



BALLYFINANE NS NEWSLETTER



Easter 2025



Principal's Message

On behalf of myself & all of the staff of Ballyfinane National School, I would like to offer a warm 'Míle Buíochas' to our pupils, parents, Parents Association & Board of Management for all of their dedicated work and unwavering support shown to the school throughout our second school term. It has been an exciting & rewarding term with trips to Dublin, Killarney & initiatives such as Creative School, Well-Being week, Spanish, PE, Gaelbhhratach & Gardeing to name a few. We hope everyone has a happy and restful Easter break as we have lots more planned for our final term including School Tours, Active week, Sports Day and Drumming. We also have an exciting Open Day planned for May. Le Meas, Catherine O'Shea

And the Winner is...



FIS 19



Congratulations to the wonderful children of Ballyfinane who won 'Best Original Song' at the 19th Annual Fís Awards at the Helix in Dublin in February! Lots of memories made together...One Small School... One Big Dream! Our school anthem was a collaborative project with all classes & we would like to thank all students, past & present for their creative input & efforts!



Our Junior Room enjoyed their trip to Killarney in March where they made pizza in Milanos & enjoyed chats over hot chocolate at J.M. Reidys! A huge Thank You to everyone who helped to fundraise for these fantastic trips! This trip was in celebration of our big win in Dublin at the Fís Awards!





Every Child a Reader



It was a pleasure to work with Children's Books Ireland and participate in their Robert Dunbar Memorial Libraries, *Every Child A Reader* initiative! Thank you to our amazing Champion of Reading Dr. Katie O'Donoghue. We explored a lovely series of workshops with Katie on illustrations & readings from her own book series entitled 'The Little Lamb who Led'



FARM

Farm Safety



Thank you to Alma Jordan from AgriKids for such an engaging talk about farm safety. A special thanks to Garda Fitzpatrick for joining us also. We learned invaluable lessons on the importance of farm safety & potential dangers to be aware of.



SAFETY
FIRST



Confirmation



Congratulations to our Fabulous Four who received the Gift of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation at Kiltallagh Church with the children of St. Joseph's Castlemaine. Thank you to the children who read & brought up gifts so gracefully. Thank you to the parents who read & gave the reflection. A huge thank you to all of our amazing children who sang & played so beautifully in the choir!





A Spring in Our Step...



Gardening Season is upon us once again & this brings our school garden back into action!

Thank you to our Parent's Association for giving us a dig out & head start! We planted peas, beans, salad leaves & sunflowers. We can't wait to see them grow in Term 3.



Lá Glas



Gaelbhratach



Seachtain na Gaeilge



Lá Fhéile Pádraig



Ballyfinane became a sea of green for St. Patrick's Day. Míle buíochas to our wonderful Parent's Association for organising our amazing float & to our Coiste Gaeilge & all the staff for a Seachtain na Gaeilge lán le craic!



Our Learning Experiences...

We enjoyed a busy Term 2 in all classes with lots of active learning! We did some baking with our teachers. The children enjoyed pottery with Sinéad. We got out & about with our Maths eyes in our school environment on Maths trails & we explored LEGO STEAM in the Junior Room!

**Creative Schools -
Some Pottery**

Lego Six Brick

Baking Together

Maths Eyes

Friendship & Wellness Week

Wellbeing is the focus of our School Self Evaluation.

Our children place huge value on wellbeing activities.

The sun shone & the skies were blue as we enjoyed mindfulness, song, skipping, dancing, chats, a treasure hunt & even a visit from the Easter Bunny!



Just a few Reminders...



Enrollment

Enrolment for the coming academic year 2025/2026 is now open. If you know of any families with children starting school this September please let them know that we are currently accepting enrolments. Enrolment packs are available from our school office and can also be posted out.



School Bus

Applications for the school bus are open for the 25/26 school year. We encourage as many families as possible to apply for the school bus as it is an excellent resource for the school. If during the application they mention you are not eligible or live too near the school please click onwards as a concessionary ticket is possible.

If you encounter any problems please contact Eimear or

Catherine for assistance.

<https://www.buseireann.ie/schooltransport>



Aladdin

Please log school absence reasons, alternative collection arrangements, late arrival or early collection through Aladdin by writing a short note in the parent notice box. Thank you for your engagement with this.



Drop Off & Collection

Thank you for your vigilance in keeping every child safe during busy morning & evening times. As always, please encourage your child to be aware & walk into school.



Puffins

After school services are provided by Puffins Childcare, Fries. Puffins collect children from the school at 1.30 pm for Infant classes & 2.30 pm for Senior classes. Infant children can return to school for 2.30 pm collection times with Puffins or be collected from Puffins any time up to 6 pm.

Please contact Puffins - 066 97 11004 to make arrangements.



Head Lice

Thankfully we remain lice free at Ballyfinane NS. Please continue to be vigilant and check your child's hair weekly to avoid any outbreaks. We kindly ask for hair to be tied back & children's hats to be kept in their schoolbags when not worn. Thank you for your support & awareness vigilance in keeping our school lice free!



Ballyfinane NS will reopen on Monday April 28th with lots of activities in store for Term 3. Wishing all families a peaceful, happy & safe Easter holiday!



Beannachtaí na Cásca

