

BALLYMURN NEWS 27TH OCTOBER 2022



Welcome to our October Newsletter! It's been another busy month, with lots going on in school and we invite you all to read below and catch up on what's being happening, and find out what's coming up soon.

Rackard League Girls

This evening is a huge occasion for our Rackard League girls team. Following a nailbiting win over Horeswood in the Roinn B County Football Semi-Final, they now take on Bunclody this evening at 5.45pm in Bellefield, Enniscorthy in the County Final. This is an amazing achievement, as the girls won the Roinn C competition only a few months ago, and have now had an amazing journey in the higher division. Many thanks to Ms. Boggan for all her work with the team.

Rackard League Boys

The boys Rackard League Football team also had an amazing season. They defeated Rosslare a few weeks ago in the district semi-final, and then went on to take on Oylegate-Glenbrien in the Wexford District Final last Thursday. The boys put in a fantastic effort, and after a tight game, they were unlucky to be defeated in the end. A huge well done to the boys, they did us so proud, and put in our best Rackard League football campaign in years. We look forward to their hurling journey later in the year. Many thanks to Ms. Morrissey for all her work with this team.

Rackard League Celebrations

Tomorrow afternoon, we will host a celebration for the achievements of both Rackard League teams in school. The children will have food from the Slaney Inn in Oylegate, and we extend our sincere thanks to Mark Kavanagh, who has kindly offered to sponsor pizzas and drinks for the teams.

We will also welcome the victorious Crossabeg - Ballymurn Minor team, who are going to call in to the celebrations with their cup.

Hallowe'en Celebrations

Our annual Hallowe'en Hike takes place tomorrow morning, where we all don our fancy dress and go on our hike as far as Ballymurn Preschool. 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.

We'd like to extend a huge thank you to Clodagh and Etienne Botha for the amazing effort they have made in decorating our school grounds for Halloween, and to Monica Nurney, who has done a wonderful job decorating inside the school.

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.

Parents' Association

The A.G.M of our Parents Association was held on Wednesday 5th October in the school. A huge thank you was expressed to the outgoing officers, Sarah, Gail and Kerry and a new committee was elected for the 2022/2023 school year. The new officers are as follows: Chairperson: Denise Redmond, Secretary: Carol Farrell and Treasurer: Barbara Healy. Committee Members are: Laura Walsh, Pamela Quirke, Sarah Carroll, Bridget Cummins, Emma Doyle, Michelle Connelly, Genevieve O'Gorman, Rene Wegner, Tracey Ann van Heerden and Sinéad O'Reilly. All of us in school look forward to working with the PA over the coming year.

Student Council

Following class elections held in 3rd-6th Class, the newly elected members of our Student Council for the 2022/2023 school year are: Dani Canavan, Adam Dooley, Jack McNicholas, James Vorster, Saoirse Courtney Kerrigan, Liam O'Leary, Lucy Cummins, Anna Lawler and Leon Killeen. Well done to all pupils on their election, I know that they are looking forward to representing their peers during the year.

Sing Out Loud

The children from 3rd to 6th Class are very busy preparing for their Sing Out Loud concert, which takes place in Wexford Opera House on Wednesday night, November 23rd. We are all really looking forward to seeing them perform. Many thanks to Ms. Lawlor and Ms. Sheehan for making this trip possible for our pupils.

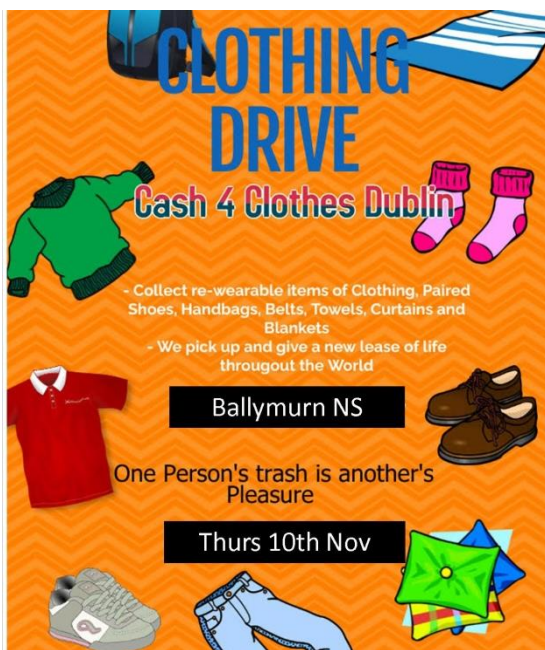
Christmas Celebrations

For the first time in three years, we can finally celebrate our Christmas Carol Service in the church again. This will take place on Monday night, December 19th at 7pm, with pupils from 1st-6th class participating.

Junior and Senior Infants will perform a Christmas play in the church on Tuesday, December 20th at 1pm.

Clothes Collection

A clothing collection will take place in the school on Thursday 10th November. Black bags may be dropped to the school on Tues 8th, Wed 9th & up until 9.30am on Thurs 10th.



Child Safeguarding Statement Review Notification

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 in late November. 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.

Parent Teacher Meetings

Parent Teacher meetings take place on Tuesday, November 15th from 3pm. School closes for all pupils at 2.45pm on this date to facilitate this.

Homework Survey

Our approach to homework has changed since we returned to school following the pandemic and distance learning, and we have reduced the focus on written work. Our Homework Policy needs to be reviewed to reflect the change that has occurred, and teachers have begun the process of reviewing this. Our first step was to send a survey to parents, which issued on Tuesday. We extend our thanks to those of you who have participated, and ask that anyone else who would like to participate do so before the survey goes offline tomorrow.

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/cP9eqx1XjM3JJme17), under the "Useful Information" tab. <https://forms.gle/cP9eqx1XjM3JJme17> 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. 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'

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.

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

Leaflets went home with the children today. Shoe boxes can be dropped back to the school after the midterm break up until Monday 14th November.

Christmas Cards

Children brought home sample Christmas card this week which they designed themselves. All orders this year will take place online by following the instructions on the sample card. The last day for orders will be Monday 14th November.

Dates / Upcoming Events:

- Hallowe'en Hike - 28th October at 10am (weather permitting).
- Mid-Term Break - Monday 31st October to Friday 4th November inclusive. School re-opens Monday 7th November at 9.20am.
- Parent-Teacher Meetings: Tuesday 15th November. School closes at 2.45pm on this date
- Sing Out Loud: Wednesday 23rd November at 7pm in Wexford Opera House
- 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.

Class Reports

Ms. O'Gorman's Junior Infant Report 😊

I'm happy to report that our Junior Infants continue to flourish and are well settled into their new school at this stage.

Our Aistear themes this month were 'School' and 'Hallowe'en', and the role play corner saw lots of principals, teachers, witches, pumpkins and more in action! Some fabulous Halloween artwork has been produced by the children and there will be some very scary Frankensteins and ghosts going home tomorrow.

The children have been working on the themes of 'Ar Scoil' and 'Oíche Shamhna' in Irish, and have learned lots of new vocabulary and songs which they can be heard using informally in the classroom.. In Maths, we continue with our Ready, Set, Go Maths programme, which involves lots of practical learning. The boys and girls have made amazing progress with their Jolly Phonics and are already reading word lists for homework, which is amazing. We've also commenced work on letter formation, and are still doing lots of cutting and other fine motor activities to make our hands nice and strong.

We have read some beautiful storybooks about Hallowe'en, and been learning to use the comprehension strategy of 'Visualisation' whilst listening to these. We have worked on Road Safety Awareness, and each child got a high- vis jacket from the RSA to take home and wear when out walking or cycling. We are extremely excited to dress up tomorrow and go on our first ever Hallowe'en Hike from Ballymurn N.S.

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

Our Aistear theme for October was Autumn and Halloween. The children enjoyed a nature walk to spot some of the signs of Autumn. We were delighted to have some of the 6th class girls to accompany us on our walk. Our role-play area was transformed into a haunted house for October. The children dressed up, wrote potion recipes and spells for our big book of spells. They also made some very disgusting and terrifying food to eat in the house! In the art area they created many lovely pieces but they particularly enjoyed making pumpkins out of clay.

Last week the class enjoyed lots of fun activities for Maths Week. The children played snakes and ladders, snap and skittles maths. We also had an estimation competition. Everyone had to guess how many pasta shapes were in the bottle. Well done to Cillian who guessed the nearest amount to the answer! During October we also had Climate Action Week. The children listened to a story called "We Want our Park Back".

In history lessons the children were learning about the origins of Halloween and the traditions that have been passed on through the years. We hope to try out some of the traditional games on Friday. We are also learning about how to keep safe at Halloween.

The children have worked so hard since coming back to school. I hope everyone has lots of fun and rest over the mid-term break!

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

2nd and 3rd class have been doing great work this month. We were delighted to have Ms. Hogan in our class for the last five weeks, she taught the children so many fun lessons and the class learned so many new things from her.

In geography the children have been learning all about settlements. They learned about all of the different types of settlements, about urban and rural areas, and also all about the different materials that are used to form the different types of settlements.

In science the children have been learning about human life processes. There was a focus on how we need food for energy and growth. They learned about the different areas of the food pyramid and what groups the different types of food belong to.

In history the children have been learning about schools in the past. They looked at some old photographs comparing school life in the past with schools in the present day. There was lots of discussion about the resources used, rules, uniforms, the classrooms and advances in technology over the years. The children were also delighted to have Charlie our caretaker in for a visit, where they interviewed him about his experience of going to school in Ballymurn and how it has changed over the years. They have also been learning about Tom Crean, the explorer in history. They learned about his expeditions and achievements, and created a timeline of the main events of his story.

In P.E this month we have been focusing on games. They have had great fun playing playground games such as chain tag and the numbers game. They have been practising their dribbling, throwing and catching skills in different drills and activities. They also had a cricket session with the visiting coaches, they had so much fun practising catching, throwing, bowling and batting. They were delighted when they got to play a mini game of cricket too. They loved learning to play a new sport.

Mrs. Brophy's 4th/5th Class Report 😊

October has once again been a very busy month in our classroom. We have been working very hard, completing our first history project, finishing our novel and learning new topics in maths. We also had a visit from the Dental Nurse to teach us how to look after our teeth.

In maths we have studied division and lines and angles. It is really important that all the children know their mathematical tables in order to manage some of the more challenging topics we shall be covering in class.

We finished our novel 'There's a boy in the girls' bathroom' which the majority of us thoroughly enjoyed. We wrote our book report and rated the novel out of 5 stars. In English we are continuing to work on 'recount writing'. We shall be publishing a 'book' in class after Halloween with our finalised pieces of writing.

In Gaeilge we have been working the on theme 'Bia' (food) and history saw us learning about The Victorians. We also completed our projects on 'The Reformation'. We enjoyed learning about how children were treated in the 1800s and all about Irishman, Dr. Barnardo who set up the first homes for destitute children in London's East End.

In Geography we are learning about Germany and will begin our project on this country in November. Finally, we are still 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 😊

The month of October has gone spookily fast! Things are busier than ever in the 5th and 6th class classroom! In English we have been looking at the idea of different perspectives and how books, fairytales, movies always portray a hero in a certain way, and villains in a certain way. We took the well known story the 3 Little Pigs and decided that it was time to create a switch on these perspectives. The 3 not so innocent pigs had been up to no good, framing the hungry and lonely wolf! Everyone came up with their own fantastic switch idea, and then in groups children came up with a brand new retelling of this classic story. Children have been busy planning, writing and rehearsing their new story which we will perform in class very soon!

In Irish we have been talking all things food with our food topic (bia) and have been looking at stories with a little bit of fright to them in our topic Sa Bhaile. Children have been able to talk about some

different cuisines from around the world such as bia Iodálach (Italian food), bia Meicsiceach, (Mexican food), bia Indiach (Indian food), bia Francach (French food) agus bia Síneach (Chinese food). We even created and wrote our very own restaurant menu for a traditional Irish food menu! It's safe to say that stobhach Gaelach (Irish stew) and bagún agus cabáiste (bacon and cabbage) were very popular!

Maths has been very busy between our new topics of fractions, lines and angles, data and participating in many many tasks and challenges as part of Maths Week! We have had lots of fun working in groups on our weekly challenges and word problems, keep it up everyone!

Art saw us finally finish pur selfie self portraits which had taken us a number of weeks to complete! We also created a very eye catching display for Halloween using Dia de Las Muertos or Day of The Dead as our inspiration. We used acrylic paint for the skulls and pastelles to pop some colour on giving these skeletons a little bit of attitude and personality! Well done, they look amazing!

We had some very exciting days for P.E which saw us taking on a new game and skills through cricket! It was great seeing the kids all learn so much about a new sport that they knew very little about. The 5th and 6th class kids also had a full day training as Playground Leaders. This is now up and running at lunch times and the kids are having so much fun playing great games with all of their peers.

Girls Rackard League and Mini 7s By Ms Boggan

The girls played the first round of Mini 7s in Blackwater. They played three matches that day. The first match was against Monamolin in which our girls had a great win. Next they played Ballygarrett and after being level at half time, they narrowly lost by a goal. Our final match was against a very strong Blackwater side that beat us on the day. Well done girls on your excellent performances that day, we only had seven players and each of them put in a trojan effort.

The girls' final group game for Rackard League was a home game against Taghmon, they played a great game and won the match with a score of 3-6 to 1-3. The girls then progressed to the county semi-final against Horeswood which was played in Horeswood. The girls put in a brilliant performance and had a great win. The girls are now in the county final against Barntown/Bunclody on Thursday October 20th in Bellefield at 5:45pm. We are so proud of you all, it is such a great achievement to progress to the county final. Best of luck in the final girls!