

Newsletter

The school, Parish and community were united in grief at the untimely passing of Sandra Byrne, wife of Liam and mother of Audrey and Timmy. Sandra was a very active and hardworking member of the Parents' Council and played a central role in many school activities. Liam and family and the staff of St. Joseph's N.S Ballyadams are very grateful to the Board of Management, the Parents' Council and all the school community for their help and support during a difficult time.

Mairtin Mullooly - Deputy Principal.

Morning Supervision & Parking

Morning Supervision for the children commences each day at **9.10am** and we ask that children are not on the school premises until that time.

Please note that the staff car park should not be used as a drop off / pick up point in the mornings and afternoons. Many thanks for your understanding and cooperation.

Emergency School Closure Procedures

In the event of significant adverse weather, the Principal will consult with the Chairperson of the Board of Management. Any decision to close the school will be made at the earliest possible time. A decision to close our school due to adverse weather conditions or disruption to water and/or electricity etc. will only be made in circumstances where it is felt that the number of staff available on a given day is inadequate to provide for the welfare and safety of the children and/or the weather conditions are likely to put the health and safety of the children and staff at risk. The Board of Management will inform the parents and staff by text. Further information relating to the exceptional closure and subsequent days will be conveyed by text and posted on the school website. **Parents/Guardians, please make sure we have a contact number for you.**

Halloween Walk/GOAL Jersey Day

Thank you to all our pupils, parents and teachers who helped make our annual Halloween Walk such an incredible success once more with a total of €1,242 raised. Thank you also to everyone who contributed towards the €225 raised on October 12th for GOAL.

Cumann na mBunscol 2018

The school enjoyed a very successful Cumann na mBunscol campaign in September and October. Three school teams participated in the competitions with two of our teams reaching the finals. The senior boys claimed an historic win in the Division 1 final beating Killeshin N.S while the girls were unlucky to lose out to Derrylamogue N.S. in their final after playing some scintillating football. Our junior boys team comprising of boys from 3rd and 4th class played excellent football eventually losing out at the semi – final stage. Many thanks to our supporters and parents who provided transport to many games. A special word of thanks to Mr Mullooly, Ms Rowan, Ms Walsh and Ms Kirwan who volunteered their time and energy preparing the teams throughout the year. We look forward to the hurling Cumann na mBunscol campaign in the new year!

School Website

Our school website is a wonderful resource for parents, students and the wider school community. We invite you to www.ballyadamsns.com where you will find lots of information about the school, recent and upcoming events, work samples and lots of material which can be downloaded for use at home. Check out our Twitter Account too for updates of school life in Ballyadams. A downloadable School Newsletter will be available in the coming week!

Music Generation Laois

Music Generation Laois are providing an Early Years Recorder Programme for children in 1st and 2nd class. Some children in the senior classes are continuing with in the Woodwind Programme which began last year and they play Saxophone, Clarinet and Flute. In January children from 3rd class upwards who are interested in playing a woodwind instrument will be given the opportunity to partake in some taster classes with a view to starting weekly lessons.

Rugby

Our rugby Coach Tadhg from Athy RFC continues his visits to the school. Tadhg coaches the boys and girls the skills of rugby in a fun inclusive approach that caters for all levels of ability. On Friday the 30th November we welcomed Tadhg and two very special visitors – the Pro 14 and Champions Cup Trophies! See photos from the visit on our school Twitter page!

Book Rental Scheme and Requisites

A sincere thank you to everyone who has already paid the Book Rental and Requisites for this school year. Anyone with an outstanding balance can contact the office to arrange payment. The Book Rental Scheme helps to minimise the effects of costly school book lists on families in September while the Requisite payment is for the provision of art & craft supplies, 24hour personal pupil insurance, assessment and other sundries throughout the year.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

If you were unable to attend the parent/teacher meetings, please contact your child's class teacher through the office to arrange a new time and date.

Enrolment

Enrolments for September 2019 will begin next term. Enrolment Packs will be available from the office.

Team Hope Shoebox Appeal

This year the boys and girls took part in the Team Hope Shoebox Appeal. We learned about children from other countries who have very little and realised how very lucky we are. We decided to fill empty shoeboxes with gifts for them. The shoeboxes were wrapped in Christmas paper and collected in recent weeks. There was an outstanding effort made by all and this act of kindness will make a big difference to those less fortunate.

Parents' Association/Council

The Parents' Association continue to promote all areas of school development and play an invaluable role in developing and maintaining positive and active partnerships between home and school. (List duties carried out so far this year) Our Parents' Association deserve our thanks and support for their tremendous work on behalf of St. Joseph's N.S Ballyadams. We are fortunate to have such a group of dedicated parents who give freely their time and energy to cultivate the development and well – being of all the children in the school.

Annual Cake Sale

Our Annual Cake Sale will take place in the New Year. It is hoped to hold the much anticipated cake sale will take place on Sunday 27th January 2019, the weekend of the Candle Light ceremony for our Communion Class. We'll be in contact closer to the time and we look forward to your valued support.

Calendars

Our school calendars have proved very popular once again this year. **December the 7th** is the final date for orders for what would make a lovely stocking filler for those at home, friends and relations. Sincerest thanks, once again, to Kathleen Crosby for the time and effort in putting together the calendars.

Christmas Carol Service

This year we will celebrate our Christmas Carol Service in St. Joseph's Church, Ballyadams on Tuesday December 18th at 7.30pm. Please keep the date free for what promises to be a special and memorable evening of reflection, song and celebration. *I would remind all in attendance it is not permitted to take pictures and videos on the night in compliance with Data Protection and Child Protection regulations. Míle Buíochas.*

Christmas Draw

The Parents' Council Annual Christmas Raffle will take place on **Wednesday the 19th** of December at our School Santa Dash. This will be our biggest fundraiser for the current school year and we ask for all the school community to support this initiative. Tickets will be sent home in the children's schoolbags the first week of December. If anyone would like to buy or sell some extra tickets, they are available from the school office. We are asking for tickets to be returned to the office by **Thursday December 6th**. Any family who have returned tickets by then will be entered into a draw for a Christmas tree. There will also be a raffle among the pupils for a festive hamper. *If you can spare any items for prize hampers, please drop them in to the school office by Friday December 15th.*

Santa Dash

Our fun run / walk is open to all family members and will take place **Wednesday 19th December**. Junior Classes will begin their run / walk at 11.30am and Senior Classes at 12pm. Please contact the office if you are available to provide stewarding on the day. The Santa Dash is a wonderful event to showcase our prized status as an Active School thus continuing the wonderful work by the children, our Active School Coordinator Ms Walsh and all in the school.

Christmas Holidays

We will close at **12pm Friday 21st December** for the Christmas Holidays. The school will reopen **Monday January 7th**.

I would like to thank all our parents for your assistance and valued contribution towards school life. I wish all our families a peaceful and restful Christmas.

Mr Rory Stapleton
Principal