

## Charlie Gordon

Tomorrow, as we break for Christmas, will be a poignant day in our school, as we bid a very fond farewell to our caretaker Charlie Gordon, who retires after a decade of service to our school. Yesterday, he visited for lunch and to say farewell to the classes and was presented with a beautiful memory book from the pupils and staff, which he says he will treasure forever. Tonight at our carol service, we will make a presentation to Charlie on behalf of the Board of Management for his wonderful service to Ballymurn N.S. We will miss Charlie so much next year and wish him a very happy retirement.

## Christmas Carol Service

2nd-6th Class Carol Service will take place in the church on Thursday 19th December at 7pm.

## Christmas Holidays

School will close for the Christmas break on this Friday, December 20th at 12.15pm and will reopen on Monday, January 6th at 9.20am.

Nollaig shona agus athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh go léir.

## Christmas Mass times in Ballymurn Church

Christmas Eve at 7pm      Christmas Day at 10am



### **Christmas Performances**

After weeks of rehearsing, Junior Infants, Senior Infants and 1<sup>st</sup> Class were delighted to perform their Christmas plays for their families. Ms O'Gorman's class performed Whoops a Daisey Angel and Ms Lawlor's Class performed Ralph the Reindeer. There was great excitement on the day of the shows and both classes did an amazing job. On a wet afternoon it really made everyone feel the warmth of Christmas with lots of cheery songs and colourful costumes. Well done everyone!

### **Bí Cineálta Half Day Closure**

As you are aware from our recent parental survey and focus group, schools are required to hold a half day closure this year for staff to prepare for the implementation of these new procedures in September. The school closure will take place on Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, when all pupils will finish at 12.15pm.

### **Staffing**

We extend our very best wishes to Ms. Sarah Boggan this week who leaves us to commence her maternity leave. We look forward to welcoming Ms. Clare Barrett in January who will fill the SET role. We also look forward to welcoming our new caretaker Mr. Timmy Cosgrave on board in the New Year, and hope that they will both be very happy on our staff.

### **Building Works**

The building work is almost complete with the Crescent Class all settled into their new classroom. The second classroom and sensory room along with the new outdoor soft play area is on schedule for completion before we finish up for the Christmas break.

### **Junior Infants & New Autism Class Enrolments**

Enrolments for September 2025 have now commenced and our enrolment notice along with application forms can be found on our website, [www.ballymurnns.ie/admissions](http://www.ballymurnns.ie/admissions) 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 [office@ballymurnns.ie](mailto:office@ballymurnns.ie).

### **5K Fun Run**

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

**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 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.

### **Dates for your Diary**

- December 19<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Carol Service - 7pm Ballymurn Church
- December 20<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Holiday's School will close at 12.15pm for all pupils
- January 6<sup>th</sup> - School reopens at 9.20am for all pupils
- January 22<sup>nd</sup> - Grandparents Day, Mass at 10am
- January 26<sup>th</sup> - 5K Fun Run - 12 noon
- January 29<sup>th</sup> - School will finish for pupils at 12.15pm

## Classroom Reports

### Ms Ormonde's Crescent Class

The Crescent Class have had a lovely term settling into their new classroom. The children seamlessly transitioned from their old classroom to their new one. The children absolutely love the new facilities in their classroom and are especially excited for the opening of our new sensory room and soft play area after Christmas.

In the Crescent Class over the past two months we have learned about healthy foods, how to take care of our bodies with good foods and of course, all about Christmas. A highlight for us was working with the sixth class volunteers to put together and perform an AMAZING Christmas show for our families. The children worked so hard on this show and were outstanding.

Yesterday, we went on our annual Christmas trip to see Santa. The children were very excited and absolutely loved going on the bus. We enjoyed a morning strolling in town and having hot chocolate before arriving at the Talbot Hotel for a sensory Santa experience. The children thoroughly enjoyed their day.

Everyone in the Crescent Class would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and we look forward to seeing you all again in January

### Ms O'Gorman's Junior and Senior Infants

Junior and Senior Infants have been super busy since Halloween. They have explored the themes of 'The Restaurant', 'The Supermarket' and 'Santa's Workshop', and have enjoyed imaginative roleplay, small world activities, construction and art in these areas. They have also learned about the builder, and had a Q&A session with Jim, the building foreman who is managing the project at our school at present.

The children worked on number, shape and space, transformations and length in maths over the past few weeks, and d'fhoghlaim said faoi bhia agus an Nollaig sa Ghaeilge.

In literacy, the children continued their great work at phonological awareness, and learning the various new sounds at their respective class levels. Juniors have started reading some words and we are very impressed by their progress. Senior Infants are also making wonderful progress with their reading. We have read the 'Hungry Caterpillar' and some beautiful Christmas stories. The children have been doing lots of free writing, dictation and letter formation practice.

They did some beautiful artwork, making owls, caterpillars and various Christmas pieces. They enjoyed P.E with our external coach Dylan, doing athletics and games activities.

The highlight of the past few weeks has been preparing for our Christmas play, 'Whoops-A-Daisy Angel', which we performed in the church this week. The children worked so hard practising their singing and acting and we were so proud of their amazing performance on the day.

### Ms Lawlor's 1<sup>st</sup> Class

During November the children enjoyed Science Week. We focused on the theme of energy and forces, learning about the different types of electricity, where it's made and how it travels. The children explored static electricity using balloons and other materials. They also decided they'd like to learn more about the famous scientist Thomas Edison and how he invented the light bulb.

The children also had great fun during their Wellbeing afternoon when they got involved with many fun activities such as Karaoke, meditation, Lego, Art and lots more. We were delighted that our class

won best attendance for October so during November they chose to have a pyjama day to celebrate that great achievement!

December has been a busy and exciting few weeks. Our elf named Ziggy arrived from the North Pole and the children have been working hard rehearsing for our Christmas play, Ralph the Reindeer. The role-play area has been transformed into the Arctic and the children have been learning about the animals that live there.

The children have been learning about writing a procedure in English lessons and wrote about the steps needed when building a snowman. In Maths the children explored pattern and made their own repeated and growing patterns. They've also been learning about data, how to gather information and how to show that information on a graph.

As 2024 draws to a close, I'd like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year!

### **Ms Sutton's 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Report by John Whelan**

We have had a very busy time in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> class. We built gingerbread houses which were very fun and we put chocolate bars and a little message about helping around the house, or doing something nice for people around the school. Then we stuck them on the string that is attached to the wall and each day someone gets the gingerbread house. They get to take it home for that day, then someone else gets picked for another day and that keeps repeating every day for 20 days until our Christmas break which lasts for two weeks (yippee)

### **Book Review- My Dad got an Alligator**

My dad has got an alligator is a book about a dad, a son, a mam, a granny and the main character 'Crunchbag'- the alligator. This book is by far one of the best books we ever read before. It is about a dad who bought an alligator and when the dad brought him back the mam almost had a heart attack. But the child liked the alligator and he named him 'Crunchbag' and granny (the snooker champion) who was half deaf probably did not even know who Crunchbag was. At the end of the book the dad and the neighbor [The Marshian] were on a drive when the neighbour looked in the mirror he saw the alligator and the neighbor was not a fan of Crunchbag, when he saw him and they crashed but no one was hurt. If you read a bit more on the last page the alligator leaves them and then they get a meat eating bird. It was funny and you should read it.

### **Assembly**

We did Assembly this month and learnt a song about children around the world and we used Lámh in the song too. We all had a part to read out and it made us think about how grateful we are.

### **Recycling competition**

The recycling competition is a competition where people used scrap like cardboard to try to build something Christmassy themed out of whatever they want. They used materials they wanted to recycle and build with. If you have a brilliant design you could get a spot to represent your class in the finals and if you win the final you win a prize but no one really knows what the prize is!

### **Well Being Day**

Well Being Day was a 2 hour activity which the activities were- quiz, art, lego, basketball, dodge ball, meditation and just dance but we did not get to do dodge ball and basketball because it was pouring rain all day but we all had so much fun it was so enjoyable.

### **Ms Sheehan's 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Class**

**Rugby:** On the first week we did some Tag Rugby and some games. After a few weeks we were invited to take part in a Blitz. It was really fun. We would love to have the rugby coach back again. (Amber O Toole)

**Trip to Grease Musical :** We went to Oilgate Community Centre to Grease the Musical put on by the pupils of Meanscoil Enniscorthy. It was a great show. (Ellie-Mae Redmond)

**"Nora":** We had a visit from a woman called Nora who came to tell us about her life, in Dublin over a hundred years ago. She told us about all her children and all her neighbours and the little house they lived in. Her husband called Danny fought in the British army. It was very interesting. She had a great accent and we all believed she was from 1920, she was a great actress!! (Amelia Doyle)

### **Ms Morrissey's 6<sup>th</sup> Class**

#### **Christmas Carol Service - By Lucy Cummins**

Over the past couple of weeks we've been busy doing our choir practice for this Thursday. We are very excited to perform for our families and friends.

#### **Class Reward - Gary Dooley**

Last Friday 6<sup>th</sup> class worked our way to 630 points and got a class reward, a PJ day. We watched "Wonder" the movie and had some sweets and played some games.

#### **Wonder- By Tyler O'Toole**

Last week 6<sup>th</sup> class finished the novel "Wonder". It's about a 10 year old boy named August who is deformed and his is going to public school for the first time and he has to face challenges like bullying. All in all, it was a good book and we also watched the movie when we finished the book. Some enjoyed and some not so much, by we can all agree that it was a good read.

#### **Crescent Class Play - Johnnie Canavan**

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> of December The Crescent Class, Logan, Cristian, James, Evie, Robbie and Kyle performed a Christmas play. The 3 narrators Robbie, Logan and Cristian read the lines beautifully and Santa wither her reindeer had super acting and the parents enjoyed the play. The Crescent Class spent a lot of time practicing and it paid off.

#### **The Famine - Róisín Farrell**

Two weeks ago 6<sup>th</sup> Class learned about the Famine, we did a short project on it. Some of the topics we learned about were Cholera, Emigration, Indian corm and much more. We all enjoyed working in groups and learning about the Famine.

