

## Attendance

The school has shared the calendar for 2026 - 2027. This is in an attempt to give parents lots of notice when organising holidays, trips, appointments etc. so that good attendance children's attendance can be maintained throughout the year.

## Change to Calendar

Standardised tests will now take place on 14th and 21st May due to a clash with an upcoming athletics competition on 19th May.



## Seachtain na Gaeilge



During Seachtain na Gaeilge, we had a number of activities, including a Tráth na gCeist, paráid, agus Lá Glas. Well done to all the pupils on their performances at assembly. Míle buíochas also. to the TY students from Meanscoil Gharman who visited junior and senior infants (pictured below). They taught the children some amhráin, cluichí agus damhsa. The páistí thoroughly enjoyed the activities. Photos can be seen on the school ClassDojo app. Míle buíochas to Danielle Dempsey for coordinating the visit. Please encourage your child to speak our native language as often as possible, even through *Tír gan teanga, tír gan anam.*



## Important Dates

Half day Friday 27th March @ 12 o'clock  
Easter holidays 30th March - 11th April Inclusive

- Bank holiday 4<sup>th</sup> May
- First Holy Communion Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May
- No school : staff in-service Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May
- Standardised Tests 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> May
- June Mid Term Monday 1<sup>st</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> June
- Summer Holidays Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June half day.

## School website

Our school website is up and running! Please log on to <https://www.ballaghkeenens.ie> to keep up to date with school events. Newsletters are available there also.



## Hurling 365

Hurling 365 will return for boys and girls on Wednesday 15th April from 8:10 a.m. to 8:50 a.m. This is a great opportunity for younger pupils to come along and learn the basic skills of camogie and hurling. This is also very beneficial for their gross motor development and hand-eye coordination. All new pupils are welcome to join. If you are interested in getting involved as a coach or a helper, please contact our coordinator Keira Kinahan Murphy on 087 3819879.



## Ballaghkeene N.S.



Easter Newsletter 2026

### **Rackard League**

The Rackard League camogie girls played two very competitive games in recent weeks. The girls won one game and lost the other placing them 2nd in their group. Unfortunately this is not enough to progress to the next round. The girls all put in tremendous hard work and effort and did themselves and the school proud. The girls also have Mini 7s camogie to come after the Easter Break. The boys Rackard league hurling team started out with a great win vs St. Joseph's Gorey on Wednesday 11th March. They received a walkover from Craanford and will play Castletown on **Monday 13th April @ 1 p.m.** in Coolgreany.

### **Active school**

The Active Schools committee are working hard to promote the importance of being Active in school and at home everyday. When we're active our minds focus better. We are currently making preparations and plans for our upcoming Active School week which will take place in June.

### **Wellbeing Committee**

The wellbeing committee continues to work hard promoting positive wellbeing in our school. Preparations for our wellbeing week in June are in full swing. Wellbeing Wednesday continues on the last Wednesday of every month.

### **Gymnastics**

Gymnastics with 'Gymstars' in the boxing club ran for 5 weeks and was a great success. Thank you the boxing club for the use of their facilities.

### **First Confession**

Well done to the boys and girls of second class who recently received the Sacrament of First Confession. Many thanks to Ms L. Sinnott for preparing them and to Fr. Doyle for officiating the ceremony.

### **Homework club**

Homework club continues on Tuesdays and Thursdays for pupils in 3rd-6th classes until Thursday 28th May. For the month of June, classes will have oral homework only.

### **Autism Friendly Schools**

This is a new initiative for Ballaghkeene N.S. and is facilitated by AsIAm. The goal is to support schools in reflecting on their current practices and identifying areas for development to create a more inclusive whole-school environment. As part of this, we have introduced 'No Ball Yardtimes' on Tuesdays and Thursdays for the month of March. This allows all pupils to explore and play with other children and toys, formulating new friendships and sharing interests.

### **\*\*Safe Routes to School\*\***

The Board of Management would like to thank all parents and guardians for their continued patience and understanding while the Safe Routes to School works are ongoing at the front of the school. We hope that these works will be completed over the Easter break. When we return, the front of our school will look great, while also being a lot safer for parents and pupils alike.

### **Equine Therapy**

Children from Seomra Síolóige and Junior Infants - 2nd class have been and will be attending equine therapy sessions in school. So far, it has been a great success. Many thanks to Ms. Wright for organising. Please use the epayment facility on Aladdin to pay if you have not already done so.

### **Easter Camp**

Easter Camp will take place from Monday, 30th March, to Thursday, 2nd April. A few places remain. Please email [aine.wright@ballaghkeenens.ie](mailto:aine.wright@ballaghkeenens.ie) for more information.

### **Schools' Equestrian**

Ciara, Molly and Sadie finished off the year coming 6th out of 14 teams in the schools show jumping league. They also had many individual placings throughout the year. I think it is fair to say that their hard work and dedication has really paid off. Everyone in school is very proud of their achievements and I'm sure they will continue to stand out in the equestrian field in the future. Well done girls.

### **School Sensory Garden**

Over the coming weeks and months, the school will look to develop a School Sensory Garden. This is being led by our Green Schools' committee. Some progress has already been made and we thank everyone who has contributed in any way towards it's development. A work day is scheduled in for 12:30 on Friday 27th March. All volunteers are welcome to come along and help in any way they can. Go raibh mile maith agaibh!