

BALLYMURN NEWS 15TH DECEMBER 2022



Welcome to the December edition of Ballymurn News. We ask that all family members to read our newsletter to keep up to date with what is going on in our school. The Board of Management and staff of Ballymurn N.S, wish to take this opportunity to wish all of our families a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

Nollaig shona is athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh go léir!

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. The Crescent Class Christmas performance will take place in their classroom on Monday, 19th also. All family members are invited to attend and see our pupils perform.

Christmas Holidays

A reminder that school closes at 12.15pm on Wednesday for Christmas holidays, and reopens on Thursday, January 5th for all pupils.

Uniform

Children may come to school without uniform from Monday 19th December to Wednesday 21st, at the discretion of parents/guardians.

Ballymurn 5k Fun Run

The countdown is on to our annual Ballymurn 5k Fun Run, will take place on Sunday, January 29th 2023. Bobby and Mag Redmond have been really busy organising this event, in aid of both our school and Temple Street Children's Hospital, and we would love to see it well supported. 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. There is no entry fee- it's donation only, and we just ask that you give what you can to support the two causes. The chip timing for the event has been very kindly sponsored by Kilmallock Developments.

Grandparents' Day

We are delighted to announce that we will host our first Grandparents' Day celebration in three years on Thursday 2nd February. Mass will be held in Ballymurn Church at 10am, and we invite grandparents to visit the school for refreshments afterwards. Thank you to the Parents' Association for their help in ensuring that we can facilitate this event.

Lámh

Pupils from all classes in Ballymurn school have been learning how to use Lámh over the past three years. Lámh is an adaptation of Irish Sign Language, in order to promote communication in those who

find it difficult to communicate using spoken language. The ability to use and understand Lámh signs is not only an inclusive practice that we want to achieve in our school, but it is also vital in society for children and adults who rely on it as their primary communication method. This year, RTE Junior released a TV show teaching these signs to pupils which every class in our school have had the opportunity to watch. We are encouraging all pupils and their families to watch some of the 'Dizzy Deliveries' episodes on RTE Player over Christmas again and practice the signs they teach. We have seen a huge improvement in the use of Lámh on the schoolyard in recent weeks because of this show and would love to see this increase again throughout the rest of the school year. Well done everyone, keep up the good work!

Hurling 365

As we approach the Christmas break, we extend our thanks to all parents who have volunteered to facilitate this for our pupils each Tuesday and Thursday morning. The children really enjoy these sessions. Tuesday morning's session is for Senior Infants to 2nd class, and Thursday morning's session is for 3rd-6th class. We look forward to seeing lots of boys and girls back when we resume after Christmas.

Child Safeguarding Statement Review Notification Reminder

Our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment annual review took place at our Board of Management meeting on November 30th. A copy of this has been uploaded to our website or a copy may be obtained from the office on request. Formal notification that the review took place is also attached to this email for your attention. 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, 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'

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.

Class Reports

Please see below reports from all class teachers, which detail what everyone has been doing in class since Hallowe'en.

Dates / Upcoming Events:

- Crescent Class Christmas Play: Monday 19th December in school
- 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 .
- Ballymurn 5K Fun Run: Sunday, January 29th at 12 noon 2023
- Grandparents Day: Thursday 2nd February at 10am
- Bank Holiday Monday 6th February, school closed for all pupils
- Midterm Break: School closed for all pupils on Thursday 16th and Friday 17th February 2023

Class Reports

Ms. Ormonde's Crescent Class

It has been a hectic time of year for the Crescent Class. In November, our theme was 'a new baby.' We helped one of our pupils become a big brother again by learning how we care for a baby. The pupils loved practising with our baby doll in class and showed very nurturing, caring sides during these activities. We have also been continuing to watch the Lámh show 'Dizzy Deliveries' as a class and learn

new signs. The pupils have been using their signs in class, on the yard and in their mainstream classrooms with their peers.

December has been an exciting month for us. Our elf arrived from the North Pole and has been dropping in little treats each morning in our advent calendar. We have been working extremely hard on our first-ever Christmas show and just know we are going to do our families so proud when we perform for them on Monday the 19th of December in our classroom. We have practised performing for all of the classes in our school which has been a big achievement for us all. We are looking forward to our trip to Wheelocks to see Santa next Tuesday as an end-of-year treat and to celebrate a performance that we know will be fabulous on Monday! Happy Christmas from all in the Crescent Class! :)

Ms. O'Gorman's Junior Infant Report ☺


It's been a really busy time in Junior Infants since Hallowe'en. The Aistear themes we've covered are 'The Restaurant', 'The Post Office' and 'Santa's Workshop', and there have been lots of busy chefs, waiters, diners, postal workers, customers, elves and reindeer at work in the role play area during each of these learning experiences. The children have done some fabulous artwork, and there are lots of yummy pizzas, nicely designed restaurants, snowglobes, postal stamps on display in our room. We have been learning about light and electricity in science, and did a very cool Skittles experiment during Science Week. We've also been learning about environmental awareness and care, and how we can enhance and look after our local community. In Maths, we've learned about 2D and 3D shapes, as well as continuing our early mathematical activities. *Sa Ghaeilge, d'oibríomar ar na téamaí Caitheamh Aimsire agus an Nollaig agus tá a lán foclóir foghlamtha againn ar na téamaí sin, chomh maith le amhráin agus rannta álainn. (In Irish, we've worked on the themes of Pastimes and Christmas and learned lots of vocabulary in these areas, as well as some lovely poems and songs)*

For Ms. O'Gorman, the most exciting progress we've made since the last newsletter is on our reading. The boys and girls have worked so hard on their phonics and blending and are now reading words and sentences in their readers. A huge well done to them all for this, and a huge thank you to all parents for the help they are providing the children with at home. I hope that you all have a wonderful Christmas break, and that our pesky class elf, Elfie has brought good news back to Santa to put all of our boys and girls on the good list!

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

December has flown by in our classroom and we've been counting down the days to Christmas on our Advent calendar! We are feeling happy and our compliment heart is nearly full of lovely colours! The children have been busy learning about the Arctic during the month of December. They had many questions about what it might be like there and the differences between the North Pole and the South Pole. We had to do our research and read many books to help us all understand it better. In the role-play area the children were polar explorers. In the small world play area the children used their imaginations to create a winter wonderland.

In Maths, First Class have been learning about the calendar and how to gather information and display it on a block graph. Senior Infants have continued their work on number, with a focus on addition and problem-solving.

First Class have been practising hard for the upcoming carol service and Senior Infants have enjoyed preparing for their Christmas nativity. We will look forward to our performances over the coming week. I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year 

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

In English we have been learning about the genre of exposition writing. We have been reading different samples of this form of writing about topics such as 'Screen Time Limits', 'Vegetables' and 'The Best Pet'. We had some very interesting moving debates where the children stood on the side that was in agreement or disagreement with the statement, and voiced their reasons for their side of the argument. The children were very articulate and made some very convincing points. We then wrote our own exposition pieces of writing about 'School Uniforms should be compulsory', 'Unlimited TV viewing' and 'Caging Animals in the Zoo'.

In art we have been focusing on drawing, and paint and colour. The children have created some beautiful pieces of artwork based around the themes of Winter and Christmas. They have drawn penguins, snowmen and Santa. It's so lovely to see the children's creativity in their artwork. The children love seeing everyone's artwork at the end of the lesson when we each share our work and also seeing their artwork displayed in the classroom.

In maths we have been working on the times tables in 3rd class, the children have been practising games on Mangahigh and we've been having fun doing our tables games in class too. It's important to practise our tables everyday at home too. We had great fun learning about length in maths. We did lots of activities in which we estimated the length of things and measured them using our rulers and metre sticks to check the measurements in centimetres and metres. We then compared our estimates to the actual measurements.

In music we have been doing lots of singing practice in preparation for the upcoming carol service. The children have shown such great enthusiasm in learning all of the songs. They have loved learning some new songs for it and practising some old favourites too. They are all very excited to perform all of the songs for all of the families in the church.

Finally, I hope you all have a fantastic Christmas and I wish you all a happy New Year!

Mrs. Brophy's 4th/5th Class Report 😊

November and December has once again been a very busy month in our classroom. We have been working very hard, completing our first geography project on 'Germany', learning new topics in maths and how to do some simple sewing in art class. We also had a wonderful time at 'Sing Out Loud' in the Opera House.

In maths we have studied fractions, decimals and money. The children have been learning how to find the unitary value of a product e.g. 7 apples for 84c, how much for one apple? This is an important skill for the future when they will be in supermarkets as consumers themselves.

In English we learnt about Discussion/Exposition/Persuasive writing and the children published several 'books' for our class library. We also continue to work on our spellings, grammar and Mental English work daily. After Christmas we shall begin our second novel 'Kensuke's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo.

In Gaeilge we have been working the on theme 'Sa Bhaile' (home) and 'Ar Scoil' (school). We have also begun to learn our irregular verbs and complete several comprehension exercises.

History saw us learning about Daniel O'Connell and in geography we are studying 'Mountains' and how they are formed. We are sewing in art class and hope to have a small Christmas decoration ready to be hung on the tree at home by next week.

In SPHE we looked at different kinds of family and began to investigate the UN Children's Rights charter. We have looked at the right to education and the definition of a child. We also learnt that there are two countries in the world who have not signed up to this UN Charter.....Somalia and USA.

Finally, we are very busy preparing for our Carol Service next Monday night and we hope to see you all there. Wishing you a very peaceful Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

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

Another extremely busy and hard working term is almost over! In English children have been working really hard creating wonderfully festive Christmas stories which we hope to share with the infant classes very soon. They have worked hard re-reading, proofing, editing and publishing their work and are excited to share some Christmas spirit with the younger children this week.

In Maths we have been focusing a lot on problem solving and word problems, finding clues in the questions to help us to find our answer. We have using different strategies such as make a list, draw it, work backwards and use smaller numbers. We also did a lot of predicting and converting units of measurement in length last week. WE did a lot of predictions based on our school environment and then we carried out a lot of measuring tasks to compare with our predictions. I was very impressed with how good they are with predicting! Well done!

As Gaeilge, children have been doing a lot of ag caint agus ag comhra with their partners and confidence is definitely growing. The main topic has been ag siopadóiracht and children have been using lots of new phrases confidently such as tá ____ ag teastáil uaim. Well done everyone!

We have also been doing a lot of engaging experiments and presentations as part of our Life Below Water programme. Children have learned a lot about our maritime animals and how to keep our waterways a clean and safe place for them. Each child researched a maritime animal or bird and made an informative poster about them. Super work everyone!

The children have been very busy rehearsing for the Carol Service next week. It is sounding great and everyone is excited for the big night!

I want to wish you all a very happy and healthy Christmas break and see you all back safe in January 2023!

Christmas Mass and Confession Times

MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS

CROSSABEG

Christmas Eve: 5pm

Christmas Day: 11.15 am

BALLYMURN

Christmas Eve: 7pm

Christmas Day: 10am

Confessions for Christmas

Ballymurn:

Thursday 22nd December at 7.00pm

Crossabeg:

Wednesday 21st December at 7.00pm