

St. Joseph's National School



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December Newsletter 2022

December 21st 2022



This lovely artwork depicting the birth of Jesus above was created by Lily Knowles in 2nd Class and captures the true meaning of Christmas.

Principal's Message

Thank you to all families in Ballyadams N.S for your greatly valued support, kindness and goodwill throughout the school term. We are very appreciative in Ballyadams N.S of all that makes our school such a fantastic place to teach and for the children to learn. We are greatly enriched by our wonderful pupils, our excellent teaching staff, our dedicated S.N.A's and our exceptional ancillary staff in Ballyadams. We are also very fortunate to have parents who give their time and support to whole school events and activities time and time again.

'Together Everyone Achieves More' or 'Ní neart go cur le chéile' is our core value in Ballyadams N.S and we live those words as a school community. Thank you all.

I would like to wish all in our school community a peaceful and relaxing Christmas break and heartiest best wishes to all in 2023. I hope you enjoy reading our Christmas Newsletter.

Illnesses & Sickness

We understand a lot of children and families are suffering with illnesses and viruses at present. We hope all our pupils and families experiencing illness at present recover very soon, enjoy their Christmas Holidays and return to school healthy and well in the New Year.

Enrolment 2023 & Admission Policy 2022

Enrolment for both Junior Infants and our A.S.D (Autism) Classes will open on the 5th January 2023. An Enrolment notice will be published in the Enrolment section of our school website the previous week. Application forms will be available from the school website <https://www.ballyadamsns.com/enrolment.html> / upon request from Nicola in the school office upon re – opening.

Parents are welcomed to view our Admission Policy & A.S.D Policy on the school website on the following link <https://www.ballyadamsns.com/policies.html>

Second A.S.D / Class for children with Autism 2023

We are delighted to share the good news with our school community that we will be opening a second class for children with Autism for the 2023/24 School Year.

Our first class for children with Autism opened this school year. We have all taken immense pride and joy in the positive journey and experiences of all the children in Ms Downey's Class to date. It has truly been a whole school journey. The boys in Carmel's class have settled exceptionally well into their new school. At this very early stage of their school journey the children have enjoyed partaking in a number of whole school events and activities in recent months.

In true Ballyadams N.S fashion there has been tremendous kindness, care and consideration shown to the children in Ms Downey's Class from all children and staff in our school. Class Teacher Ms Downey and our S.N.A'S Sandra and Laura are wonderful additions to our teaching and S.N.A staff in Ballyadams N.S and we are very grateful for all their efforts and dedication to the children who have started their school journey in recent months.

We look forward to enhancing classrooms and installing a new outdoor play area in our school grounds to further provide for both classes for children with Autism in 2023. We also look forward to welcoming more pupils, families and staff to our ever growing school community in Ballyadams N.S in 2023.

Christmas Events 2022!

Our Christmas Raffle took place yesterday. There was a superb response to the Christmas Raffle and I would like to pay thanks to all households for supporting the raffle, all our dedicated ticket sellers in recent weeks and in particular all those who donated such beautiful and thoughtful prizes for our Christmas Raffle. Míle buíochas to all and well done to our lucky winners!

Well done to the children from all classes in the school who participated in the Carol Services in Ballyadams Church. Thanks to all parents, families and friends in our school community for attending the services which were both meaningful and heart warming occasions for all of us to come together as a school community and celebrate.

Yesterday our school musicians delivered a wonderful performance to all their classmates in the school halla! We hope to reschedule the Parent Concert in the New Year when tutor Kim will be present.



Due to the freezing weather last week our Santa Dash could not safely take place on our usual route. Our pupils found a way however! Great enjoyment dashing around our school pitch instead in all their Christmas colours. Well done to all for taking part. See the pics from the Santa Dash on the following address <https://twitter.com/ballyadamsns/status/1604821863523573760>



Parents Council

Thank you to all parents, families and supporters of Ballyadams N.S for generously supporting the recent bag packing appeal and buying tickets for our bumper Christmas Raffle which took place yesterday. There is an enormous amount of work that is invested in organising fundraising initiatives for the school and I would like to convey my sincere thanks to our incredible Parents Council for their commitment and hard work for Ballyadams N.S. Thanks to all generous sponsors for your kindness towards school initiatives also. It is greatly appreciated. Below our Active School Committee are showcasing some of the recently purchased equipment for the school.



Swimming 2023

Swimming lessons will take place for the children from 1st – 6th Class in the New Year.

1st, 2nd, 5th and 6th class start swimming lessons on Tuesday 10th January 2023 at 10.30 until 11.15am in Portlaoise Leisure Centre for 5 weeks until February 7th.

3rd and 4th class start lessons Wednesday 1st March 12pm until 12.45pm for 5 weeks until 29th March.

Active Schools 2022 /23

Thanks to all parents and our Parents Council for sponsoring new sports equipment for all the children in our school. Our dedicated Active School committee under the super guidance of Ms Malone have been very busy in promoting our Active School 'Exercise A Lot Give It Your Best Shot' and we look forward to all the children taking part in further actions and active school events in the New Year.

Laois Regional Debating Championships

Congratulations to the children in 5th & 6th Class who successfully have advanced to the semi – final of the Laois Inter Schools Debating competition in recent weeks. Well done to Holly, Ava, Maria, Sarah, Keela and Donnacha for their exceptional efforts and performances in the competition and we wish the team well in the New Year! Thanks to Ms Holden for expertly preparing and coaching the team over the past number of months.

Bric A Brac Sale 6th Class!

The 6th Class organised a wonderful Bric A Brac sale in our school hall yesterday for all the children in the school. Complements to 6th Class who ran a very efficient and well received sale throughout the day! Thanks to all for supporting the event with E409 raised! All the proceeds going directly to the St.Vincent De Paul Charity as the chosen charity by our 6th Class. Thanks to 5th Class for playing a great part in the Bric A Brac also!

Sacraments 2022 – First Holy Communion and Confirmation

The 2nd Class pupils in Ms Malone's Class have begun preparations for their First Holy Communion. Listed below are some important dates for the parents of 2nd Class pupils to keep in mind;

- Candle Ceremony: 22nd January Ballyadams Church
- First Confession: 29th March Ballyadams Church
- First Holy Communion: Saturday 13th May Ballyadams Church

School Calendar 2022 / 23

You may view school closure & holiday dates 22/23 on our school website on the following link <https://www.ballyadamsns.com/calendar.html>

Please note as previously communicated to all parent(s) we have two additional whole school closures in 2023;

*Whole staff training and professional development in the Primary Language Curriculum **Tuesday 7th February**

*Whole staff Autism professional development **Friday 19th May.**

Wishing all families, pupils, staff and friends of Ballyadams N.S a peaceful, relaxing and enjoyable Christmas Break.

Nollaig Shona agus athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh go léir.

Le dea ghuí,

Rory Stapleton,
Principal