



Acting Principal and Deputy Principal

From the end of this week, Ms. O'Gorman will be taking maternity leave, so there will be a change in the school management team. Ms. Ormonde will be Acting Principal, Ms. Sheehan will be Acting Deputy Principal and Ms. Boggan will be Acting Assistant Principal II. We wish them the best of luck in their new roles.

FAI Futsal 5 a side

A big well done to our 5 a side soccer team, who did really well in the FAI Futsal competition held in Curracloe last week. They played extremely well, beating Wexford C.B.S on sudden death after penalties in the play off, before being narrowly defeated in the final by Curracloe N.S. Well done to Ciara, Ashleigh, Cillian, Harrison, Jack Mc, Jack B, Ronan and Luke.



Rackard League

We are so proud of our Rackard League hurlers, who played Oylegate/Glenbrien in the Wexford District Final yesterday evening in Killurin. Unfortunately after a super game of hurling and 20 minutes of extra time Oylegate/Glenbrien overcame the boys by one goal.

The boys will now go on to play in the Shield competition with matches due to commence next week.



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.



Handy Candy

Dear Parents, we will start selling Friday treat bags for 50c each tomorrow and every week for the next 4 weeks.

If you would like your child to have a treat sized snack of delicious jellies please sent in 50c each Friday. Our Share boxes are also still available to be purchased with an order form.

Yours sincerely, The Handy Candy Communications Team

Autism Awareness and Acceptance Week

Autism awareness and acceptance week was celebrated in our school on the first week after the Easter break. The boys and girls from every class from infants to 6th engaged in activities to help them understand and appreciate autism. As a whole school we learned the song 'I Can Sing a Rainbow' using Lámh signs and we performed it at assembly last Friday. Ask your kids to show you each of the signs at home: Red, yellow, pink, green, orange, purple, blue & sing! Each class watched a video explaining autism and they also went on sensory walks around to school and compared the sounds they heard. Each class also designed their own unique neurodiversity symbol and these will be displayed on our new noticeboard in the school hall which represents everyone in our school belonging.

First Communion

Our 2nd Class pupils will receive the sacrament of First Holy Communion in the church on Saturday, May 13th at 11am. Many thanks to Fr.Finn, Ms. Boggan, Monica, Leanna, Ms. Lawlor and Ms. Sheehan for the hard work they are putting in preparing our pupils and the choir for this occasion.

County Wexford Primary School Sports

We have entered the Co. Wexford Primary School Sports this year, which takes place on May 17th, in Enniscorthy. This is an Athletics competition for primary school children, the heats will be run off soon to determine who represents our school. Communication will then issue to parents of those who qualify detailing what occurs on the day. We'd appreciate if parents could let us know asap if their children are able to attend, so that the next child in line can represent the school if not.

Standardised Testing

The dates for our annual standardised tests are written below. It is really important that children are present in school on these dates if at all possible- We do realise that sometimes illness prevents this, but if you do know in advance that there is a reason that your child will be absent on the day, please let the school know, as teachers will be making alternative arrangements for pupils who miss the designated day.

School Tours

School tours take place in June. Junior Infants, Senior Infants, 1st Class and The Crescent Class are going to Woodfield House, Oylegate, on Thursday, June 8th. 2nd and 3rd Class are going to Pirate's Cove on Tuesday, June 13th and 4th-6th Class are going to Castlecomer Discovery Park on Tuesday, June 20th. Letters will issue next week containing payment details.

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

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.

School Bus Transport

The deadline for registering for school transport for the 2023/2024 school year is tomorrow 28th April. The deadline for payment for school transport will be at the earlier date of 9th June. Please visit Bus Eireann School Transport website for further information.

Dates / Upcoming Events:

- 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)
- In service training for staff: Thursday, June 1st - School closed to pupils on this day
- June Bank Holiday: School closed from Friday 2nd - Tuesday 6th June inclusive
- School Tour Dates:
 - Crescent Class, Junior & Senior Infants, 1st Class: Thurs, June 10th

- 2nd/3rd Class: Tuesday, 13th June
- 4th/5th/6th Class: Tuesday, 20th June
- Sports Day, Thursday June 15th: Weather permitting
- End of Year School Mass: Thursday, June 22nd at 10am.
- 6th Class Graduation: Thursday, June 22nd at 7pm
- Summer holidays: School closes at 12:15pm on Tuesday, June 27th

Class Reports

Ms. Ormonde's Crescent Class

The Crescent Class have had a busy couple of months. The most exciting part of the last term for us was our music therapy sessions. Chiara came into our class every Tuesday for the past 6 weeks and we participated in hour long music sessions. We have been playing guitar, drums, shakers and the xylophone. We also practised listening to instructions and singing songs. The pupils loved playing with the magic stars and parachute at the end of each session. We bought a class guitar after these sessions and are hoping to learn to play a few chords ourselves!

The pupils have also been learning about spring and the weather. We learned about all of the different types of weather and how it changes when we come into spring. We have spent some time on the field looking at the signs of spring and we painted daffodils and rainbows. We hope to do some planting in class soon. We are looking forward to lots of messy outdoor play in the summer months.

Ms. O'Gorman's Junior Infant Report ☺

Junior Infants have had a very busy March and April- The Aistear themes we have covered include 'The Vet', 'The Garden Centre' and 'Space' and we have done lots of S.E.S.E work based on these three themes. We've also done some lovely artwork based on these themes. We recently planted sunflowers and look forward to bringing them home when they start to grow! We really enjoyed Seachtain na Gaeilge, and took part in lots of activities to celebrate our language and being Irish. The themes we have covered recently in Irish have been 'Lá le Pádraig', 'Éadaí', 'An Cháisc' agus 'Sa Bhaile'. (St. Patrick's Day, Clothes, Easter and At Home) We've learned lots of new vocabulary in these areas and some really nice poems and songs. In maths, we have covered Addition, Money and number formation. We've completed our Junior Infant Jolly Phonic sounds and are almost finished learning our new Tricky Words for this year. Everyone is working really hard at their reading and writing and the progress is evident for everyone to see. We really enjoyed Autism Awareness and Acceptance Week, and learned a lovely song using Lámh as well as completing a sensory audit in the village. In SPHE, we completed our Stay Safe programme and now move onto the R.S.E programme this month. We also looked at the Sunsmart programme, to be aware of how to care for our skin for the upcoming summer season. We look forward to the rest of a very busy and fun summer term!

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

During March and April Senior Infants and 1st class learned a lot about springtime and animals. In March our Aistear role play area was a farm shop and in April we transformed it into the rainforest.

The children particularly enjoyed learning about the rainforest and we were very lucky to have had a visit from Ms Ormonde who told the children all about her own experience when she travelled to the Borneo rainforest last year. It was fantastic for them to hear real stories about the animals and to see photos and videos of them too.

The children also enjoyed Seachtain na Gaeilge in March. They have been learning how to talk about the weather in Irish and this month we've been learning Irish words and phrases for the clothes we wear. In maths, the children have been studying the Measures topic with a focus on length, weight and time.

This week is Green-Schools Marine Week so we have been discussing all things Marine and have learned many new fun facts about life under the sea and how we can help to keep our beaches and seas clean during the summer months ahead.

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

Our art lessons in March were based around the use of clay. Firstly the children made pinch pots which they decorated and designed their own patterns on. Then once they were dry they painted them with a coat of white paint and then they painted them with the colours they wished to use for the final coat. The children gave their pots to their mothers for Mother's Day. Again they did some further work with clay around the theme of Easter, they made creations such as bunnies, Easter eggs and chicks from the clay. Again these were painted with a coat of white and other colours for the final coat of paint. The children were excited to bring them home for Easter. This month in art we have been learning about different artists work. We began to look at the work of Pablo Picasso. We learned about his life and looked at some of his famous works of art. We then did cubism inspired portraits which the children drew and coloured in.

In SPHE our focus has been on the topic of personal safety using the 'Stay Safe Programme'. The children have been learning about the topics of 'Feeling Safe and Unsafe', 'Friendship and Bullying', 'Touches' and 'Strangers'. We have been discussing the different topics, exploring different scenarios and have been listening to different stories. The children have been learning about the 'Stay Safe' rule: 'Say No, Get Away and Tell' to ensure to keep themselves safe.

In Irish the children have been learning about the topics of 'Éadaí' (clothes) and 'An Teilifís' (television). Whilst learning about éadaí the children learned a new song 'Éadaí' and a poem 'Ag Siopadóireacht le Mam' and whilst learning about teilifís they learned the poem 'An Teilifís' and the song 'Óró Sé do Bheatha Bhaile'. The children have really enjoyed playing vocabulary games to learn the new vocabulary around the topic. We also read some stories themed around the topic and practised some comhrá about the topic. The class really enjoyed the activities during 'Seachtain na Gaeilge'. We had a 'Gaeilgeoir an Lae' (Irish speaker of the day) in the class each day that week where the children put in a huge effort to speak as Gaeilge each day. The children really enjoyed playing some games as Gaeilge such as charades, Guess Who? and story squares. The children also did an Irish dancing session with Ms. Ormonde, where they learned a new dance. They also got to do a table quiz as Gaeilge on teams with the children from the older classes. The children learned a new phrase everyday and we practised two songs as Gaeilge 'Shotgun' and 'Bí id Thost is damhsa liom'. The class were so excited to have an assembly in the hall where they got to sing the Irish songs they had been practising along with the rest of the classes.

On Friday April 21st the children had a visit from two of the fire officers from Enniscorthy Fire Station. The firemen spoke to the class about fire safety. They discussed how to check the fire alarms, what to do in the case of a fire and some common hazards that may be around our homes. The children then got to go outside to see the fire engine and they all got a turn using the water hose.

Mrs. Brophy's 4th/5th Class Report 😊

Welcome to the March/April 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 The Circle, 2D Shapes, Area and Perimeter. We have enjoyed constructing circles and measuring parts of our school e.g. the senior and junior yard. We are working very hard on this subject.

In English we have finished second novel of this school year. We read 'Kensuke's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo. We really enjoyed this book and in particular the end chapter. We discussed the resilience of humans to survive in extreme circumstances and completed lots of activities based on the novel.

We studied more poetry this month, focusing on Roald Dahl's 'Revolting Rhymes'. We read 'The 3 Little Pigs' and 'Little Red Riding Hood' and found both poems to be extremely funny. We learnt about the features of poetry also i.e. alliteration, assonance, onomatopoeia etc.

In Gaeilge we have been working the on theme 'An Teilifís' (Television). 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 - we looked at the role of women in WW1 and WW2 and we learnt about 'The Blitz' and how children were evacuated from the cities. We studied heat in Science and conducted an experiment with butter to determine what materials are conductors and insulators of heat.

Finally, in Music we have been learning about traditional Irish instruments and listening to music by Turlough O'Carolan and Planxty. We learnt 'Shotgun' as Gaeilge, Raggle Taggle Gypsies, Dilín O'Deamhas and Follow me up Carlow.

We are looking forward to a fun filled summer term with lots of activities such as our School Tour ahead.

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

It has been an extremely busy and productive March and April!

In English we have finished off our class novel Slime and written some wonderful reviews about it. We have also been working on dictionary skills, comprehension skills and re - writing some well known nursery rhymes with our very own twist! This month we have used the story Hansel and Gretel, written a new version and used this to create drama in small groups!

In maths we are working very hard at a number of topics. These topics include problem solving, 3D shapes, weight, capacity and volume. We have been recently using 3D shapes in the classroom to help solve shape tasks and also using the nets of these shapes on cardboard to re construct more challenging shapes such as dodecahedrons, tetrahedrons and icosahedrons. This was lots of fun and very challenging too.

In Irish we are on the theme *Ocáidí Speisialta* (special occasions). We are working consistently hard on using our knowledge of irregular verbs to form sentences and have been enjoying lots of paired reading with their buddies in class. *Maith sibh!*

J.E.P - JEP has been a fantastic focus and has given children a great idea of what it takes to make a business work. The different teams have been doing jobs behind the scenes and are seeing how much of a team effort it is. Thank you so much for all your support so far!