

### Green –Schools Programme:



Thank you to all of the pupils who have joined our Green Schools Committee. We are currently working towards our sixth flag, on the theme of 'Global Citizenship - Litter and Waste'. So far, we have completed our Environmental Review. We are also continuing daily checks in school on all bins, water and electricity. Also, don't forget to join us each Wednesdays for Walk on Wednesday. Thank you to Ms. D. Doyle and Ms. Hanrahan for all their work with the Green Schools' committee

### Active Schools'



This year the school hopes to renew our Active Schools' Flag. After Halloween our active school committee will be busy continuing to keep everyone Active in school with Fun Line Fridays, a Halloween parade and starting in November we will have an Active Break everyday challenge. We have new playground leaders this year who are doing fantastic work helping and playing with our Junior & Senior infants at lunch times. A big thanks to all 5th & 6th class playground leaders. Many thanks to Ms. C. Sinnott and Ms L. Sinnott for their hard work on the Active Schools Committee

### Hurling 365



Hurling 365 has been running over the last seven weeks during the first term. Once again it has been a huge success with a great turnout each morning. Hurling 365 will resume in the spring term. A big thank you to all our coaches and volunteers and our coordinator Keira Kinahan Murphy!



### School Closures

School will be closed on **Wednesday 6th December** for a staff in-service day.

### Christmas

School will close @ 12 midday on Friday 22nd December and will re-open on Monday 8th Jan 2024

### Gaeilge!



Within our school, we are continuously using and promoting the use of Gaeilge, our native language. Our pupils are really engaging with this so it's important that this is replicated at home. Please make every effort, regardless of your level of ability, to use the cúpla focail with your child. It will make a huge difference. Bainigí triail as! Tír gan teanga, tír gan anam.

### Board of Management

The term of our current board ends on 30th November and a new BoM will be sworn in on December 1st. Sincere thanks to our outgoing board for their contribution to our school over the last four years.

### Maths Week

Maths Week took place from 16th—20th October and the pupils had great fun carrying out different maths activities. Big thank you to Ms. C. Sinnott for coordinating the activities.

### School uniform

A reminder that school uniform is to be worn every day. School uniform consists of school uniform jumper, plain grey polo shirt, and navy jogger pants. Wearing of leggings is not permitted.

### Hellos and goodbyes

We extend our best wishes to Ms. Ellen Gahan as she embarks upon her career break. Bon voyage, and we look forward to seeing you again on your return! Welcome back and best of luck to Ms. K. Doyle and Ms. Stanley as they re-join our staff in fixed-term positions for the year. Welcome also to Mr. Hendrick SNA as he joins our staff for the year in a job-share capacity. Go n-éirí libh go léir.

# ***Ballaghkeene N.S.***

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***October 2023***

***Newsletter***

### School Contribution

Each year the school asks for a contribution of €40.00 per child. This is not mandatory, however these funds help run the school and ensures that we continue to be well resourced. Sincere thanks to all those who have paid the contribution. Thank you for your continued support of our school.



### School hot lunches

Freshtoday recently launched their new app. Please login through the app in order to view your child's menu and to make any amendments necessary. Assistance can be provided by calling Freshtoday directly on

### Trick-or-Treat for Temple Street

Ballaghkeene N.S. will hold a fund-raiser for Temple Street Children's hospital on Friday 27th October. Children are asked to dress up in their Halloween costumes and bring €2 with them to contribute to the fundraiser. All pupils are encouraged to take part in our parade from the church car park, as this is for a great cause.

### After School

After school club is currently running every Wednesday from 2.45—3.45 p.m. with Lego club. This will resume after the Halloween break. The pupils are certainly enjoying it. A big thank you to Ms. Wright & Ms. K. Doyle!

### Fáilte!

A big welcome to our new junior infants pupils. They've made a great start to the year and a big thanks to Ms. D. Doyle for helping everyone settle in!



### Team Hope Shoe Box Appeal

Each year the school participates in the Team Hope Christmas Shoe Box Appeal. Information leaflets have been distributed. Please note that the shoe boxes must be returned to the school by **Thursday November 8th**. The Christmas Shoe Box Appeal shows the children that there is more to Christmas than just receiving presents so let's try and make it a good Christmas for the less fortunate children of the world.

### \*\*Parent-teacher meetings\*\*

This year it has been decided to hold our P/ T meetings after Christmas. Teachers felt this gave the pupils additional time to settle back into the new school year. The P/ T meetings will take place on **Thursday 8th & Monday 12th February 2024**. Time slots will be allocated to parents closer to the time.

### First Holy Communion

2nd class pupils are currently taking part in the 'Do This in Memory Programme' in preparation for their First Holy Communion. The first mass will take place on Saturday 11th November @ 7 p.m. in the church. Pupil participation in the programme is vital. The Communion will take place on Saturday 11th May 2024.

### Parents' Association

The Parents Association organised a clothing collection on October 18th. There was a great response to this and we thank everybody for their support. The Christmas Cards fundraiser will also run again this year, along with the Split the Pot fundraiser. We are very lucky to have a very active PA and their help is always greatly appreciated!

### School Website, ClassDojo and Twitter

Keep up to date with everything in our school by logging onto the school website at [www.ballaghkeenens.ie](http://www.ballaghkeenens.ie). Also, each class has their own ClassDojo account so make sure not to miss out! Follow us on our school Twitter @BallaghkeeneNS as some additional school information may also be posted here.



### Health and Safety

Pupils are asked to walk into and out of school along the concrete path, and not on the grass or front wall, for obvious safety reasons. Also, as a health and safety measure, bollards have been installed outside the school wall. **We would kindly ask parents to reverse park into these spaces and also to respect the no parking zone which is marked by a yellow box directly outside the front gate. This should be kept clear at all times.** Your co-operation on these matters are greatly appreciated.

### Swimming

Swimming will begin on Monday 6th November for 5th/ 6th class. The 7 week block of lessons cost €53, including transport. This is a very important part of P.E. and forms the Aquatics strand of the curriculum.

### Rackard League

Congratulations to our boys on reaching the Roinn A football quarter final. Unfortunately they were beaten by Castletown last Wednesday. Well done on a great effort. Well done also to the Rackard League football girls who will continue their quest in the Shield competition after the mid-term break. Thanks to Mr. Nolan, Ms. K. Doyle and Ms. Wright who have been training the teams.

### Sing Out Loud

Sing Out Loud takes place in the National Opera House Wexford on Wednesday 15th November @ 7.30 p.m. Participating pupils are to be in the Opera House for 4:30 p.m.

### Wellbeing

Well done to Ms. Wright who has just set up our first Wellbeing Committee. Our committee have been working hard to make a plan for the coming year. Our activities will include Wellbeing Wednesdays which will take place on the last Wednesday of each month. The children will take part in fun activities that stimulate and foster wellbeing. The whole school will participate in activities such as mindfulness colouring, board games and discos