

Saint Catherine's National School



Ballyhack, Arthurstown, New Ross, Co. Wexford.

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8th April 2022

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>

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
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

The school tracksuit may be worn on PE days:

Mr. Cleary's Room: Wednesday 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.

We appreciate your co-operation with this matter.

Board of Management Meetings

A Board of Management meeting took place on Tuesday 5th April, the school's Communication policy was reviewed and ratified. Please contact Fiona in the office if you would like a copy of each of this policy.

Confirmation 2022

Well done to all the boys and girls who made their Confirmation on Wednesday 16th March at 11am in St James Church, Ramsgrange.

First Confession

Well done to all the boys and girls who make their First Confession with Fr. Don on Thursday 7th April.

Holy Communion 2022

This year's First Holy Communion will take place at 11am in St James Church, Ramsgrange, on Saturday 21st May 2022.

Basketball

Due to bad weather conditions, Basketball was delayed by three weeks. We have thankfully commenced our basketball sessions and they will continue for three Wednesdays after Easter holidays.

World Book Day

World Book Day took place on Thursday 3rd March. We saw some amazing costume and listened to some very interesting descriptions of the students favourite books.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Seachtain na Gaeilge took place from 1st - 17th March this year. The students enjoyed learning new phrases, Irish dances and songs.

Library Visit

The Junior Room visited the Public Library, Fire Station and Playground in New Ross on Thursday 24th March. Keep an eye on our new website (waiting to be launched) to see some pictures of this educational trip.

Junior Entrepreneur Programme

Mr. Cleary's class are eagerly working on their Junior Entrepreneur Programme project. They were visited by guest speakers such as; Frank from Waterford Port, Pamela from Kehoe Farming, Verona Murphy and are due to have a visit from Killowen yogurt.

Rackard League

This year we had great interest from both boys and girls to compete in the School's Rackard League competition. The boys played a total of three matches. Unfortunately they were unsuccessful in qualifying for the semi finals. The girls played a total of two matches, winning one and losing one. Unfortunately they will progress to the next round.

Open Evening

Our 'Open Evening' took place on Thursday 7th April from 6pm-8pm. It was wonderful to see both parents and students from the past, present and future come to visit our beautiful school. We hope to make this an annual event.

Hurling 365

Hurling 365 will commence after Easter Holidays and will take place on Thursday from 3-4pm for four weeks. Ms. Murphy and Mr. Cleary will be running these sessions. Hurling 365 is open to all students from 1st to 6th Class. Fiona will be sending out an email after Easter holidays with more details to follow.

Walking Track

We are delighted to announce that Ballyhack N.S. will be getting its own walking track. Works are due to commence during Easter holidays and we hope it will be available for all students when they come back for the summer term. This is a wonderful facility, which will allow the students to use the pitch during the wet winter months.

Mental Health Awareness Day

Ballyhack N.S. will be holding a 'Mental Health Awareness Day.' As we are aiming to achieve the Amber Flag from Pieta House this year we are promoting the importance of Mental Health. Therefore on this day, we will be doing a walk around the school grounds and we will be promoting the importance of mental health during a range of mindfulness and SPHE lessons. We are that students wear orange or amber clothing on this day and also bring in a €2 donation towards the charity Pieta House.

DEIS Program

On Wednesday 9th March, we received the wonderful news that Ballyhack N.S. would be entered into the DEIS program for schools. This is a wonderful opportunity for our small, rural school. The DEIS program provides schools with more funding and a range of opportunities.

School Tours

All school tours will take place in June. The following dates are assigned for school tours;

Ms. Cooley's Class Tuesday 21st June

Ms. Foley's Class Monday 13th June

Mr. Cleary's Class 3rd June

We hope you all have an enjoyable and safe Easter Break.