



## Family Fun Race Night

A sincere thanks to everyone who turned out and supported our Family Fun Race Night last Thursday 17th October. It was a huge success and a very enjoyable evening. Thanks to everyone who sold tickets, sponsored raffle prizes, sponsored races or placed advertisements in the race booklet. Finally, a special word of thanks to members of the organising committee; Éamonn Carroll, Sarah Jane Murphy, Sheila Fortune, Colette O'Connor and Mr. Nolan. We will have final details of the amount raised after the mid-term break. This will be a huge help as we look to further develop our school.



**Safe Routes to School** Our school has been selected for stage 3 of the Safe Routes to School programme. This is great news for the school. A survey has been sent out to all families over Aladdin. Please complete the survey as soon as possible as parental input is crucial in the overall application process.



## Dates for your diary!

**School closed for midterm:** 25th October (normal finishing times) School reopens for all pupils 4th November

**School closed for NCSE in-service:** 7th November

**Christmas Carol Service:** 19th December @7 p.m. in St. John the Baptist church

**Christmas holidays:** 20th December- 3rd January 2025

**Feb Mid-term:** Thursday 20th & 21st February

**March Bank Holiday:** 17th March

**Easter Holidays:** Monday 14th April –Friday 25th April

**First Holy Communion:** Saturday 3rd May

**May Bank Holiday:** Monday 5th May

**Confirmation:** Saturday 10th May

**June Mid-term:** Monday 2nd –Friday 6th June  
Re-opens Monday 9th June

**Summer holiday:** School closes on Friday 27th June @ 12pm

### **Mobile library:**

The mobile library continues to visit the school every second Friday. Children (2nd-6th class) are asked to bring in their book and library card, if they have one, on these days.

### **Trick or Treat**

Children are asked to dress up and bring in a donation, if they wish, for Temple Street Children's Hospital on Friday 25th October.



**BALLAGHKEENE N.S.**

**[www.ballaghkeenens.ie](http://www.ballaghkeenens.ie)**

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**053-9136500**



*October 2024  
Newsletter*



### New Pupils

A warm welcome to our new pupils in Junior Infants, Seomra Siólóige and those who have joined other classes. We wish you many years of happiness in Ballaghkeene N.S.

### Green Schools

Thank you to all of our pupils who have joined or remained on the green school committee. We continue to work towards our sixth green flag. The pupils have been making announcements, designing posters and will be collecting batteries. Please send your used batteries into school for recycling. Our bike shelter has also been installed and we encourage children who cycle or scoot to school to make use of this facility.



### Wellbeing committee

The Wellbeing Committee is back up and running for the coming school year. We look forward to organising events such as Wellbeing Wednesdays, Kindness Week, Wellbeing Week and lots of other fun activities. Our committee members for this year are; Conor Carroll, Ryan Deegan, Cillian Redmond, Annabelle Ormonde, Mirren Dillon, Ali Harris, Evan Walsh, Lily Mae Fortune, Sophia O'Rourke, Ginevra Ingrassia, Liliana Trembacz, Katie Reddy, Kyle Skerritt, Abbie Walsh and Jay O'Shea.

### Rackard League:

The Rackard League and Rising Stars had a very good football campaign this year. The Rackard League team had a great win in the group stage against Blackwater and qualified for the Quarter Final. This was played in very wet conditions against Gorey Central School who proved to be a little bit stronger than our boys on this occasion.

**The Rising Stars** team competed in a blitz against Oylegate and Camolin where they gave a very good account of themselves. Well done to all the boys for their dedication throughout the season and we look forward to the hurling season starting in 2025.

### 'Mini 7s

The Ballagh girls started off their football season competing in the mini 7s competition in October. The girls displayed great examples of drive and work ethic. Unfortunately the girls lost both games to two very strong sides. The girls worked so hard in their training since this and the girls Rackard League football was a great success this year. All their hard work paid off as they were crowned District Champions. The girls had a great win over Monageer in the final and displayed a great example of team work and work ethic. The girls then went on to play Blackwater in the Roinn B quarter final where they narrowly lost out.'

**Swimming:** *3rd - 6th classes will attend swimming lessons each Monday for 7 weeks in the Riverbank Swimming Pool beginning on Monday 4th November. Aquatics is an important strand of the curriculum as well as an excellent life skill.*

### Website

Our website [www.ballaghkeenens.ie](http://www.ballaghkeenens.ie) went live in September. We are very proud and very grateful to our staff for their time and input. We aim to regularly update the website so please keep an eye out for updates.

### Before/ After School Care Options

Elaine of 'Cots to Crayons' (mob: 085 2737203) and Tara of 'Firefly Childcare' (Mob: 087 9963113) both provide collections from the school and after school care.

### New Staff

We would like to welcome our new staff members this year.

Mr. Ruairí Murphy is our new Senior Infant class teacher.

Ms. Davina Walsh is an SNA in the junior and senior infant classes.

Ms. Cecilia Carey is an SNA in Seomra Siólóige.

Mr. Chris Hendrick has moved to a full time SNA position.

Ms. Jesamine McDonald has taken on the role of job sharing SNA.

Ms. Éilish Foley is our new lunch lady with Fresh Today.

Ms. Orfhlaith Ní Chonfhaola is a shared SET teacher and is also covering principal release days.

We are extremely thankful to have these talented and dedicated staff members join our school.

### Fr. Doyle

We wish to welcome Fr. Doyle to the parish. We wish him the best of luck and we look forward to many years working together.

### Brendan

Our caretaker, Brendan Doyle, is finishing up with us after Halloween. We wish to thank him for all of his help looking after the school and we wish him all the best with his future endeavors.

### Parents' Association

We wish to thank the PA for their continued support. The official opening of Seomra Siólóige takes place on Thursday 24th October.

### Seomra Siólóige

We officially opened our autism class Seomra Siólóige on Thursday 24th October. This was a great occasion and it will be a great addition to the school and the wider community. Thanks to our local building contractor BHA for doing a great job. Thanks also the staff and BoM for their support of the project.