

Sing Out Loud! By Ellie Mae Redmond

On the 13th of November all of 3rd & 4th Class went to Sing Out Loud. It was in the Opera House.

We all went in at 4.30pm. We did our practice and had a snack. Then it was show time!

We did lots of singing and dancing and we all really enjoyed the acts.

It was a very fun experience! We loved every moment and we will remember this forever!!



Heritage In Schools Programme By Grace Connelly

2 weeks ago an amazing lady came in to our school and told my classmates and I all about History. She was wearing an old costume and she was super duper amazing. I wish I was back in those days and saw what it was like. Her name was 'Nora' and she came from the Heritage in schools programme. She told old stories and sang songs from a long long time ago and one of them went like.....Tu ra lu, tu ra lu ra la, tu ra lu ra lu ra.

I thought she was excellent because she said she was over 100 years old and what was very cool was that she was alive during the famine and even talked about it. I thought we were one of the luckiest classes in the world.

Christmas Shows

The Crescent Class Christmas play 'A Magical Christmas Journey' will take place in school on Thursday 12th December at 2pm. Junior and Senior Infants and 1st class Christmas plays 'Whoops-A-Daisy Angel' and 'Ralph the Reindeer' will take place in the church at 1pm on Tuesday December 17th.

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

Rugby Blitz By Amelia Kavanagh

On Tuesday 26th 4th, 5th & 6th Class attended a rugby blitz at the Wexford Wanderers Rugby Club. Caoimhe our rugby coach, who has been coming in to teach us the rules of tag rugby, organised it. We were split into teams of four, and we played against teams from other schools.

We all got a tasty packed lunch from Freshtoday to bring with us.

We had a great day out and would like to thank Caoimhe for organising it and the teachers for bringing us.



Halloween Hike

Our Halloween Hike took place on Friday 25th October. The children really enjoyed it and there was some fantastic costumes on show!! We are delighted to announce that the total raised so far is €2,318.80! We still have some sponsorship card to be returns. All these funds will go towards funding our new playground.

Science Week

Science week was an exciting week in Ballymurn N.S. as every class participated in fun and engaging science experiments and activities throughout the week.

The Crescent Class made their own rainbows using markers, kitchen towel and water and were amazed to see the results. They also stuck pencils through a plastic bag full to the brim with water and didn't even spill a drop, this was a definite favourite. Ms. O'Gormans's Infants watched raisins as they danced in 7up among other experiments. Ms. Lawlor's class made impressive lava lamps. Ms. Sutton's class learned about the centre of gravity and how we balance and fall. Ms. Sheehan's class enjoyed creating structures with Pringles. Ms. Morrissey's class discovered where bacteria lives. The children from 2nd to 6th class have also been engaging in LEGO education as part of STEM education and they have been creating amazing moving structures using LEGO and coding afterwards. Well done everyone.

Bí Cineálta

Thank you to all parents who engaged with our survey and focus group to help inform our preparations for our Bí Cineálta policy for dealing with and preventing bullying behaviour. In the New Year, we will work further on this with our students and staff to have the policy ready for implementation in September 2025.

As part of this process, parents were sent a link to complete a survey and below are the findings from this survey.

- 90.9% of parents/guardians have seen the current anti-bullying policy
- 95.5% know how to access the anti-bullying policy
- 100% know who to contact to report a case of bullying
- 100% have said that their children feel safe and know who to contact when they have a concern about bullying behaviour
- 100% feel that the school are committed to the prevention of bullying

The schools current anti-bullying policy can be accessed on the school website by clicking the 'policies and forms' section.

Surveys completed by students and staff will also be taken into consideration for the formation of the new Bí Cineálta policy over the coming months. Thanks you for your co-operation with this.

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.

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.

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.

Hurling 365

It was great to see Hurling 365 back up and running with pupils out leaning the skills of hurling before school. Any pupils from Senior Infants to 6th Class can take part. Contact the office for further information.

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.

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 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.

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.

5K Fun Run

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

Annual Shoebox Appeal

A big thank you and well done to everyone who donated shoeboxes to the Shoebox Appeal. We donated 26 boxes in total.

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 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.

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, 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)

Dates for your Diary

- December 12th - Crescent class Christmas Play at 2pm in the School & 4th & 5th class travel to Oylegate Community Centre to see "Grease" produced by the pupils of Meanscoil Gharman
- December 17th - Infant & 1st Class Nativity - 1pm Ballymurn Church
- December 19th - Christmas Carol Service - 7pm Ballymurn Church
- December 20th - Christmas Holiday's School will close at 12.15pm for all pupils
- January 6th - School reopens at 9.20am for all pupils
- January 26th - 5K Fun Run - 12 noon

Parent Explainer- Child Protection

In Ireland schools follow strict Child Protection Procedures outlined by the Department of Education and TUSLA, the child and family agency, to ensure every child's safety. Here's an overview of the key details parents should understand:

1. What is child protection?

Child protection aims ensure that children are safe from harm, abuse or neglect. This includes safeguarding their physical, emotional and psychological wellbeing.

2. Who is responsible in schools?

Each school in Ireland has a Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and a Deputy DLP to handle child protection concerns. In our school:

- **Emer O'Gorman** is the **Designated Liaison Person (DLP)**
- **Chloe Ormonde** is the **Deputy DLP** acting as a back-up if Emer is on leave.

3. What happens if there is a concern?

If a staff member is concerned about a child's welfare, or a child makes a disclosure to a staff member, they report it to the DLP. The DLP reviews the concerns with the staff member to decide if it meets the threshold to refer the matter to Tusla. The DLP can consult the duty social worker to get advice on the situation. If the duty social worker advises to report, the matter will be reported to Tusla. All teachers are mandated persons, and if it meets the threshold, they are legally required to report, regardless of their personal thoughts. This reporting is always done in an unbiased way, without making

judgement on the situation, the likelihood of it being true or not, or any assumptions about the situation.

In most situations, parents will be informed that the report has been made by the school. In some situations, depending on the concern and the guidance provided by Tusla, a social worker will be the person to inform the parents.

If a report is made, Tusla will follow up with school and the parents. They may speak directly to the child first, or to the parents. In most situations, Tusla processes the report in a supportive manner and it is closed after some discussion/explanation.

In serious cases, Tusla or the Gardaí may become directly involved to ensure the child's safety.

4. How are staff trained?

All school staff receive mandatory child protection training under the Children First Act 2015. This training ensures that teachers and staff can recognise signs of abuse or neglect and respond appropriately. The school ensures that staff are regularly updated on the latest procedures.

5. What should parents know about reporting?

Teachers are mandated persons under Irish law. This means they are legally required/obliged to report concerns directly to Tusla. They do not have a choice. While schools encourage parents to discuss concerns with them, Tusla may act independently if necessary to protect a child's welfare.

6. How can parents support child protection efforts?

Parents are encouraged to maintain open communication with their children children and the school. If you notice changes in your child's behaviour or have concerns about their wellbeing, discussing these with the DLP or Deputy DLP ensures the school can take appropriate action. We are here to listen and the school will always have the child's welfare at heart when reporting or discussing any concerns.

7. What should parents do if they have Child Protection concerns about another child in the school?

Please discuss any concerns about children with the DLP.

SENIORS CHRISTMAS DINNER

COURTESY OF

freshtoday

THURSDAY 12TH DECEMBER 2024

5:00PM - 7:45PM

Stadium Tour - Dinner - Christmas Carols - Mulled Wine, Tea & Mince Pies

CHADWICKS WEXFORD PARK



freshtoday

THE BEST GIFT WE CAN RECEIVE THIS CHRISTMAS IS YOUR PRESENCE!

RSVP on or before 5th December 2024 by contacting Shauna on 085 758 9683

SCHEDULE

STADIUM TOURS: 5:00- 5:45PM
 CHRISTMAS DINNER: 5:45-6:45PM
 CHRISTMAS CAROLS: 6:45-7:45PM

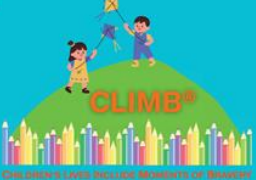




CLIMB® – Children's Lives Include Moments of Bravery

A support programme dedicated to helping children cope with a parent's cancer diagnosis

Who is CLIMB for?
 Children aged 5-12 years who are experiencing the impact of a parent's cancer diagnosis.

What is involved?
 The CLIMB programme is carried out over six sessions by trained healthcare professionals. The programme aims to strengthen children's ability to cope with the feelings associated with their parent's illness and it uses therapeutic art and play exercises to enable children to express their feelings.


The CLIMB (Children's Lives Include Moments of Bravery) programme was founded by The Children's Treehouse Foundation in 2001 in Colorado.

Benefits for Children

The CLIMB programme is designed for all children as a skill-building opportunity and helps children express the normal feelings of sadness, anxiety, and anger in a healthy way. It also aims to increase children's knowledge about cancer and helps with communication between the parents and children.

CLIMB offers children the chance to meet and share feelings with other children in similar situations, and learn that

"I'm not the only kid in school with a parent who has cancer".



"I'm able to share and I learned about cancer"
 Child CLIMB participant

"[The most useful part of CLIMB for my child was...]
"learning strategies regarding handling difficult emotions"
 Parent of CLIMB participant

Benefits for Parents

The CLIMB programme aims to provide parents with the peace of mind that the emotional needs of their children are being addressed during this challenging time in their lives.

The CLIMB programme provides parents with:

- Reassurance that their children are getting the support and help they need to cope with those feelings.
- Emotional support of other parents who are dealing with similar issues.

"[The part of CLIMB my child enjoyed most...]
"Seeing other children who understood what they were going through, taking the fear out of getting cancer themselves"
 Parent of CLIMB participant

Programme Information

For more information contact:
 The National Cancer Control Programme, King's Inn House, 200 Parnell St., Dublin 1, D01 A3Y8
 E: info@cancercontrol.ie

The Hope C

ancer Support Centre in Enniscorthy plans to run a CLIMB programme from 22nd January 2025. CLIMB which stands for (Children's Lives Include Moments of Bravery) is a support programme dedicated to helping children aged 5-12 years cope with a parent's cancer diagnosis (please see attached information).

The CLIMB programme is carried out over six sessions by trained healthcare professionals in The Hope Cancer Support Centre at 22 Weafer Street, Enniscorthy and is free of charge. The programme will commence on Wednesday 22nd January 2025 and will run for six weeks from 5.30 pm to 6.45pm each Wednesday evening.

If any parents/guardians would like to find out more information about the programme, please phone our Centre on 053 9238555 or email us at info@hopesupportcentre.ie