

# *Saint Catherine's National School*

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

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19<sup>th</sup> December 2023

## **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.**

### **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:**

Ms. Doyle's Room: Wednesday and Friday

Ms. McPhillip's Room: Wednesday and Friday

Ms. Cooley's Room: Thursday and Friday

All students in Ms. Cooley's room are permitted to wear their school tracksuit on any of the five school days.

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 by email or written. 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.

### **Morning Drop-Off**

Morning drop-off from 9:15am will continue and staff will be outside to supervise from that time. Please ensure your child uses the footpath provided when exiting your car.

### **Parents' Association Christmas Raffle**

Thank you to our wonderful Parents Association for organising the Christmas and a big thank you to everyone who bought and sold lines and also donated towards the Christmas raffle prizes.

### **Cyril Squirrel Savings Scheme**

The Cyril Squirrel Savings Scheme is underway every Friday in school and will begin again in the New Year. The cost of a stamp is €1, 20 stamps fill a book and the children can cash this book or lodge it in their post office account.

### **'Meaningful Muinteoir'**

Ms. Cooley's class completed a mindful programme with the 'Meaningful Muinteoir.' The students took part in some very interesting activities and learned the importance of being mindful and how we can take care of ourselves.

### **After School Club - Social Club**

The After School Club - Social Club will begin again after Christmas for 5 more weeks beginning on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January from 3pm-4pm for 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class.

### **Christmas Jumper Day**

Christmas Jumper Day took place on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> of December. We saw some very festive jumpers. Thank you for all donations which will go towards all the different activities we do in our school.

### **Christmas Mass**

This year our Christmas mass took place in our school on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December. A lovely way to celebrate Christmas and mark the end of the school term. Thank you to all who came to our school mass.

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

Well done to everyone who made a shoebox or gave a donation towards the Team Hope - Shoe Box Appeal. No doubt the shoeboxes will be received by some very thankful children around the world.

### **Artist in Residence**

We were very thankful to be visited by a local artist in 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> class this half term. The students made lots of different pieces of art including Christmas decorations.

### **Parent Teacher Meetings**

Parent Teacher Meetings took place on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November. Thank you to everyone who came to these meetings. The meetings give us a great opportunity to discuss your child's progress so far this year.

### **Christmas Carol Service**

Our school took part in the Christmas Carol service on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December. Such a lovely evening to mark the beginning of Christmas and see all the students perform for their families, friends and parish.

### **Christmas Festivities Day**

This year Christmas Festivities Day will take place on 21<sup>st</sup> of December. This wonderful day has become an annual event where the students get to do lots of Christmas themes activities throughout the day, as well as festive clothing.

### **Swimming Lessons**

Swimming lessons will begin after Christmas holidays for all students in 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> class and will last for 8 weeks. All students will be brought to and from the Apex swimming pool by bus and will be accompanied by members of staff.

### **Yoga/Mindfulness Lessons**

We will be visited by a Yoga teacher again after the Christmas holidays for 6 weeks for all students in Junior and Senior Infants and 1<sup>st</sup> class. These classes help benefit the students' movements and exercises, particularly in the colder months of the year.

### **Féile Fichille Chess Tournament**

We have entered two teams in the Féile Fichille Chess Tournament which will take place Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024. There will be one team from 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class, consisting of 8 students and another team from 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class, again consisting of 8 students. We will be running trials for the Chess teams after Christmas holidays. Such a wonderful opportunity for our students to take part in this tournament and play other students from different schools. We hope this will become an annual competition for our school to compete in.

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

