

# *Saint Catherine's National School*

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

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18<sup>th</sup> December 2024

## **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 through Aladdin Connect. 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.

### **Aladdin Connect**

We are now fully up and running on Aladdin Connect. We would appreciate if you have not downloaded this application please do so immediately. Aladdin Connect will be used for the following; Parent Teacher Meetings, Announcements, Permission Slips, Attendance and many more features as we use the application more and more. We appreciate your patience in setting up this application.

### **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 no longer in existence. All cards have been handed back by the school, please ensure you bring your cards to the post office.

### **Super Saver Sam**

The New Ross Credit Union were out in December to help parents set up accounts for their children. There will be a representative from the New Ross Credit Union in the school fortnightly to help with 'Super Saver Sam.' Most details to follow in the New Year.

### **'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.

### **Christmas Concert**

Our school's Christmas Concert took place in Ramsgrange Community School on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December. It was a marvellous show enjoyed by all who came to see it. Well come to everyone involved and thanks to RCS for the use of the hall.

### **Christmas Jumper Day**

Christmas Jumper Day took place on Friday 13<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 Monday 16<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.

### **Parent Teacher Meetings**

Parent Teacher Meetings took place on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 28<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 Festivities Day**

This year Christmas Festivities Day will take place on Thursday 19<sup>th</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.

### **Hurling 365 Skills Competition**

Well done to all the boys and girls taking part in the Hurling 365 skills each Wednesday on the Astro Turf and thank you to the teachers for facilitating this. The skills competition will take place in Chadwicks Wexford Park in February 2025 .

### **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 8 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 Friday 7<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.

### **Soccer Tournament**

We are delighted to announce that the boys and girls from 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class will have an opportunity to take part in 5 a side soccer tournaments in April. Location and dates will be confirmed after Christmas.

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

