

## New Junior Infants

We are delighted to welcome our new Junior Infants, Willow, Ella, Sophie, Freya, Robyn, Molly, Erin, Sadhbh, Aoife, Michael, Jacob, Tadhg, Páidí G, Paidí M, Seán, Conor, Jamie, Noah and Ódhran.



## Name Labels on Jumpers

Please ensure that your child's name is written on the label of their school jumpers. We have had a number of missing jumpers already this year and none of them have a name on the label.

## Parents Association Annual General Meeting

The A. G.M. of our school Parents Association will take place on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024 at 7.30pm. We extend a huge thank you to last years officers and committee, who provided such invaluable support to the school all year. Without the P.A., many school events simply would not happen. Many members have been involved in the P.A for a long time now, and wish to allow other parents to take their place in this important school organisation. We would love to see a large crowd at the A.G.M, so that a committee can be formed, and make plans for the future of the school. We have been fundraising for a while now for a playground, and have made significant progress. We'd love to see more parents become involved to put in a big fundraising effort this year to make this dream a reality for our school community.

### Smartphones

Parents may have recently noticed in the media that the Minister for Education has announced a ban on smartphones in primary schools. This does not change the rules in our school, because children are already not allowed any mobile phones or devices in school, unless they use assistive technology devices in class. We greatly encourage parents to ensure that children at primary school level do not have access to smartphone devices, due to the well-known negative impacts that social media can have on children's welfare and wellbeing. If you allow your child to have independent access to the internet, we greatly encourage you to monitor their devices daily, and ensure that they are kept safe from the dangers of social media.

### Anti Bullying Policy Annual Review

The annual review of our Anti-Bullying Policy took place at a BOM meeting on September 17th. The reviewed policy is available on our school website [www.ballymurnns.ie](http://www.ballymurnns.ie) and is also attached to the email in which you received this newsletter.

### Administration of Medication Policy

This policy was reviewed at our recent BOM meeting and can be found on our school website. Please ensure to read this and make contact with the school if your child requires access to any medication during the school day.

### SNA Appreciation Day

Today we celebrated the first ever SNA Appreciation day! We would like to take this opportunity to thank our SNA's Monica, Ciara, Getta, Rachel, Grainne & Damien for all their hard work and support.



### **Message from Fr. Finn**

Fr. Finn invites all members of the school community and the parish to First Friday Mass each month in Ballymurn Church. This mass takes place each month at 10am on the first Friday of each calendar month. Any parents and parishioners that attend are invited to the hall for a cup of tea afterwards.

### **E-scooters**

E-scooters are not allowed on the school grounds for health and safety reasons. Children may come to school on regular bikes and scooters. They are asked to dismount these at the gates and walk them up the ramp and through the grounds to the bike rack at the rear of the school.

### **Building Works**

The reconfiguration of our autism classrooms is currently underway. KSN Project Management are overseeing the works, which are being completed by contractors Martin Reddin Ltd. Phase 1 involves the fit out of Classroom 2, and is taking place at present. When this is complete, the Crescent Class will move into their new room, and Phase 2 will involve the reconfiguration of their current classroom and sensory room. We will also have a new soft play area built in the Junior Yard.

### **Halloween Hike**

Our Halloween Hike is one of the most exciting days and one of our main school fundraisers each year. All members of the school community dress up and we walk from school to Ballymurn Montessori. This year, the Hike takes place on Friday morning, October 25th. Like last year the proceeds will go towards the development of a school playground. Children will bring home sponsorship cards in October.

### **Hurling 365**

We are actively looking for more volunteers to run our Hurling 365 programme, if you would be able to help out please contact the office for further information.

### **Lunches**

All families have the option of availing of a free hot lunch for their child, and it is wonderful to see the children enjoying these hot meals each day. Lots of the new options on this year's menu look very tasty. Please chat to your child about their choices, and if they wish to change them, do so by Thursday evening to change their menu for the following week. Please remember to send your child's lunch box to school each day to take home their leftovers and carton. All children require a drink and a snack for first break each day. We operate a healthy eating policy in the school, so snacks must be healthy, and a small treat is allowed on Fridays.

### **Uniform**

Children should wear the school uniform of navy crew neck jumper, navy tracksuit bottoms and a blue polo shirt each day. Navy or black shorts are allowed in warmer weather. Children should wear runners each day. Long hair should be tied back neatly and the only jewellery permitted are a watch and stud earrings. Make up should not be worn in school.

### **Flu Vaccine**

We take part in the HSE roll out of the annual flu vaccine campaign and on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October Local Pharmacy will visit our school and offer the nasal Flu vaccine to pupils. We have emailed out online permission links to parents/guardians. Online registration must be completed before the deadline of 9am on the 7<sup>th</sup> October if you want your child to receive the vaccine in school.



### **New Autism Class**

Ballymurn N.S. will be opening a second autism class in September 2025. Enrolment for this class will take place towards the end of this term alongside enrolment for our mainstream classes. If you might be applying for a place in our autism class for your child, please touch base with us to ensure that you have all the necessary information about what reports are required to gain admission to an autism class, so that you have time to ensure that you have what is needed before enrolment opens. Please share this message with anybody you think it may be of interest to, and advise them that our office can be contacted at 053-9138435 or ballymurnprincipal@gmail.com.

### **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.

### **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.

### **5K Fun Run**

Our annual 5K Fun Run will take place on Sunday January 26<sup>th</sup> 2025.

### **Annual Shoebox Appeal**

Again this year our school will take part in the annual Team Hope Shoebox Appeal. Leaflets are available from the school office or you can take part online by using the below link. All Shoeboxes must be return to the school on or before Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November. For more information on the Team Hope Shoebox Appeal please click on this link [www.teamhope.ie](http://www.teamhope.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.

**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 two nights per week and in written form on the other nights, 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.

**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 took place at our

last Board of Management meeting earlier this month, in order to adopt the new procedures for 2024. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) in Ballymurn NS is Ms. Emer O'Gorman and the Deputy DLP is Ms. Chloe Ormonde. 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](http://ballymurnns.ie), under the "Useful Information Tab"

<https://forms.gle/8EzXYXDEk5SnVAH9A>

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](mailto:office@ballymurnns.ie))

#### **Dates for your Diary**

- October 2<sup>nd</sup> - Ms Sutton's class trip to Johnstown Castle
- October 12<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> Maths week
- October 16<sup>th</sup> School closed for new Maths Curriculum Teacher Training Day
- October 21<sup>st</sup> - Local Pharmacy Flu Vaccines
- October 25<sup>th</sup> - Halloween Hike 10am
- Midterm Break School closed Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November