

# *Saint Catherine's National School*

*Ballyhack, Arthurstown, New Ross, Co. Wexford.*

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17<sup>th</sup> December 2021

## **NEWSLETTER**

**This is a newsletter from the principal. I will be sending a school newsletter to all parents/guardians at the end of each half term.**

### **Update on Covid-19**

#### **COVID Symptoms**

A reminder that if your child is displaying any of the symptoms of Covid-19 and feels unwell or seems off form, do not send them to school and contact your GP for advice. The symptoms are:

- ☐ Fever
- ☐ New cough
- ☐ Loss or changed sense of smell or taste
- ☐ Shortness of breath/breathing difficulties
- ☐ Fatigue
- ☐ Aches and pains
- ☐ Sore throats
- ☐ Headaches
- ☐ Diarrhoea
- ☐ Runny or stuffed nose
- ☐ Feeling sick or vomiting

The HSE has provided information for parents about what to do if your child has Covid-19 symptoms. You can find it here:

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/symptoms/symptoms-child/>

Thank you for your continued co-operation with this.

### **Information for Parents**

The HSE has provided information for parents about close contacts and testing for children aged between 3 months and 13 years in early learning and care, school aged childcare, education, primary school sports and social settings. You can find it here:

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/contact-tracing/if-your-child-is-a-close-contact/>

Additionally, the HSE has provided an isolation guide for parents and guardians of children older than 3 months and up to 13 years of age. You can find it here:

<https://www.hpsc.ie/az/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/factsheetsandresources/Isolation%20quick%20guide%20under%2013s.pdf>

Please see [www.ballyhackns.scoilnet.ie/blog/](http://www.ballyhackns.scoilnet.ie/blog/) for the Covid-19 response policy and procedures. Please find the links below for the updated guidelines on contact tracing and Covid-19 symptoms checker:

CO2 monitors have been installed in each class room.

### **Holy Communion/Confirmation 2021**

Huge congratulations to our third class student who made their First Holy Communion on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 11am and to the children who made their Confirmation on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 11am.

Many thanks to all who prepared the children for their big day, and a special thank you to all who contributed in any way to making both occasions very special. A sincere thank you to Fr. Redmond and Fr. Don for their help and support in preparation for the big day also.

### **Confirmation 2022**

Ballyhack National School have been assigned Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 11am for the current 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes Confirmation, taking place in St. James Church Ramsgrange.

### **School Uniform**

The wearing of the school uniform is strongly recommended as it establishes a basic standard of acceptable dress, promotes tidiness and also promotes a sense of unity and identity among the children.

These are the details of the school uniform:

#### **Boys:**

Navy Trousers  
White polo t-shirt  
Wine jumper  
Wine/navy socks  
Navy school shorts

#### **Girls:**

Navy Trousers / Pinafore / Skirt  
White polo t-shirt  
Wine jumper  
Wine V-neck cardigan with pinafore only  
Wine/Navy socks or tights  
Navy school shorts

### **The school tracksuit may be worn on PE days:**

Mr. Cleary's Room: Thursday and Friday  
Ms. Foley's Room: Wednesday and Friday  
Ms. Cooley's Room: Thursday and Friday

There may be other days when children will be allowed to wear tracksuits and parents will be notified of these days by the Class Teacher or School Principal in advance.

We are asking you to work with us to enhance the very positive co-operation between the parent body and the school to establish pupil unity.

### **Absent Notes**

Absent notes in accordance with legal requirements, children should attend school regularly. Under section 21 of the Education Welfare Act 2000, the Board of Management is required to submit an Annual Attendance Record with details of students who have been absent for 20 days or more. A note of explanation is required when a child is absent. Please submit an absent note for all full day absences. If for any reason, your child is collected early or brought to school later than normal please send an email to [ballyhackschool@gmail.com](mailto:ballyhackschool@gmail.com).

We appreciate your co-operation with this matter.

### **Board of Management Meetings**

A Board of Management meeting took place on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September and Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December. All policies reviewed and ratified at this meeting are available on the school website.

### **Parents' Association AGM**

The AGM of the Parents' Association took place on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October. We look forward to collaborating together on various projects.

### **School Fundraisers-Halloween Fancy Dress and Christmas Festivities Day**

We had a sponsored Halloween Fancy Dress on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October; pupils were invited to dress up in costume. On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December, the students were asked to wear a Christmas Jumper or festive clothing. The money rose from the Halloween Fancy Dress and Christmas Jumper Day will go towards the school funds.

Thank you for your continued support. It is much appreciated.

### **Ms. McDonald**

Ms. McDonald, former school Principal in Ballyhack N.S., paid a visit to us on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November. The students and Parents Associated were delighted to present her with two lovely gifts. We would like to wish Ms. Mary McDonald all the best in her future endeavours in Shanbough N.S.

### **Friendship Week**

Friendship Week took place from Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October. The students took part in a range of friendship activities, games, mindfulness and art. On Friday the 1<sup>st</sup> October the students had a social morning where they enjoyed hot chocolate with marshmallows and tea. Friendship Week is one of the goals we are using to work towards achieving the Amber flag from Pieta House.

### **Biodiversity Day**

On Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November, we had a visit from Biodiversity Specialist Dale Treadwell; this was part of Heritage Week.

### **Planting of Daffodils**

During the month of October all classes planted different types of daffodils around the school grounds. Keep an eye out in spring; hopefully there will be lots of blooming flowers.

### **Science Week and Maths Week**

The students took part in Maths Week which ran from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October. The teachers arranged a range of both online activities and also practical activities such as Maths Trails. This allowed the students to experience Maths in a range of different scenarios not just in their book or classroom.

On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November we took part in Science Week. The students took part in different experiments, relating to biology, physics and chemistry. Please see our website for some pictures on Science Week.

### **Team Hope - Shoebox Appeal**

Well done to everyone who made a shoebox for Team Hope. The shoeboxes were collected from the school on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November; no doubt there will be some very happy children come Christmas day.

### **Soccer**

Over the past six weeks the students have taken part in soccer skills on Wednesday mornings, delivered by FAI soccer coach Ger Feeney. Thank you to the Parents Association for covering the cost of the soccer coaching.

### **Rugby:**

Our senior room have been taking part in rugby skills every Thursday. Thank you to New Ross Rugby Club for providing a coach.

### **Yoga/Mindfulness**

Ms. Cooley's class will have a four week block of Yoga in January and February.

### **Swimming**

Ms. Foley and Mr. Cleary's classes will be taking swimming lessons in the Apex after Christmas break, every Wednesday for six weeks (an email was sent to all parents providing details about the swimming lessons).

### **Student Council**

We will be establishing a Student Council after Christmas holidays. Students from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Class can put themselves forward for the Student Council and an election will take place among the students. Watch out on the school website and the newsletters for further updates.

### **Parent Teacher Meetings**

Parent Teacher Meetings took place on Wednesday the 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> November and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of December. Following consultation with the staff and the Board of Management, parent teacher meetings took place on the phone this year. Thank you all for your cooperation.

### **Enrolment/Open Evening**

We will be commencing our enrolment for the school year 2022/23 in January. If you would like to enrol your child please see our school website or contact Fiona in the office for an enrolment pack. Additionally, if Covid-19 regulations allow, we will be having an Open Evening for all current students and parents and prospectus students and parents in the New Year.

### **Fire Safety**

On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December fire alarms were heard across Ballyhack as the school had its termly fire drill.

### **Library**

We are delighted to have the school library up and running every Thursday. This year we also have a new box of books each month on rental from the mobile library.

### **Parents Association Christmas Fundraiser**

Our wonderful Parents Association have organised a Christmas Raffle fundraiser, which will take place on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December. All students have been given a raffle card to fill out. Thank you to everyone who has purchased a line and to everyone, including our sponsors, who have donated towards the raffle.

### **Floods Centra**

Thank you to Floods Centra in Ramsgrange for providing all the students with their very own hand sanitizer. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

### **Sisk Sponsorship**

John Sisk and Sons have generously covered the cost of some very much needed sports equipment. We hope to receive it before Christmas holidays and look forward to using it in the New Year.

**We hope you all have an enjoyable and safe Christmas.  
Nollaig Shona Daoibh!**

