

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.

Maths Week

The boys and girls from all classes in Ballymurn N.S. participated in Maths week from October 16th to October 20th. Lots of hands on Maths experiences were available for the children and they enjoyed the challenges these activities brought with them. We had our annual estimation competition in each classroom in the school where the pupils had to guess how many paper clips, sweets or matchsticks were in each bottle. Well done to our prize winners who had fantastic guesses and to all pupils for participating.



Hallowe'en Celebrations

Our annual Hallowe'en Hike takes place tomorrow morning at 10am weather permitting, where we all put on 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 last 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 has to go to those who turned up for the meeting and also to our officers who are staying on for another year: Chairperson: Denise Redmond, Secretary: Carol Farrell and Treasurer: Barbara Healy. Thank you also to those who put their names forward after the meeting, we appreciate your response. Committee members: Bridget Cummins, Emma and Eamon Doyle, Genevieve O'Gorman, Pamela Quirke, Rene Wegner, Sinead O'Reilly, Tracey Carthy, Sarah usher, Niamh King, Fiona roche, Aoife Wheelock, Sarah Cuffe, Bridget Murphy, Sabrina Murphy, Lillian Lawler, Mag Murphy, Laura Thompson, Aoife Redmond and Rachel Grendon. 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: Jack McNicholas, Jessica Quirke, Ellie Sheehan, Tara Murphy, Oscar Lafferty, Amelia Doyle, Ellie-Mae Redomd, Charlie Healy and James Vorster. 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 4th to 6th Class are very busy preparing for their Sing Out Loud concert, which takes place in Wexford Opera House on Friday night, November 17th. 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

Our Christmas Carol Service will take place on Thursday night, December 21st at 7pm in the church, with pupils from 1st-6th class participating. Junior and Senior Infants will perform a Christmas play in the church on Tuesday, December 19th at 1pm. The Crescent Class will perform in their classroom with a date to be confirmed closer to the time.

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 took place on October 17th and the new 2023 procedures were adopted. 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.

Parent Teacher Meetings

Parent Teacher meetings take place on Tuesday, November 21st from 3pm. School closes for all pupils at 2.45pm on this date to facilitate this. Appointment times will issue to parents by email after the midterm break.

Attendance

Pupil attendance rate for September was 94%. 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/u4oJs3fXEBZBx6VW9), 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. <https://forms.gle/u4oJs3fXEBZBx6VW9>

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 4 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. We would appreciate if you could convey this information to grandparents and childminders that drop off and collect pupils.

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

Please ensure that any completed shoe boxes are returned to the school by Wednesday 8th November. Extra leaflets are available from the school office.

Dates / Upcoming Events:

- Hallowe'en Hike - 27th October at 10am (weather permitting).
- Mid-Term Break - Monday 30th October to Friday 3rd November inclusive. School re-opens Monday 6th November at 9.20am.
- Sing Out Loud: Friday 17th November at 7pm in Wexford Opera House
- Parent-Teacher Meetings: Tuesday 21st November. School closes at 2.45pm on this date
- New Maths Primary Curriculum teacher training - Wed 6th Dec School closed for all pupils
- Junior and Senior Infant Christmas Play: Tuesday December 19th at 1pm in Ballymurn Church
- Crescent Class Christmas Performance: Date TBC
- Christmas Carol Service: Thursday December 21st at 7pm in Ballymurn Church
- Christmas Holidays - school closes at 12.15pm for all children on Friday 22nd December and will re-open on Monday 8th January, 2023.

Class Reports

Ms. Ormonde's Junior & Senior Infants

Junior and senior infants have got off to a flying start this term. Our nine new junior infants and two new senior infants have settled into their new school with ease and their fellow senior infants have been role models from day one. Well done everyone!

We began the year by focusing on the themes 'my home' and 'my family.' The children practised their fine motor and cutting skills through a variety of activities such as playdough, peg boards, links and tweezers. The children have been enjoying engaging in playful learning through the 'Aistear' approach and within their groups have been exploring activities such as junk art, role play, small world and construction. The children have been enjoying station teaching where we practise reading, writing and learning new sounds in our small groups.

This month our focus turned to 'school,' 'autumn' and now 'Halloween.' The children enjoyed a fabulous nature walk where we collected all sorts of signs of autumn. We made leaf hedgehogs, carved pumpkins and pretended to make potions.

Well done junior and senior infants, have a lovely Halloween break! :)

Ms Lawlor's Senior Infants & 1st Class

It's been a very busy 9 weeks in our classroom and we've had lots of fun getting to know each other whilst we learn! The time has gone so fast and we're really looking forward to dressing up on Friday and going on our Halloween hike.

Our Aistear themes were myself and my family, Autumn and Halloween. Our role-play area has been both a family home and a haunted house. The children enjoyed going in to role as a family member or Halloween character. They've been writing spells and cooking up potions in the cauldron.

In English, both classes have been working hard at revising letter formations correctly and 1st class have been learning to use cursive writing for the first time. We are learning how to use the language of recount in both our writing and during Aistear playtimes.

We especially enjoyed Wellbeing Week and Maths Week when the children got a chance to do lots of fun activities. They particularly enjoyed creating a Gratitude Tree and the estimating competition and games during Maths Week.

If at any stage you need to contact me, my email address is niamh@ballymurnns.ie. I hope everyone enjoys the well deserved rest over mid-term.

Ms Boggan's 2nd & 3rd Class

In English we have been learning about the genre of recount writing. We have been reading different samples of this form of writing about topics such as 'Josh's Summer Holidays', 'Molly's Birthday Wish' and 'Our Nature Walk'. The children learned how to structure their own recounts after practising writing recounts as modelled by the teacher, together with the class and in pairs. They followed the structure of beginning with the orientation, then the sequence of events and finally ending with a reflection. We have been reading the novel 'Matilda' by Roald Dahl. The children have been enjoying the storyline and getting to know all of the characters so far. They look forward to doing more drama and written activities based upon it in the coming weeks.

In maths the children have been working hard this month. 3rd class have recently begun learning their multiplication tables, it is important to practise learning them every night for homework. There are lots of fun games and tasks on Mangahigh to practise tables on also. We recently had Maths Week in school, the children loved engaging with some fun activities that week in maths. They did a great job working out simultaneous equations where they had to figure out what numbers the pictures represented to work out the answers. The children also enjoyed playing a 2D shapes memory game where they had to find the matching pairs. The class got to do an online mini maths quiz on Thursday too which they really enjoyed. The children had great fun one of the days in their pairs playing a 'three-in-a-row' subtraction game using dice. We worked on the topic of data that week in maths where the children learned how to use a tally, and how to create and interpret pictograms and bar charts. They picked different topics to survey the class on and created pictograms/bar charts to show their results.

In SESE the children have been learning about their home county of Wexford. They learned about it's location in Ireland, the towns, neighbouring villages, bordering counties, longest river, highest mountain, landmarks and much more. They worked on group posters about our wonderful county to show some of the information they have been learning about their county. In history the class have been recently learning about one of the landmarks in Wexford which is Enniscorthy Castle. They learned about how the castle has changed over the years and some of it's inhabitants over the years. The children created a class timeline of the castle through the years.

Ms Kehoe's 4th & 5th Class

4th and 5th class settled back well. September was a busy month preparing ourselves for the new year ahead. The children were very occupied with various topics and activities. 5th class have began some preparations for their confirmation also. Fr. Finn has visited us on a few occasions to discuss the sacrament too.

We got involved with doing a little art for the end for the Harvest Mass which took place in Ballymurn Church on Saturday. We made autumnal wreaths which were beautifully displayed in the church. Some of the confirmation class participated in the mass, bringing up gifts to the altar.

4th and 5th class were very busy for over two weeks at the start of October completing projects in groups on a local study. 4th class had the opportunity to explore the history of Enniscorthy Castle. 5th class researched the history of Vinegar Hill. The children had a very positive approach to these two topics which are huge parts of our local history. It was a good opportunity to practice group work and share the workload. All projects were presented to the class.

The children have written descriptive recounts over the last few weeks as well as exploring some poetry. One poem we looked at was 'The Copper Fox' by Mary Anderson. We then based our art on the poem. The children drew foxes curled up. They painted them snuggled up in the grass.

We were also busy with Well-being activities. We practiced mindfulness activities and incorporated lovely art into lessons. The pupils made a tree of gratitude and recorded many things they feel grateful for on leaves that hang from the tree on our class door. The following engaged in maths weeks. We participated in games and problem solving activities.

Overall it's been an active term. I hope everyone has a lovely fun and restful break.

Ms Sheehan's 5th & 6th Class

5th and 6th Class have had a great start to this new school year. The kids have been settling in, getting to know each other and are working really well. In English we have been learning all about recount writing and they are writing some great stories as well as learning some nice poems. In Gaeilge we have been focussing on developing our oral skills and have been talking about ourselves, homes, school and Oiche Shamhna. The children are making good progress. We have learned about food, hygiene, healthy eating and health and safety in the kitchen. We have explored the story of Anne Frank and life in WW2. Some of the boys and girls in 5th and 6th Class have been taking part in Rackard League and Mini Sevens matches so we decided to research the opposition and all the villiages around County Wexford. We had the pleasure of having Kelly Anne Dempsey with us for four weeks. She led some lovely lessons with the children and they enjoyed that.

We have enjoyed Well Being week, Walk to School Week and most recently Maths week. The children are busy with the Green School Programme and representing their peers on the Student Council. We

also attended an online Digital Safety Webinar where the children learned how to protect themselves while using social media and/or online games. We are all looking forward to a well deserved break for Halloween and will hopefully return fresh and ready for another busy half-term!!

Ms Doyle's Crescent Class

The Crescent Class had a very busy start to their new school term. We welcomed all our friends back in September and got straight to work with our 'back to school' theme. We learned all about the people that worked in our school and painted our school bags and practised our cutting and sticking, putting all of our items on display in our hallway. We have great chefs in the Crescent class and have been very busy cooking and baking. So far, we have made delicious pizza, cupcakes, krispie pumpkin buns and chocolate decorated apples and we have lots more ideas in store which we are looking forward to. We enjoyed learning all about wellbeing and we took part in wellbeing week. We particularly enjoyed our 'waka waka dance' and loved taking part in our whole school wellbeing walk. We love our guided meditation time in the Crescent room it helps us all to relax and chill out.

October welcomed our Autumn/Halloween theme. We loved our nature walk collecting leaves and all sorts of different things for our nature tray. We painted our Autumn trees and for maths week we made apple finger print number lines and guessed the sweets in the bottle. We are busy making our Halloween decorations at the moment; we painted our pumpkins and made handprint spooky spiders. We are also very excited about our Halloween hike and dress up party.

If you bump into anyone from the crescent class inside or outside of school, make sure to greet us with a lámh sign as we are always busy practicing and learning new signs.



Rackard League

Girls

The girls recently played the Rackard League Football Roinn B Quarter Final against Horeswood in Ballymurn. The girls worked hard throughout the match and showed some great periods of play. Horeswood were a very strong opposition and it ended in a defeat for Ballymurn. Well done to the girls from 5th and 6th class for competing in the Rackard League this year, they were in a very strong group this year but despite that they did their best in every match. Thank you to the parents who brought the girls to all of the matches and training. The following girls were on the panel this year: Lily Copeland, Jessica Quirke, Lucy Cummins, Róisín Farrell, Amelia Kavanagh, Tara Murphy, Ellie Sheehan and Caoimhe Walsh.

Boys

The boy's Rackard league took place earlier this term. The Roinn C tournament started with an away game to Rosslare, a home game to Kilmore and a final game away to Mayglass. The boys were unfortunately unlucky in our first two games however worked hard until the final whistle. We drew away to Mayglass. We had a couple of training sessions prior to the games, along with the Crossabeg NS pupils and with the help from Mr. Kearns and Niall McCauley. It was an enjoyable couple of weeks and the boys look forward to the hurling Rackard league in the new year also!

A message From the Parish Committee

If your present financial situation requires assistance from our Parish of Crossabeg & Ballymurn, we currently have vouchers to the value of €40 available to anyone who has financial needs at the moment.

Please contact us at the following confidential phone number 087 7902589.

This line is open every Wednesday from 5pm until 7pm. Your situation will be treated in the strictest confidence.