

Ballymurn 5k Fun Run

The 10th annual Ballymurn 5k fun run was postponed last month and will now take place on Saturday 18th May with the race starting at 6.30pm. If you had already registered for the original date you don't need to do anything further but if you still have to register please do so by clicking on this link <https://www.popupraces.ie/race/ballymurn-5k-fun-run-walk-2024/>



World Book Day

Again this year we will celebrate world book day on Friday 8th March with our "Hat Creations" theme. Children are asked to design a hat themed from one of their favourite book characters. We had some amazing creations last year and we look forward to seeing what creations the children come up with this year! Further details will follow nearer that time.

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. We have now secured the hall for wet/icy mornings so hurling 365 can go ahead in any weather. A huge thank you to the parents who volunteer to make this happen, and to Leanna for coordinating it all. If any other parent could help out, as volunteer numbers are quite low, please contact Leanna for further information.

Grandparents' Day

We had a fantastic turn out to our Grandparents and Special Person Day on February 1st. The children were delighted to welcome the special people from their lives into their school and show them their classrooms, artwork, poems and songs on this special day. Thank you to everyone for making it such a special occasion and thank you to the PA for looking after the refreshments.



Suitable Shoes

We would like to remind parents that children must wear shoes with a velcro strap until such time as they can tie their shoe laces independently.

Standardised Testing

Standardised Testing for pupils from 1st-6th Class will take place during the two weeks beginning Monday May 13th and Monday May 20th. The exact days for each subject will be confirmed nearer the time, depending on other school activities. We ask that you make sure to make every effort for your child to be in school on the days of their tests.

Attendance

Well done to Ms. Kehoe's class who had the best attendance in school for the month of January with attendance of 97.35%. Each month we will celebrate the achievements of the class who has the highest attendance rate at school. There is a huge national drive to increase school attendance, as rates have really declined over the past few years. We have seen the same happen in our school and urge all families to ensure that children are in school every day, except in the case of illness, or an urgent family reason.

Hot School Lunches

We are delighted to announce that from April 8th we will be able to offer all pupils a hot school lunch each day. We have awarded the contract to a local Enniscorthy company Fresh Today. Further details on the initial set up and instructions for ordering your child's lunches will issue in the next couple of weeks. Below is a sample of the menu that will be able for the children to order from.

fresht^oday

HOT MENU

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Chicken Curry & Rice	Chicken Curry & Rice	Chicken Curry & Rice	Chicken Curry & Rice	Bangers & Mash with Gravy
Meatballs & Mash with Gravy	Meatballs & Mash with Gravy	Meatballs & Mash with Gravy	Meatballs & Mash with Gravy	Chicken Curry & Rice
Penne Pasta Bolognese	Penne Pasta Bolognese	Penne Pasta Bolognese	Penne Pasta Bolognese	Chicken Goujons, Beans & Potato Cubes
Roast Beef & Mash with Veg	Roast Beef & Mash with Veg	Roast Beef & Mash with Veg	Roast Beef & Mash with Veg	Chicken & Chorizo Pasta Bake
Roast Chicken & Mash with Veg	Roast Chicken & Mash with Veg	Roast Chicken & Mash with Veg	Roast Chicken & Mash with Veg	Fish Goujons with Mash & Veg
Roast Turkey & Mash with Veg	Roast Turkey & Mash with Veg	Roast Turkey & Mash with Veg	Roast Turkey & Mash with Veg	Hammon Ham & Mash with Veg
Sweet Vegetable Curry & Rice	Sweet Vegetable Curry & Rice	Sweet Vegetable Curry & Rice	Sweet Vegetable Curry & Rice	Roast Chicken & Mash with Veg
Vegan Pasta Bake	Vegan Pasta Bake	Vegan Pasta Bake	Vegan Pasta Bake	Sweet Vegetable Curry & Rice

School Photos

A company called County Photos will visit our school on March 12th 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 take please contact the school office by email.

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](https://forms.gle/zeR2ZT9b9BnrScsr5), under the "Useful Information" tab. <https://forms.gle/zeR2ZT9b9BnrScsr5> 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.

Student Council Pancake Tuesday Fundraiser

Congratulations to our Student Council who held their first successful fundraiser on Pancake Tuesday. They managed to raise €212 and now must decide what they would like to spend their fund on! A big thank you must go to Pamela, Sarah, Bridget and Mag from the PA for all their help on the day and also all the parents who donated the toppings.



Enrolment

Our enrolment process for September 2024 has now concluded but we are still taking enrolments for our mainstream classes.

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. 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.

Class Reports

Crescent Class

The Crescent Class have been busy settling back into school since the Christmas break. They said goodbye to their much loved teacher Ms. Doyle in the middle of February after a fantastic few months with her.

The children have been learning about the farm this month. One of our pupils created a PowerPoint presentation to present to his class including some fun facts, and jokes, about animals on the farm. We all listened to the story 'Achooo' together in circle time.

The children have all been working on their fine motor skills through the 'move to write' programme. Creating patterns in playdough, picking items up using tweezers and practising the actions to rhymes such as 'Pat a Cake' are just some of the activities they have been engaging with.

In maths, some of our pupils have been working on fractions, others on counting activities and others on subtraction. Some of the children love going to their mainstream classes for maths stations.

The children have also been enjoying GAA lessons with Tracey every Thursday. It is great to see everyone outside practising their skills and enjoying time with their friends.

Ms. O'Gorman's Class Junior & Senior Infants

Junior and Senior Infants have had a wonderful time since Christmas. Ms. Niamh O'Gorman was on placement in our class and the children had a great time participating in lots of engaging activities that she had planned for them, based around the theme of 'The Jungle'. Thank you to Ms. O'Gorman for all the fun!

I've really enjoyed being back in class with them myself for the past few weeks and have been getting to know the Junior Infants. We've been working hard on number in Maths and the theme 'Sa Bhaile' in Irish. I'm very impressed with how much Gaeilge they've learned already this year! We've been learning the song 'Oró sé do bheatha 'bhaile' and a fun rhyme called 'I Hear Thunder'.

The hard work at our reading continues every day, and all children are doing really well with their sounds and tricky words.

Our Aistear theme at the moment is 'The Veterinary Surgery', and our role play corner has been very busy tending to various canine and feline ailments! The children are really enjoying their P.E hurling sessions with Tracey every Thursday. We've also been completing the Stay Safe programme, and have been delighted to have the Senior Infants from Ms. Lawlor's class joining us for this.

We are all really looking forward to Seacntain na Gaeilge, and St. Patricks' Day and Easter activities that will take place over the next few weeks

Ms Lawlor's – Senior Infants & 1st Class

In January our Aistear theme focused on people at work. Our role play area was transformed into a restaurant where the children explored the different roles of people who work and eat there. We tied this in with healthy eating and all the other ways to keep our bodies healthy. In February the children really enjoyed learning about planet Earth in space. They learned lots of new facts about the sun and did some lovely space themed art activities. Our role play area became a very busy space station with astronauts and scientists working together!

In Irish the children were learning about an aimsir (the weather) and éadaí (clothes). They are all making a great effort to speak Irish in small groups and pairs. In English we've been learning about narrative writing so the children have listened to lots of stories and fairytales. They can tell me what a good story needs such as a setting, characters, a problem and an ending. After reading Jack and the Beanstalk we decided to grow a magic bean in our classroom and we can happily report that it's growing taller every day. We hope it will reach the clouds someday soon!

The highlights of the last two months were definitely Grandparents Day and Pancake Tuesday. We were delighted to welcome our grandparents to our classroom. The children made a lovely picture of their grandparent which they will take home this week so they can deliver it to their special grandparent soon! In PE the children have been busy learning new skills with our GAA coach, Tracey. They have been learning how to hold the hurl correctly, strike a ball, practise invasion skills and have been playing lots of fun games too.

Ms Sutton's 2nd & 3rd Class

This has been an exciting and fun 2 months in 2nd and 3rd class and it's been a pleasure getting to know all the children. We began in January with our projects on space and the children worked so hard making their planets and creating their own solar systems in the classroom.

We focused on weight in Maths and the children weighed out their own ingredients and made some lovely buns which didn't last very long once they were out of the oven!

Our English novel is Mr Stink by David Walliams and there have been some lovely giggles and laughs at his wonderful use of language and humour. We also have some budding actors in our group and they have enjoyed taking part in the Drámaí Gaeilge each week.

In History the children completed projects on Christopher Columbus and learnt a lot about his voyages to the New World. In Geography they are studying the counties of Ireland and teaching each other some facts they have learnt about each county.

The children have an array of songs that they love singing and we will continue to add to our collection each week.

Grandparents day was a very special day and the children created some beautiful clay tea light holders for their families to bring home.

The 2nd class have been busy preparing their prayers ahead of their First Confession and they are looking forward to it next month.

Thank you kindly to everyone who has made me feel so welcome. Ms Sutton

Ms Kehoe's 4th & 5th Class

4th and 5th class have been busy settling into 2024.

In English we commenced report writing and read various reports on predators, famous buildings and famous people. The children did oral reports in the style of television programmes in groups demonstrating knowledge they gained from the topics. They researched the topics on the iPads in there groups. They had lots of opportunities to work independently and as a team during these activities. Pupils also had the task of recording the oral reports shows on the school iPads.

We also explored the theme of immigration recently. We read a storybook called 'When Jessie came across the sea' by Amy Hart, this depicted the life of a young girl from Eastern Europe who went to New York after receiving a ticket in the 1900s. We then read a report on Annie Moore, the young Irish girl who was first to enter Ellis island in 1892. We explored how it was the busiest immigration inspection station in the USA and how millions passed through from Ireland and many other countries. We put ourselves in the shoes of Jessie from the storybook and Annie Moore and discussed their potential emotions, thoughts and feelings. The children wrote diary entries imagining they were someone from the past setting out on the voyage for America and Ellis island. We learned the song 'Isle of hope, isle of tears', we discussed the lyrics and how Annie Moore's life inspired the song. We have commenced the Novel 'Under the Hawthorn tree', the pupils are enjoying it so far and we are learning a lot about the Great Famine from the story.

The Living Arts project is ongoing still. The children's have been making willow lanterns and shadow puppets with the art teachers. We look forward to the remaining classes.

On Thursdays the children have GAA for PE. The lessons have been great fun and very engaging with Tracey.

Ms. N. O'Gorman has been teaching in 4th and 5th last week and this week. The children have been learning about pastimes in Irish, weight in maths, continuing the novel in English and engaging in lots of group work activities for the novel, in history the class are exploring the 1916 rising and the foundation of the state, in geography Irish rivers and mountains are being explored along with much more.

The term is flying by in. It won't be long until Easter!

Ms Sheehan's 5th & 6th Class

The children in 5th and 6th class welcomed in the New Year well; setting personal goals and developing their awareness of conscience. They thoroughly enjoyed preparing for Grandparents day and they loved sharing stories and memories of their grandparents together. They wrote Limericks dedicated to their grandparents and presented some lovely art portraits.

In Maths we have been working on multiplication, division number theory, length percentages and money. They have been using lots of measuring tools to estimate and measure various shapes and spaces in the school recently. We have been working to promote positive maths talk this year and the kids are showing a great change in mind set and approach to their maths. They are learning to give everything their best effort and recognise that mistakes are great opportunities for learning. In Gaeilge they have been writing and recording weather forecasts as well as talking about their families.

The visiting artists returned for art and the children have really enjoyed making willow lanterns. SESE has been an exploration of the Reformation, The Renaissance, Sound Energy, the guitar, Lakes, Rivers and Seas of Ireland, Fair Trade and Mother Teresa. We are also currently covering topics of Friendship, Social Justice and Bullying in our Stay Safe programme.

School GAA Reports

Boys

The boys mini 7's took place on the 28th Feb in Glynn. The 4th, 5th & 6th class boys participated in the hurling matches. They played against Glynn and Caroreigh schools. The boys were unfortunate on the day and lost against both teams but played very well.

The Rackard League is commencing the week after next and we will commence training this week.

Girls

The girls competed in the first round of the Mini 7s camogie this week in Ballymurn. They played a strong Monageer side in the first match, the girls tried really hard but unfortunately Monageer won that match. We then played Glenbrien in the second match; the girls played some excellent camogie and took some great scores. This ended with a win for the Ballymurn girls. Monageer then won their match against Glenbrien resulting in them going through to the next round. It was fantastic to see some girls playing their first competitive camogie match, we were very proud of how well they played. They are all looking forward to taking part in the upcoming Rackard League matches. The following girls were on the panel: Saoirse Courtney-Kerrigan, Jessica Quirke, Ellie Sheehan, Lucy Cummins, Róisín Farrell, Amelia Kavanagh, Caoimhe Walsh, Tara Murphy and Anna Lawler.

Dates / Upcoming Events:

March

- 7th March First Confession 2nd Class
- 8th March Friday, World Book Day " Hat Creations"
- 11th - 15th March Seachtain na Gaeilge
- 12th March School Photographers visiting
- 18th March St. Patrick's Day Bank Holiday Monday School closed
- Easter Holidays: School closes on Friday, March 22nd at 12.15pm and reopens on Monday, April 8th at 9.20am

April

- 9th April - FAI 5 Aside Tournament
- 15th - 19th April - Autism Awareness Week
- 27th April - First Holy Communion 11am

- 29th April - Confirmation Retreat

Community Notices

Couch to 5K Programme

St Killian's AC are excited to announce they're couch to 5k program starting on Wednesday 28th Feb at 7pm at the Crossabeg Ballymurn Community Centre, Garrywilliam, Crossabeg. All fitness levels welcome just arrive on the night. Ages 18+. For more information please contact Bevin 0872983354.

Community Games Committee Appeal

Closing dates for athletics, table quiz, art, handwriting, stage events such as singing, dancing, recitations, music etc. are being taken. Unfortunately, there is no committee in the area and unless parents are willing to step up and come on board, the area will fold. Contact Anne Cowman on 086 1980775 by the end of the week, as time is of the essence.

NorthStar Counselling & Therapy Centre

At NorthStar Counselling & Therapy Centre we are more aware than ever of the growing epidemic of anxiety. We understand the challenges faced by parents, carers, teachers and those working with children and young people in trying to help them to navigate their way through the maze of anxiety and worry.

Therefore, through the expertise, knowledge and experience of our Clinic Owner and Child & Adolescent Therapist, Nettie Bowie, we present two specialised courses, Understanding & Supporting Anxiety in Children - for parents of children aged 4-12 and Supporting Anxiety & Building Resilience in Teens & Adolescents - for parents of teens, to help them support young people through this complex landscape.

Please visit our website to find out more - <https://www.northstartherapy.ie/upcoming-events-and-workshops>

ONLINE WORKSHOP

UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORTING ANXIETY IN CHILDREN

Are you concerned about your child's anxiety?
Feeling unsure how to help them navigate their worries?
We're Here To Help!

SIGN UP FOR OUR ONLINE WORKSHOP TODAY
DATE & TIME: 11TH MARCH 2024 - 7PM - 9PM

www.northstartherapy.ie 087 3309994

HSE Message

Re: Importance of MMR vaccine and being measles aware

Dear Parent/Legal Guardian,

In recent months there has been a rise in cases of measles in parts of the UK and Europe. On 7th February the HSE reported the death of an adult with confirmed measles. This is the first confirmed measles case notified in Ireland in 2024.

We are asking parents to be measles aware and to make sure your children have received their recommended MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccines.

Be measles aware

Measles can be unpleasant and is a potentially serious and highly infectious disease.

The symptoms of measles include:

- high fever
- cough
- runny nose
- rash, which usually appears on head and neck first and spreads to rest of body

Serious complications of measles include pneumonia and encephalitis (swelling of the brain). One in five infected may need to go to hospital and it can be fatal.

More information about measles symptoms is available

at: <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/measles/> or by searching 'HSE measles'.

If your child has been diagnosed with confirmed measles by your GP or hospital please contact your school. Children in your child's class may need to be vaccinated if they are not fully vaccinated against measles.

MMR vaccine

MMR vaccination is the best way to protect against measles.

Uptake of both doses of the MMR vaccine has been below 90% for some time. This is of great concern because measles can be serious and highly infectious.

Two doses needed

Your child needs two doses of the MMR vaccine to be considered fully vaccinated. The first dose is given by GP practices when children are 12 months of age. The second dose is given by HSE school vaccination teams when children are in junior infants. (In Sligo, Leitrim and Donegal, this vaccine is delivered by GP practices).

Junior infants

If your child is in junior infants, please take the opportunity to get them vaccinated with their 4 in 1 and MMR vaccine. HSE school teams are still visiting schools to offer the vaccine. If your child missed the vaccine when the teams visited your school this year, you can contact the HSE school team to arrange an appointment to get the vaccine.

MMR vaccine for older children and adults

It is not too late to be vaccinated. The MMR vaccine is now available as a catch-up vaccine through GP practices for anyone who may have missed their first or second dose.

More information

More information about the MMR vaccine is available from www.immunisation.ie

Kind regards,

Cycle Against Suicide Webinar

We wish to advise that our next webinar session with Dr. Blanaid Gavin will take place this coming Thursday, February 29th from 7pm to 8pm.

The topic under discussion will be 'Anxiety in Teenagers'. Dr. Gavin will speak to the gender difference and teachers/parents are invited to post their question.

Participation is free and open to all. To receive your zoom invite please register your attendance at: <https://www.cycleagainstsucide.com/parent-talks/>