

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to our first newsletter of the 2023/24 school year, particularly to those of you who are new parents in our school. This month, we've been delighted to welcome our new Junior Infants: Zach, Oscar, Ellie, Willow, Emily, Emma, Ciara, Bella and Sophie. We also welcome Jamie, Ella and Sam, who have joined us in other classes. We are very proud of how well they've adjusted to their new school environment.

Welcome to Ballymurn National School Junior Infants



Hurling 365 – We would like to get this fantastic initiative restarted as soon as possible but unfortunately at present we haven't had enough parents to sign up to the supervisory role. For any parent that doesn't know how Hurling 365 works here are the details. Tuesday mornings from 8.30am until 9.10am for any pupils from Senior Infants to 2nd class and Thursday mornings from 8.30am until 9.10am for any pupils from 3rd to 6th class. Each morning we need two volunteers, a coach and a supervisor. We have enough coaches signed up but we don't have enough supervisors. If this is

something you might be able to help us with please contact Leanna in the office and she will give you further details. Please also see attached poster.



We need more parents to come on board to help

You don't need to know anything about hurling to help out

Hurling 365

Tues & Thurs Mornings at 8.30am

We have coaches for all the sessions we just need parents to help supervise

It would be just one morning per month and less if more parents sign up

Contact Leanna in the office for more information



Rackard League and Mini Sevens Girls - The girls from 5th and 6th class recently began their Rackard League football matches for this year along with the girls from Crossabeg. They are in Roinn A/B this year so they have played two very strong teams to date. Their first match was an away game against Piercestown/Murrintown which was a very strong side and ended in a loss for the Ballymurn girls. Their second match was an away game to Castlebridge/Screen/Curraclloe, again this was a very tough match against a very strong side which ended in a loss for our girls. Despite coming up against two very strong sides to date the girls fought hard throughout both matches and kept trying until the very end of both games. The girls have one group game remaining against Glynn at home this week.

Rackard League and Mini Sevens Boys -The Boys Rackard league kicked off the 13th of September with our first game away to Rosslare. We had a great turn out from both Ballymurn and Crossabeg school. The boys worked very hard. Rosslare were very strong and we were unfortunately beaten. We gathered for a training session the following week. Mr. Kearns from Crossabeg National school helped out as well as Niall McCauley and Ms. Kehoe. We did some drills, target practice and a game in preparation for our next match. We were home to Kilmore last Wednesday the 20th of October. The winds were very strong and we lost to a very strong football team. We have our last Boys Rackard League Football game this Thursday the 28th of September, which is away to Mayglass in St. Fintans GAA pitch in Ballymore. Best of luck to all the boys!

Sing Out Loud - We will be again this year be taking part in Sing Out Loud in the National Opera House and practise has got under way for 4th, 5th and 6th Class who will be representing us. We haven't been issued a date for our performance yet but we will circulate all information to parents as soon as we receive it.

Parents' Association- All parents/guardians of children in our school are automatically members of the Parents' Association, the aim of which is to support the Board of Management and staff in the running of the school. I'd like to extend a huge thank you to all parents who were on the committee over the past year and gave so much help and support to us for some really lovely occasions during the school year. They also held a fundraiser which helped to offset school tour costs for parents, which I know was much appreciated by all families. We had some new members joining the PA committee last year, which is wonderful, but we also have a few whose children are now moving on to secondary school. The current PA are seeking involvement from new parents in an innovative and creative way to build on what is already a productive association. Our current Chairperson wishes to step down this year, and with this in mind, I'd appeal to parents of pupils at the Junior end of the school, or at the Senior end who haven't yet been involved with the PA, to consider becoming involved this year.

This year's Parents' Association A.G.M takes place on Thursday, October 5th at 7.30pm in the school. We'd love to see lots of parents attend.

Child Safeguarding Statement - 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 October, in order to adopt the new procedures for 2023. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) in Ballymurn NS is Ms. Chloe Ormonde and the Deputy DLP is Ms. Nicola Sheehan. 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

Parent Contact Details If you have changed your home address or contact numbers, please email Leanna with your new details (office@ballymurnns.ie)

No Uniform Day on Fridays: This is voluntary but if children wear their own clothes, they are asked to donate €1 each to the school. The Voluntary Contribution of €100 per family is due by 6th October. These monies can be paid in instalments. More information on this was circulated to all families via email. Thank you 😊

Homework: Homework recommenced during the month of September for all classes except Junior Infants, who will start very soon. After much staff discussion, we decided to take a similar approach to last year, where we veered away from written homework for 1st class upwards. The reason for this is to ensure that children get enough time to focus on their reading and learning homework such as, English reading, Irish reading, spellings and tables. Maths homework is on Mangahigh for older classes, which is a fantastic resource that allows pupils to be challenged in an enjoyable way online. When children make use of the games and activities on Mangahigh, it has been proven to make a huge difference to their maths abilities. Junior and Senior Infants will still have a small amount of written work each evening, as well as their reading activities.

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 cooperation on this matter.

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.

Hallowe'en Hike - The Hallowe'en Hike is an annual fundraising event in our school, where we all don our fancy dress and go on our hike as far as Ballymurn Preschool. The Hike will take place at 10am on Friday 27th October. We would ask that you support us in this fundraising effort. Sponsorship cards will be sent home with pupils next week. All cards must be returned to the school by 10th 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.

Team Hope Shoebox Appeal - We will again this year be taking part in the Team Hope Shoebox appeal. Leaflets should arrive to the school shortly and will be sent home with all pupils. If you would like to take part follow the instructions on the leaflet and return your shoe box to the school office.

When they have instructed us on the return date we will let you know but usually it is the week after the Midterm Break.

Le gach dea ghúí,

Chloe Ormonde
Acting Principal

Dates / Upcoming Events:

- Walk to School Week (2nd - 6th October) - Parents are encouraged to park in the village and walk with their children from the village to the school
- Mass for deceased relatives and friends (Infants to 6th Class) - Thursday 26th October, 10am
- Hallowe'en Hike - 28th October at 10am (weather permitting). Children are encouraged to dress in their Hallowe'en costumes on this date. **Sponsorship cards will be sent home shortly with the eldest child in each family.**
- Mid-Term Break - Monday 30th October to Friday 3rd November inclusive. School re-opens Monday 6th November at 9.20am.