

BALLYFINANE NATIONAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Summer 2023

Principal's Message



It is hard to believe that another school year has come to a close. We have once again had a jam-packed and fantastic time in the school. I would firstly like to say goodbye to our 6th class pupils, Mia & Rachel, who are leaving us to embark on their secondary school education. Both girls have been an absolute pleasure to have in the school and we wish nothing but the best for both of them. I would like to thank the Ryan & Lally families for all their help and support over the years. The support you have shown has been second to none. On behalf of myself and the staff I would also like to thank our pupils, parents, Board of Management and extended school community for everything that has been done and achieved over this past academic year. I hope that each & every one of you have a wonderful and safe summer break and we look forward to welcoming you all back to Ballyfinane National School on Monday the 28th of August.

Go dtí sin, tabhair aire, agus bíodh laethanta saoire aoibhinn agaibh. Cáit Ní Shé

Stationary Lists

Stationary Lists were sent home with pupils. Please ensure all items are labelled with your child's name. All books will be provided by the school & will be ready when pupils return to school



Calendar

The calendar for the 2023/2024 school year was also sent home with pupils. Please note that all pupils will return to school on Monday 28th August and will finish at 11.45am on this day.



School Reports

The end of year reports for all pupils have been sent out on the Aladdin app. Please email the school if you have not received a report for your child.



Uniforms

All new half-zips that were ordered were sent home with pupils last week. Please ensure that all half-zips are labelled with your child's name.



Enrolment

Enrolment is now open for the coming 2023-2024 academic year is now. If you know of anyone looking to enrol in Ballyfinane N.S. please tell them to email the school for an enrolment pack.

ENROLL



Graduation

Our best wishes to our two lovely 6th class girls, Mia and Rachel as they leave us to move on to secondary school. Both girls and their families have been an absolute pleasure to have as part of the Ballyfinane school community and will be greatly missed by all. We hope that you will leave us with nothing but happy memories and look back on your time in Ballyfinane National School fondly. A special thanks to all the children, Deacon Bradley and staff who put together a memorable Graduation Service for all the pupils. The Down through the Years presentation was one to remember.

Communion

A massive congratulations to our second class pupils, Kieran, Clodagh, Naoise and Megan who made their First Holy Communion in May. The ceremony took place in Kiltallagh Church, followed by some refreshments in the school. All of our pupils did the school and their families proud with their wonderful singing, prayers, tin-whistle and readings. A huge 'Thank You' also to Fr. O'Sullivan, Ms. Doyle and Tara for all their hard work in preparing the children for their special day. A special word of thanks to the 1st class parents for the wonderful after-party in the school. It was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.



Term Three Activities...



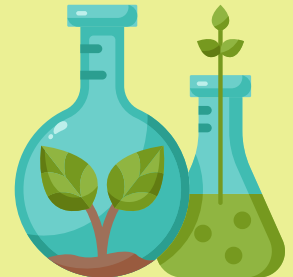
School Tours



Our pupils had a fantastic time on their Turas Scoile to Bunratty Castle & Folk Park where they got to see how people in Ireland lived in Medieval Times. This was followed by a wonderful workshop to Ballymorris Pottery where everyone got to make their own baskets out of clay and see how a kiln works. A great day was had by all!

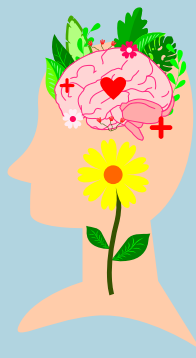


We had a lovely Science Day in Tralee Wetlands where pupils participated in various science & nature activities such as pond dipping, bug catching, a scavenger hunt, orienteering, a nature walk and finished off the day with some relaxing pedal boating on the pond. It was great to bring the classroom outdoors and into the fresh air.



Health Promotion

We set the standards high in terms of Health Promotion within the school throughout the year. Pupils led our wonderful demonstration of smoothies and veg snack ideas in Term 1, Term 2 saw healthy minds through Friendship and Wellbeing Week while Term 3 focused on gardening skills by bringing fruit & veg from garden to plate. Activity and movement kept us exercising all year and we celebrated this with Sports Day and Active Week. Super work everybody!



Tour De Ballyfinnane

The annual Tour de Ballyfinnane cycle took place on Saturday, April 22nd and it was once again a resounding success. We were delighted to have had such a fantastic turnout of cyclists on the day and were also thrilled to have had so many local businesses offering to sponsor the event. Sincerest thanks to the Parents' Association for their trojan work and to everyone else involved in organising and running the event. We are already looking forward to next years cycle!



Term Three Activities...



Gardening

There has been plenty green fingers here in Ballyfinane N.S. over the past couple of weeks. Our budding gardeners have thoroughly enjoyed taking care of our sensory garden ensuring that all the plants and flowers have had plenty water during the hot weather. Our Senior Room also made some beautiful summer flower arrangements to bring home.



Sports Day

Once again, we had an energy-filled Sports Day in June with pupils taking part in a large variety of activities including; egg and spoon races, sack races, drills, target practice and team-building exercises to help our pupils with their fundamental movement and gross motor skills. Many thanks to Amy for organising such a wonderful day for everyone. Thanks also to our pupils for the great sportsmanship and teamwork they displayed on the day.



Active Week

Active Week kicked off with P.E. games where we brought our teamwork practices from Sports Day into play. We practiced our fundamental jumping skills by skipping everyday and this also got us ready for our athletic exercises. Many thanks to Eileen & Natasha for teaching pupils about the long-jump and shotput. It was great to get an introduction to the various athletic sports that are available to our pupils. Pupils were also shown how to brush dance with Ms. O'Connor, did yoga with Helen and finished off the week with more P.E. with Mags. Many thanks to all those who gave of their time throughout the week.



School Anthem

The creative juices have been flowing in Ballyfinane N.S. as our pupils have been busy writing, producing and recording our very own school anthem. We also got the chance to star in a music video to accompany the anthem which will premier early in the new school year. Watch this space!

