

St. Joseph's National School



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December Newsletter 2023

December 22nd 2023

‘Ní Neart Go Cur Le Chéile’



A scene featuring the children from our Junior Classes from their Christmas Nativity Show. A welcome return to Christmas Shows in Ballyadams N.S. in 2023.

Principal's Message

As 2023 draws to a close we give thanks for all the blessings in our school community. We have celebrated much to date in Ballyadams N.S. Our Junior Infants and Ms Boland's Class have made a wonderful start to school life in Ballyadams. We said goodbye to Mr Mullooly and celebrated his contribution to our school in true Ballyadams fashion. Our new members of staff have added greatly to our already wonderful school staff. It was particularly memorable and special for us to host Christmas Shows in Ballyadams N.S once again after a number of challenging years where such wonderful occasions were not possible. The children were outstanding and we are appreciative to the teachers for their commitment and dedication to make the Christmas Shows possible. All classes were part of the Christmas Shows and enjoyed it greatly. In further positive news we have added a new state of the art Sensory Room to our school, a new Playground for our Autism Classes and expanded the yard space for our mainstream classes. All of these improvements are welcomed and we look forward to adding further facilities for the children in 2024. Thanks to all our school community for supporting the Christmas Shows and all school fundraising initiatives throughout the school year. Ní neart go cur le chéile. Together Everyone Achieves More. <https://twitter.com/ballyadamns>

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

Enrolment 2023

Enrolment for both Junior Infants and our Autism Classes will open on the 8th January 2024. An Enrolment notice will be published in the Enrolment section of our school website the week before enrolment officially opens on the 8th January. Application forms will be available from the school website <https://www.ballyadamns.com/enrolment.html> / upon request from Nicola in the school office upon re – opening.

Christmas Raffle!

Our Christmas Raffle took place this week in the school. 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. Over E2490 was raised from the Christmas Raffle Tickets which is incredible. Míle buíochas to all and well done to our lucky winners!

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. 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 and the school calendars in particular. It is greatly appreciated and makes a phenomenal difference in terms of the the school meeting the costs of fuel, light, heat, transport throughout the year as well as supporting the funding of educational resources and providing learning opportunities for the children. Our PC Chairperson Marion Flynn and all of the PC are very welcoming of all help and assistance no matter how great or small with Parents Council events. All are welcome and do come along to the next meeting or send Marion a message ballyadamspc@gmail.com

Christmas Shows 2023!

2023 will be treasured in all our hearts following the return to Christmas Shows in Ballyadams N.S. The children were exceptional upon our school stage wowing the crowds with spellbinding performances of; 'The Tiny Angel Nativity' and 'The Grinch Who Stole Christmas'. These were thrilling days and nights for all the children and indeed all of the school community. The message of peace and happiness shared by the children is more important than ever amidst troubled times in the world. Well done to all the boys and girls for their incredible efforts and huge thanks to all of our wonderful school teaching staff our special needs assistants, Nicola, Mags

& Peter and all families who made the magic happen this year in Ballyadams. You may view images of the school shows on the following link to the school website <https://www.ballyadamsns.com/photo-gallery.html>

Christmas Music Recital

Our gifted musicians wowed the school and their families this week performing a medley of Christmas favourites during a beautiful lunchtime recital under the guidance of their Tutor Kim Melia from Music Generation. Well done to all.

Active School

Yesterday our Active School Committee under the guidance of Ms Malone led a wonderful whole school Santa Dash in Ballyadams N.S. Unfortunately due to the extreme weather warning we could not carry out our run on the road as planned. This did not dampen the enthusiasm of all our pupils and they all delighted in taking part in the annual Dash in their festive jumpers on our school pitches! Thanks to Joanne, Ruth and Pam for supplying healthy fruit treats to all classes following the Santa Dash!

Active School Equipment

Following the receipt of generous sponsorship in recent months from Roadstone we were in a position to purchase two new sets of school jersey's for the school produced by Nelligan Sports which will be a great addition to the school teams for years to come. In recent weeks a substantial amount of sports equipment has been added to our active school resources too which will be a great benefit to us as an Active School.

Laois Regional Debating Championships

Congratulations to the children in 5th & 6th Class who successfully have advanced to third round of the Laois Inter Schools Debating competition in recent weeks. Well done to the team for their exceptional performances in the competition and we wish all the children well in the next round of the competition in 2024! Thanks to Ms O'Flaherty for preparing and coaching the team to great effect over the past number of months.

Lego Coding Challenge Group

We have begun a new STEM initiative with our 5th & 6th Classes in recent weeks involving coding and programming lego robots and hope to partake in an upcoming regional competition in the New Year. We wish our new Coding Lego Challenge Team the very best of luck. Donnacha, Christian, Darragh, Lar, Shannon, Brandon, Éamon and James. Thanks to Ms O'Flaherty and Mr Stapleton for overseeing this project for the group.

Ballyadams N.S Student Council 2023/24

We are delighted to have set up our new Ballyadams N.S Student Council in recent weeks. Children from 3rd – 6th Class were all afforded an opportunity to put themselves forward for consideration to be selected for the Student Council. Following a wonderful series of presentations from the children we hosted an election and a new Student Council was elected. Congratulations to Edward, Kaia, Lucy, Gearóid, Harry, Heather, Ian and Alex who will represent all their classmates for the 2023/24 School Year as our new Student Council. We wish the group every success in the role.

Green Schools

Our Green Schools Committee have been especially busy in recent months as we pursue our goal of building upon our good Green School practices each day and also working towards a new Whole School Green Flag. Thanks to all our Green Schools Committee and Ms Murray for their hard work and dedication to the school and best wishes in 2024 which promises to be a very exciting few months in the school!

Irish Club

Ms Brennan has been running our Club Gaeilge over the first school term with the assistance of Ms Boland afterschool. The children are enjoying the club greatly and we are delighted to have introduced this new initiative in Ballyadams N.S for the children. Is fearr Gaeilge briste na bearla cliste! Well done to all and thanks to Ms Brennan and Ms Boland for their time and dedication.

Bric A Brac Sale 6th Class!

The 6th Class organised a wonderful Bric A Brac last week in aid of the new sensory room being installed in the Paediatric Ward in Portlaoise Hospital. Over E800 was raised which is simply incredible! We are in awe of the response from our school community and very appreciative to everyone for supporting this cause at Christmas time. It is both moving and fitting that 5th & 6th Class elected to donate the proceeds of the Bric A Brac to a local cause. We look forward to making a significant contribution to this very worthy and local cause. Well done to all.

Sacraments 2024 – First Holy Communion and Confirmation

Please see the following dates for Sacramental preparation for both our Communion & Confirmation classes.

Eucharist / First Holy Communion

Communion Enrolment Ceremony Sunday 26th November

Communion Candle Ceremony 28th January 2024

Communion - First Confession 17th April Ballyadams Church at 2pm.

Communion 11am 4th May Ballyadams Church.

Confirmation

Confirmation Retreat Castletown February 9th 2024

Confirmation Introduction Mass February 11th

Service Of Light Thursday 7th March

Confirmation Tuesday 12th March

School Calendar 2023/24

You may view school closure & holiday dates 23/24 on our school website on the following link <https://www.ballyadamsns.com/calendar.html>

Christmas can be a challenging and difficult time for many. We keep those who are experiencing difficulties this Christmas in our thoughts and prayers.

I would like to wish 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 gach dea ghuí,

Rory Stapleton,
Principal