



Ballymurn 5k Fun Run

Our Ballymurn 5k Fun Run was a huge success on Sunday, January 29th. The atmosphere around the village on the day was amazing, and the turn out and support for the event was fantastic. A huge thank you to Bobby and Mag Redmond, who put so much time into organising this event, in aid of both our school and Temple Street Children's Hospital. They left no stone unturned and ensured that a fantastic event for everybody took place.

The chip timing for the event was very kindly sponsored by Kilmallock Developments and we also thank Peter Doyle for his sponsorship of a spot prize for pupils.

A grand total of €3,806.36 was raised, which was split evenly between the school and Temple Street Children's Hospital. This year, our pupils put a great effort into training for the event during the month of January, and this was reflected by the number of them who participated in the full event, clocking up some amazing times. 6th Class comprehensively defeated the staff in the challenge, and earned the whole school two nights off homework.

Well done to the following who were the first boy and girl home in each class:

Junior Infants: Robert O'Rourke and Áine Redmond

Senior Infants: Zara O'Connor and Shane Carty

1st Class: Grace Connelly and John Whelan

2nd Class: Saoirse Redmond and Charlie Healy

3rd Class: Mikey Cummins and Amelia Doyle

4th Class: Amelia Kavanagh and Jacob Hennessy

5th Class: Ruby Hennessy and Luke Healy

6th Class: Ciara Redmond and Cillian Byrne.

First Staff Member: Kelda Cullen

First Mother: Michelle Connelly

First Father: Mick Cummins

Winners received their medals from Bobby Redmond at a special assembly in school after the race.



Grandparents' Day

We celebrated our first Grandparents' Day in three years on February 2nd, and the whole school community had a really lovely morning. Thanks to Fr. Finn for facilitating mass, and to our pupils who read and sang so well for our visitors. It was great to see so many family members. Thank you to the Parents' Association for their help-They had such a busy morning providing refreshments to all of our visitors and it was much appreciated.



Hurling 365

Hurling 365 continues 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. A huge thank you to the parents who volunteer to make this happen. If any other parent could help out, as volunteer numbers are quite low, please contact Leanna for further information.

School Photos

A company called County Photos will visit our school on March 8th to take photographs of our Junior Infant and 6th Class pupils along with their siblings. They will also take a class photo of the Junior Infants and 6th Class. Parents will receive samples in a few weeks and will be able to order prints directly from County Photos. If any parents of children in the other classes would like their child's photo taken please contact the school office by email.

Mini-7s

We wish the best of luck to our camogie and hurling Mini-7s teams who take part in their respective competitions next Monday and Tuesday in Ballymurn pitch. The girls take on Monageer and Raheen and the boys are up against Glynn and Oulart.

Pancake Tuesday

Our Student Council members held their annual Pancake Tuesday fundraiser this week. Huge thanks to the members of the Parents' Association and Leanna who helped them out with all the cooking, and to all families who sent donations of toppings, equipment and monetary donations. All classes were delighted with their delicious treat. A total of €252.00 was raised and the Student Council will hold a meeting soon to decide on the best way to spend these funds to enhance our school.

Enrolment

A reminder that all outstanding enrolment forms for September 2023 are due back to the office by Monday 27th February.

Curriculum Evaluation in English

We received notification from the Department of Education that a Curriculum Evaluation in the area of English would take place in our school on February 9th and 10th. Two inspectors visited our school, observed teaching in all classes, spoke to pupils in all rooms about their learning of English and examined their English written work. They also conducted a focus group session with ten pupils randomly chosen from 3rd-6th class. The feedback at the end of the inspection was really positive, and reflected admirably on our pupils and teaching in our school. A formal report will issue in due course from the Department of Education and will be available to view online for those interested in reading it.

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. Rackard

League games will commence in March, so it is especially important that parents of this age group ensure that their vetting is up to date. 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.

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.

Child Protection - A reminder that should you have a Child Protection concern in relation to any child in our school, you should immediately contact the Designated Liaison Person(DLP), Ms. O' Gorman, or in her absence the Deputy DLP, Ms. Ormonde.

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.

Dates / Upcoming Events:

- March 8th School Photographers visiting
- St. Patrick's Day Bank Holiday: Friday, March 17th: School closed
- Easter Holidays: School closes on Friday, March 31st at 12.15pm and reopens on Monday, April 17th at 9.20am
- May Bank Holiday: Monday, May 1st and Tuesday, May 2nd: School closed
- First Holy Communion: Saturday, May 13th at 11am
- Standardised Testing: Tuesday, May 9th English (1st-6th Class)
Tuesday, May 16th Maths (1st-6th Class)
Thursday, May 18th Gaeilge (2nd-6th Class)

- June Bank Holiday: School closed from Friday 2nd - Tuesday 6th June inclusive
- School Tour Dates: Crescent Class, Junior & Senior Infants, 1st Class: Thursday, June 10th
2nd/3rd Class: Tuesday, 13th June
4th/5th/6th Class: Tuesday, 20th June
- Sports Day, Thursday June 15th: Weather permitting
- 6th Class Graduation: Thursday, June 22nd at 7pm

Class Reports

Ms. Ormonde's Crescent Class

The Crescent Class have been busy as usual since Christmas. In January, we learned about winter. We sorted the clothes we should wear when the weather is cold and the different animals that live in the arctic. We were very excited to invite our grandparents into our classroom on Grandparents day and it was so lovely for them to see our classroom.

In February, we have been learning about the farm and all the animals that live there. We have been singing 'Old MacDonald had a Farm.' We have also been enjoying our continued buddy breaks with 5th and 6th class and look forward to them joining us in our classroom every Friday. Finally, some of us have also been enjoying our listening programme in school. This helps us to concentrate and relax.

Ms. O'Gorman's Junior Infant Report ☺

Junior Infants have had such a great time since Christmas. Ms. Byrne was with us in January as part of her final Teaching Placement, and she provided so much help in our classroom and did lovely activities with the boys and girls.

We have made huge progress since Christmas with our early literacy skills and are becoming really competent readers and writers. We've worked on storytelling and developing characters, and enjoyed many stories relating to our themes. We work hard at all aspects of English each week in our stations and the progress we are making is so evident. Our free writing and dictation work is going really well. As Gaeilge, bhíomar ag foghlaim faoi Lá Breithe agus an Aimsir. All boys and girls are now excellent at asking and answering questions as Gaeilge. We've covered the themes of 'Polar Explorers' and 'The Farm' since Christmas and had some great roleplay and small world fun based on these areas. We also learned lots about polar and farmyard habitats in SESE. We've also studied the weather in SESE, in conjunction with our Gaeilge, and learned lots about weather in Ireland and around the world.

We've worked on body percussion and learned lovely songs during Music lessons, made some really cool art pieces based on polar animals, the weather and the farm, and there are lots of lovely penguins, cows and rainbows on display in our room.

In SPHE, we've commenced the Stay Safe programme in February, and will have worksheets to discuss with parents in our homework folders each week, so please look out for these. We really enjoyed visits from many of the children's grandparents for Grandparents' Day and had great fun on Pancake Tuesday this week.

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

It's been a busy classroom over the past few months. Our Aistear theme during February was *Planet Earth in Space* and the children really enjoyed exploring all things space in the role-play area. They learned about what it would be like to be an astronaut and expanded their vocabulary with many new words related to the topic. The children made rockets this week and did many other lovely art activities over the past few weeks too; we keep a record of them on Seesaw.

A big highlight for the children was their grandparents coming to visit their classroom. It was lovely to meet everyone that day and the children had a lot of fun. We are currently learning about spring and a flower we chose to look at more closely was the snowdrop. We were lucky to get a few little bulbs from a granddad who loves his garden so now we will sow our own snowdrops in our classroom. The children have started their Stay Safe lessons and will be bringing home the worksheets to share with you what we discussed together in that lesson. As we move on to the month of March we will continue to work hard in our classroom and we will be learning more about spring and new life.

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

2nd and 3rd Class have worked extremely hard throughout the month of January.

The children in 2nd Class have been busy learning prayers and songs in preparation for their First Confession and First Holy Communion.

We started reading a new Novel 'Brush, The Tale of Two Foxes' in English this month. The children are really enjoying getting to know the different characters in the story, even becoming the characters at different times in our classroom. We are looking forward to finding out if any of the predictions we made before starting the Novel are correct!

In Gaeilge we focused on the topic 'An Scoil' (school). The children made a big effort using the new vocabulary learned in the classroom throughout the day. They learned the different subject names in Irish and talked about the subjects they like and dislike in school.

In Maths the children in 2nd Class learned to subtract numbers with renaming which they mastered very quickly. 3rd Class focused on division and fractions and improved so much over the past few weeks.

In History, the children have been learning about the Stone Age. The children compared the different types of houses these people lived in, the food they ate, the clothes they wore and what these people liked to do. In groups the children made beautiful posters detailing the information learned about The Stone Age.

The children completed their first Geography project on Italy this month also, which they each presented to the class. I was so impressed with the work they put into their project and all the information they found out about Italy. They should be very proud of themselves.

We were so delighted to be able to welcome some of our Grandparents into our classroom for Grandparent's Day this year. I think it was definitely one of the highlights of the month for us all. The children learned a lovely poem which they preformed for the Grandparents as they visited our classroom on the day.

Mrs. Brophy's 4th/5th Class Report 😊

Welcome to the spring report from our class. We have been very busy working on many different subjects and learning lots of new things.

In Maths we have studied decimals, problem solving, length and multiplication. The 4th Class children have been learning 'long multiplication' and are making excellent progress in this topic. All the children have been working on word problems. This is a very difficult and challenging topic for many children,

so huge congratulations is in order to everyone for all their effort and perseverance. We are moving onto the topics of 'area' and 'time' this week.

In English we have begun our second novel of this school year. We are reading 'Kensuke's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo. We have met our main characters Michael and Kensuke and are looking forward to learning more of their adventures. Our writing genre for this term is 'narrative' writing. This is a great genre to work with as the children have the opportunity to use their wonderful imaginations to write their own stories and poems.

We are also learning about different types of poetry e.g. Limericks, Haikus and Cinquains. The children shall be writing their own poetry over the coming weeks. I look forward to reading their work.

In Gaeilge we have been working on the theme 'Siopadóireacht' (Shopping) and 'Éadaí' (Clothes). We are also continuing to learn our irregular verbs and completed several comprehension exercises. Finally, we are practicing our oral language daily in pairs and groups.

History saw us learning about Irish Legends like 'Brown Bull of Cooley', 'Deirdre of the Sorrow' and 'Diarmuid and Gráinne'. In Geography we are studying some famous landmarks in Ireland, comparing life in the city vs rural village and identifying the location of European cities. We studied 'Magnets' and 'Electricity' in Science. We had great fun making circuits and getting our bulbs to light.

We are now moving onto learning about how people lived during 'The Blitz' in WW2 London in history, examining and researching the 7 natural and modern wonders of the world in geography and in science we shall be looking at heat and how it affects different types of materials.

In PE we have had great fun learning new skills in the game of Rugby with our coach Michael. We also really enjoyed preparing for our recent 5km Fun Run by running laps daily in the yard.

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

It has been full steam ahead in 5th and 6th class since returning back in January! There have been some exciting new things such as new novels, starting recorders in music class and partaking in the J.E.P programme (Junior Entrepreneur Programme).

In English we have been reading our new class novel *Slime*, by the very popular David Walliams. We have also been working hard on our comprehension strategy inferring and determining importance which makes it easier to understand what we have read. We are still making sure to edit our work well and our writing checklist helps to keep us on track with this.

In Maths we have been looking at lots of ranging topics. We have covered percentages, directed numbers, time, the circle and lots more. This week we were busy measuring the circumferences of circle around the classroom in order to find the value of pi (3.14). The kids did a great job.

In Irish we are working so hard on our reading, our comprehension and speaking in groups and pairs. The kids have been doing some great pair work with their new vocabulary each week. We have covered the topics Eadaí, An Aimsir agus An Teilfís most recently. We are also working hard at translating sentences using the verbs that we know and changing these into the correct tense.

In music we have started learning a new instrument! They are very impressive so far as beginners and I am very excited to learn more songs and see where we can take it. Well done everyone, it sounds fantastic and it is still such early days!

We have also started the JEP programme as mentioned above. This is the Junior Entrepreneur Programme which essentially gives the class a chance to set up a real life business or service. It is very exciting, and we are just getting into the thick of it. The children are learning so much real life skills and hopefully you will see lots more about this in the coming weeks!