



# **BALLYMURN NEWS 24TH NOVEMBER 2022**



Welcome to the November edition of Ballymurn News. We urge all family members to read our newsletter to keep up to date with what is going on in our school.

## **Sing Out Loud**

Pupils from 3rd-6th Classes took part in Sing Out Loud last night in the National Opera House, and all family members and staff who attended were treated to a wonderful show. Well done to the boys and girls on such beautiful singing. They had a fantastic afternoon, and went to McDonald's on the way in. Huge thanks to Ms. Lawlor, Ms. Sheehan and Monica for facilitating the children's participation in this, and to Leanna for all her help in organising the occasion.

## **Christmas Celebrations**

We look forward to Junior and Senior Infants Christmas Play, which takes place on Thursday, December 15th at 1pm in the church, and our Christmas Carol Service for 1st-6th class which takes place on Monday, December 19th in the church. All family members are invited to attend and see our pupils perform.

## **Christmas Shoe Box Appeal**

A huge thank you to all families who took part in our Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal. We were proud to deliver 27 shoeboxes to the collection depot in Enniscorthy this week, and hope that they bring joy to children this Christmas.

## **Ballymurn 5k Fun Run/Walk**

The annual Ballymurn 5k Fun Run/Walk will take place on Sunday, January 29th 2023. This amazing and uplifting event is organised each year by Bobby and Mag Redmond, in aid of both our school and Temple Street Children's Hospital. It is a fantastic family day out, where people in the community get the chance to meet up and take part. The emphasis is on FUN, and it doesn't matter whether you prefer to walk, jog or run around the block. This year we'd love to see a big crowd back participating, as it is the first time in three years that the event will take place on our annual January weekend. Last year, we were able to hold the event in May, but we do realise that it wasn't possible for as many people to participate with a lot of sports events, holidays etc clashing with the event, so we really hope to have you all back taking part this time. There is no entry fee, and anonymous donations towards the school and Temple Street are greatly appreciated.

## **Hallowe'en Celebrations**

Our annual Hallowe'en Hike took place on Friday, October 28th and as always, the pupils pulled out all the stops and we had an amazing display of fancy dress in every classroom. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the sponsorship of our walk. An amazing €1640.50 was raised for our school, which will enable us to fund half of the cost of the bus for Sing Out Loud, and at the request of the Student Council, purchase new nets for the goals on the Senior Yard.

## **Hurling 365**

Hurling 365 resumed this week and we had lots of very happy children in school on Tuesday morning after their session. We extend our thanks to all parents who have volunteered to facilitate this for our pupils each Tuesday and Thursday morning. Tuesday morning's session is for Senior Infants to 2nd class, and Thursday morning's session is for 3rd-6th class.

## **Child Safeguarding Statement Review Notification Reminder**

Our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment is available on our school website, or a copy can be acquired by contacting the school office. This is a reminder to all parents that the annual review will take place at our next Board of Management meeting on November 30th. Should you have any comments on the policy, please contact Ms. O'Gorman in relation to this. 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.

## **Homework Survey Summary**

We extend our thanks to all parents who participated in our homework survey, which will aid us in our review of our Homework Policy. We received 66 responses overall, and were delighted to note that the majority of parents seem to be very happy with the changes we have made to the homework we assign since we returned to school post-covid. Please see a summary of the results below.

*Junior Infants-1st Class:* 100% of parents in this category stated that they were happy with the volume and content of homework that their children receive each night.

*2nd-6th Class:* 100% of parents agreed that their children get enough homework each night. 90% of parents felt that the elimination of written homework improved the amount and quality of time that their children get to spend practising reading and doing learning homework.

77.5% of parents felt that we should continue to use Mangahigh for online maths homework each night. Those who didn't agree with this were asked to explain why, and 8 parents replied to this, with 2 of these stating that they would like a mixture of online and written work, whilst one mentioned internet issues, and two more stated that they prefer written work, whilst one said they prefer less use of apps.

We intend to conduct a pupil homework survey next, and then at our next staff meeting in January, we will begin to put our new Homework Policy together.

## **Lámh**

We have been making an effort in school to begin learning Lámh, which is the manual sign language system that is used in Ireland by children and adults who have communication needs. There are some children within our school community who use Lámh, so we feel that it is very important for staff and pupils to become familiar with Lámh. It is not just important in school, as in our daily lives we will often encounter people with communication difficulties, and would love to see our pupils able to use Lámh in these situations. RTE player have produced a series called Dizzy Deliveries, which is a fantastic tool for learning Lámh and all of our pupils are watching this in class. We'd love to encourage families to watch the series at home too on RTE player, to reinforce the children's learning of Lámh and to give other members of the family the opportunity to learn too.

**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](http://ballymurnns.ie), under the "Useful Information" tab.

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

**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.

**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)'

**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](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.

### **Class Reports**

There are no class reports included in this newsletter, as we have only returned to school 2.5 weeks ago from our Halloween break. We issue a newsletter each month, but at times of the year when they fall close together, or have had holidays in between, class reports will issue every second month.

Dates / Upcoming Events:

- Junior and Senior Infant Christmas Play: Thursday December 15th at 1pm in Ballymurn Church
- Christmas Carol Service: Monday, December 19th at 7pm in Ballymurn Church
- Christmas Holidays - school closes at **12.15pm** for all children on Wednesday 21st December and will re-open on Thursday 5th January, 2023 .
- Tara Bishop Memorial 5K Fun Run- Sunday, January 29th 2023