

# *Saint Catherine's National School*

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

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17<sup>th</sup> October 2025

## **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:

**K Sports School Half Zip**

**K Sports Navy Tracksuit Bottom or K-Sports Navy Shorts**

**White Polo or O' Neill's Training Top**

**Runners**

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 and Aladdin Connect**

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 AGM**

The AGM of the Parents' Association took place on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025 . We would like to thank all outgoing members of the Parents Association, welcome any incoming members and thank all members for their continued support.

### **Super Saver Sam Savings Scheme**

Super Saver Sam will take place on alternating Tuesdays. We will inform you via class dojo or which days the credit union will be in.

### **Friendship Week**

Friendship Week will take place from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> October. The students will take part in a range of friendship activities, games, mindfulness and art. On Thursday the 23<sup>rd</sup> October the students had a social morning where they enjoyed hot chocolate or milk with marshmallows.

### **Jersey Day**

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October all the students dressed in their favourite jersey. All donated funds will go towards school related activities.

### **Rackard League/Mini 7s**

We were delighted to be able to enter teams in both the Rackard League and Mini 7s competitions. Although we did not qualify out of the groups we are very proud of the boys and girls who took part.

### **'Meaningful Múinteoir'**

All classes will be visited by the 'Meaningful Múinteoir' on a weekly basis after October mid-term break. This is a wonderful programme catering for the wellbeing needs of our students and also training our teachers in new methodologies for mindfulness and wellbeing.

### **Halloween Dress Up Day**

All the students will have the opportunity to show us their amazing Halloween costumes on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. Don't forget to check our ClassDojo and website for some spooky pictures.

### **First Holy Communion**

The First Holy Communion will take place on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026 at 2pm in St James' Church, Ramsgrange.

### **Confirmation**

The Confirmation will take place at 2pm on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026 in St James Church, Ramsgrange.

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

This year we are taking part in the Shoebox Appeal, all shoeboxes needed to be returned by Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November. If you still have a shoebox that you would like to send as part of the Shoebox Appeal please contact us as soon as possible.

### **Student Council**

After the mid-term break we will be electing our new Student Council for the school year 2025/26. Every class from 1<sup>st</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> class will have two representatives. The students who wish to be elected to the student council will have to prepare a council representative speech to be in with a chance to be nominated. All students will have the chance to vote for who they wish to represent them on the student council. This is a very important part of our school as we value our student voice.

### **Staff Training**

School will be closed on 11<sup>th</sup> November to facilitate staff training.

### **Parent Teacher Meetings**

Parent Teacher Meetings will take place on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November. You will be able to book your time and day on Aladdin Connect.

### **Christmas Jumper Day**

Christmas Jumper Day (Non-Uniform Day) will take place on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December. We are asking for a €2 donation per child towards this event. All funds raised will go towards funding the Christmas Festivities Day.

### **Christmas Festivities Day**

This year Christmas Festivities Day will take place on 18<sup>th</sup> of December. This wonderful has become an annual event where the students get to do lots of Christmas themes activities throughout the day, as well as dress festive.

### **School Calendar Fundraiser**

The school calendars for 2026 will be available to purchase from early November from Walter Byrnes Shop, Floods Centra and the School. All funds will go towards school related activities.

**We hope you all have an enjoyable and safe mid-term break.**

