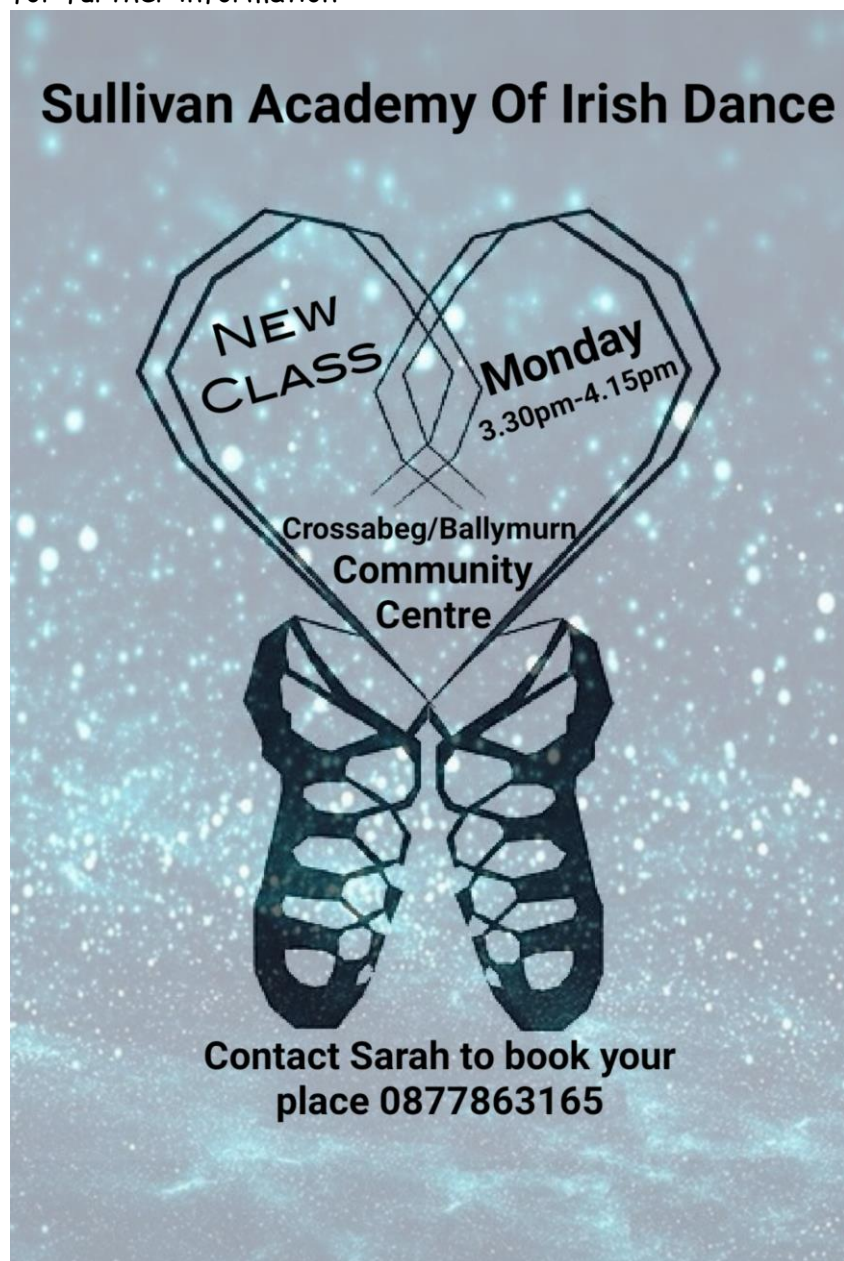
We are all thrilled to be back practising for Sing Out Loud so that has been the main music focus so far, but we also learned a favourite song of mine in Irish called *An Peigín Litir Mór*. They seemed to enjoy it as much as I did!

In art this month we have been working on a project called 'Our Selfie Self Portraits'. They are almost complete and I cannot wait to share them with you. Children have been working really hard on these and have taken a number of weeks. I won't say too much more just yet! We have also been getting to know how to use charcoal pencils, to blend and shade which the children have gotten really confident with as they found it very messy to begin with!

I couldn't be happier with how the students have settled in and am looking forward to the next month!

News From Around the Parish

Irish Dancing classes have commenced in the parish. Please contact Sarah Johnson on 087 7863165 for further information

A poster for the Sullivan Academy Of Irish Dance. The background is a dark blue-grey with a pattern of small, glowing white and light blue dots, resembling a starry night sky or a digital data field. At the top, the text "Sullivan Academy Of Irish Dance" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below this, there is a large, stylized graphic of two interlocking heart shapes. The left heart contains the text "NEW CLASS" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The right heart contains the text "Monday" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, with "3.30pm-4.15pm" written below it in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. In the center, where the two hearts overlap, the text "Crossabeg/Ballymurn Community Centre" is written in a black, sans-serif font. Below the heart graphic, there is a stylized illustration of a pair of black Irish dance shoes with white laces. At the bottom of the poster, the text "Contact Sarah to book your place 0877863165" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

Sullivan Academy Of Irish Dance

NEW CLASS

Monday
3.30pm-4.15pm

Crossabeg/Ballymurn
Community
Centre

**Contact Sarah to book your
place 0877863165**