

Dear Parents/Guardians,

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.

Hurling 365

We are delighted to report that Hurling 365 is up and running again each Tuesday and Thursday morning. We would like to extend our thanks to all the parents and past parents who have offered up their time each morning, as without them it would not be possible.

From now on any wet/icy morning Hurling 365 will take place in the parish hall. As always please ensure that you see a coach present before leaving your child.

Sing Out Loud



Pupils from 4th-6th Classes took part in Sing Out Loud two weeks ago in the National Opera House, and all family members and staff who attended were treated to a wonderful show. Well done to the

boys and girls on such beautiful singing. They had a fantastic afternoon, Bob's Bar and Restaurant delivered hot food to all the children before they departed school. A huge thanks to Ms. Lawlor and Ms. Sheehan for facilitating the children's participation in this, and to Leanna for all her help in organising the occasion.

Christmas Celebrations

We look forward to Junior and Senior Infants Christmas Play, which takes place on Tuesday, December 19th at 1pm in the church, our Crescent Class play which takes place in the Crescent classroom on Wednesday 20th December at 2pm and our Christmas Carol Service for 1st-6th class which takes place on Thursday, December 21st at 7pm in the church. All family members are invited to attend and see our pupils perform.

Parents Association

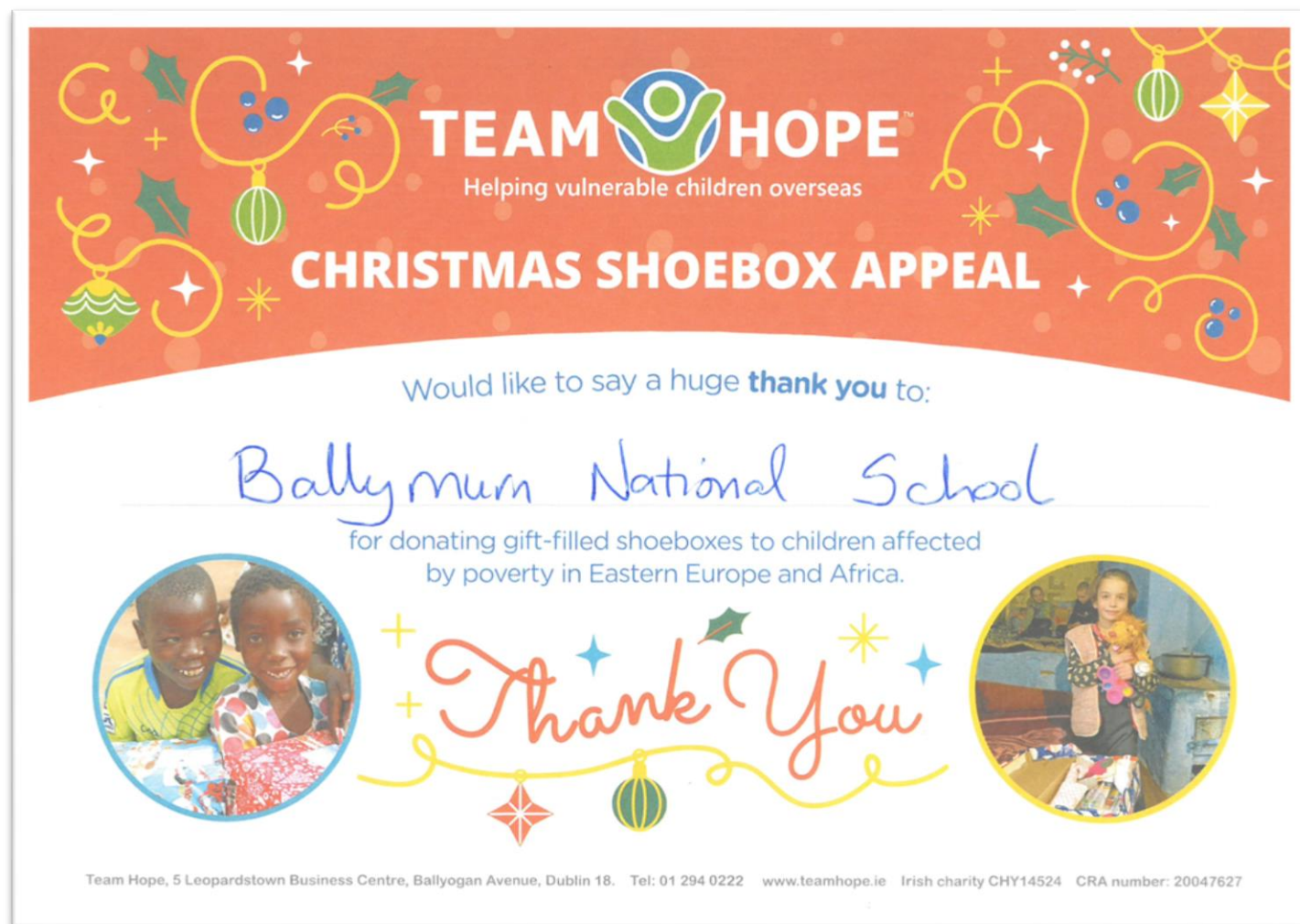
As always our PA have organised some festive treats for the children on Friday 22nd December. During each classes annual Christmas movie the children will all receive a freshly made hot chocolate and chocolate chip cookies. They will also get a wrapped selection box to take home. A big thank you to our PA who put so much time and effort into these events.

Wexford People Helping People Christmas Appeal

Again this Christmas WPHP are putting out a Christmas appeal to County Wexford. We are very proud of one of our parents Bridget Cummins who is heavily involved in the WPHP organisation and she has organised a collection date for us on Friday 8th December. Any of the below items can be dropped into the school between now and the 8th.



Christmas Shoe Box Appeal - A huge thank you to all families who took part in our Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal. We were proud to deliver 24 shoeboxes to the collection depot in Enniscorthy, and hope that they bring joy to children this Christmas.



Hot School Lunches - We are delighted to inform you that we have received notification that our school will receive funding from the Department to rollout the Hot School Meals programme to us from April 2024.

Further details will be issued to parents as soon as we receive it but we are delighted that we will be able to offer all our pupils a hot meal during the school day.

Ballymurn 5k Fun Run/Walk - The 10th annual Ballymurn 5k Fun Run/Walk will take place on Sunday, January 28th 2024!. This amazing and uplifting event is organised each year by Bobby and Mag Redmond, in aid of both our school and Temple Street Children's Hospital. 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. This year we'd love to see a big crowd participating to mark the 10th annual event. There is no entry fee, and anonymous donations towards the school and Temple Street are greatly appreciated.

Our PA along with all parents in the school community, have been asked to organise the refreshments in the hall after the race. The PA will send out further details after Christmas.

When we return to school after the Christmas break the children will commence a 5K running challenge in the school yard each day to help them prepare for the main event!



Hallowe'en Celebrations - Our annual Hallowe'en Hike took place on Friday, October 27th and as always, the pupils pulled out all the stops and we had an amazing display of fancy dress in every classroom. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the sponsorship of our walk. An amazing €1880.60 was raised for our school. There are still a small number of Halloween Hike cards which haven't been returned to the office yet, can you please return these as soon as possible.

Absences & Attendance -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. <https://forms.gle/TqEMPsyC77PyetJ69> . At present there are a number of absences unexplained on our roll book, Leanna has sent an email and if your child has any unexplained absences would we ask you to complete an absence form for each one.

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. During the school year we will send reminders when your child reaches a certain amount of absent days.

Garda Vetting - It is a legal requirement that any parents who wishes 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 - There are no class reports included in this newsletter, as we have only returned to school 3.5 weeks ago from our Halloween break. We issue a newsletter each month, but at times of the year when they fall close together, or have had holidays in between, class reports will issue every second month.

Dates / Upcoming Events

- December 6th - School closed for all pupils for Day 1 of the Primary Mathematics Curriculum
- Junior and Senior Infant Christmas Play: Tuesday December 19th at 1pm in Ballymurn Church
- Crescent Class Play - Wednesday December 20th 2pm in the Crescent Class
- 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, 2024
- 10th Annual 5K Fun Run- Sunday, January 28th 2024
- February 5th - Public holiday, school closed
- February 15th & 16th Midterm break, school closed both days

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.