

# St. Joseph's National School

BALLYADAMS



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## Easter Newsletter



### Easter Raffle

Thanks to all families for generously supporting the Annual Easter Raffle. The Easter Raffle will take place Friday / tomorrow morning. The continued support of families towards school fundraising activities is greatly valued and appreciated. Thanks to our Parents Council for their steadfast efforts to support school activities and organise fundraising initiatives. Raffle Cards & Monies may be returned to the school by Friday.

### 'Back To School In Ballyadams – In the words of the children'

A number of the children from classes in the school shared their feelings on returning to our beautiful school in recent weeks.

*What is the best part of being back in school?*

**Junior & Senior Infants:** 'Seeing my friends, having a new teacher and being this week's V.I.P' - 'P.E, golden time and getting to play with my friends on big break'

**1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Class:** 'I get to play with my friends and not just see them on a screen' - 'Getting to see my friends and celebrate St.Patrick's Day in school' - 'Being back in school and learning new things' - 'Being back with my friends and the teachers'

**3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Class:** 'Spending time with all my friends again' - 'Seeing my friends and getting back into a routine in school'

**5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Class:** 'Playing football back with my friends' - 'Being back with friends and enjoying to learn back in school' - 'Playing football and sports, seeing friends face to face and learning together with other people'

If you would like to have a look at some of the amazing Easter artwork from around the school & projects and a selection of the activities completed by the children recently please follow the link here <https://www.ballyadamsns.com/photo-gallery.html>

### Catholic Schools Week

The children celebrated Catholic Schools Week in a remote sense this year. Well done to the boys and girls for their creativity in fashioning home-made Prayer Boxes and writing their own prayers to celebrate the theme of 'Communities of Faith, Hope and Love'. A selection of the remote creativity from the children during Catholic Schools Week 2021 is available to view on our School Twitter feed <https://twitter.com/ballyadamsns>

### **World Book Day**

Thanks to all families and the boys and girls for embracing World Book Day in Ballyadams in recent weeks. Both in school and online activities were the order of the day and the children enjoyed the celebration immensely. You may wish to view the memorable and enjoyable occasion on our school website <https://www.ballyadamsns.com/photo-gallery.html>

### **'Seachtain Na Gaeilge & La Fhéile Phádraig**

Last week as part of our Lá Fhéile Phádraig celebrations the school went green for the day. During our 'Lá Glas' the entire school took great delight in coming together safely outdoors to perform a school Jerusalema Dance Challenge. Our Junior & Senior Infants took part in their very own St. Patrick's Day Parade. A video of the whole school celebrations including both the Jerusalema School Dance Challenge & Infants St. Patrick's Day Parade may be viewed on our school website <https://www.ballyadamsns.com/>

### **First Holy Communion Classes**

The children in Ms Murphy's 3<sup>rd</sup> Class & Mr Mullooly's 2<sup>nd</sup> Class celebrated an important Online Mass streamed live from Carlow Cathedral in recent times with their families and hosted by Bishop Dennis. Thanks to all families for taking part in this big step in the children's journey of faith in advance of the First Confession & First Holy Communion. Further information on when the First Confession & First Holy Communion ceremonies will be communicated to families when we are in a position to do so. Thanks to all families for your patience and understanding. Thanks to all teachers and parents for their efforts in preparing the children for the Sacraments.

### **Enrolment**

Enrolment took place in recent weeks for Junior Infants starting August / September 2021/22. We are looking forward to welcoming 18 children at present to Junior Infants in September. An Induction Meeting will take place in the final school term for families of children enrolling to the school to start their school journey in Ballyadams. If you are aware of friends, family members who wish to enrol their children in Ballyadams N.S please ask them to get in touch with myself [principal.ballyadams@gmail.com](mailto:principal.ballyadams@gmail.com) or give Pam a call in the office. Late applications will still be considered for 2021/22.

### **Return to School Declaration Forms**

All parents are requested to complete 'Return To School Declaration Forms' which will issue on Aladdin Connect @3pm Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April. It is important to respond to the Return To School Declaration Form prior to your child returns to school. This is to ensure our overall compliance as a school with Covid 19 regulations and to minimize the risk of the virus affecting our school community. Thank you for your cooperation.

### **Digital Learning Ballyadams**

We as a staff are continuing to take part in continuous professional development from the Professional Development Service for Teachers Technology team as we aim to embed the use of technologies as part of effective teaching & learning in the school. As part of our Digital Learning Plan we have invested in a new set of IPADS for the school. These were used by the children in 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Class in recent weeks to take part in a live Zoom Quiz in a joint initiative with Athy Library for World Book Day. We look forward to the children engaging with the devices to support their learning in the weeks and months to come.

### **New Sports Equipment Laois Sports Partnership**

As part of a new initiative with Laois Sports Partnership we have received sports equipment from the Laois Sports Partnership. We look forward to all classes using the new sports equipment in the final school term.

### **Gardening Project Laois Education Centre**

As part of a new partnership with Laois Education Centre we will be carrying out a Gardening project entitled 'Square Foot Gardening' in the new school term. It is part of the Communities Of Belonging project to foster inter – culturalism through gardening.

### **Sport**

Under level 5 restrictions coaches are not permitted to enter school at the present time. We hope that should restrictions allow we will be in a position to facilitate GAA coaching for children in the next school term.

## **C.M.N.B**

I appreciate how frustrating and saddening it is for our pupils in 6<sup>th</sup> Class not to be competing in the premier underage schools GAA competition the Cumann na mBunscol at the present time. The children have lost out on many experiences and opportunities as a result of Covid-19. It is unknown what the situation will be in relation to playing games in the current school year. We are hopeful to host an in-school GAA league/tournament for the children in the final school term. Thanks to James Rowan & Daniel Nelligan for installing nets in the goals of our Senior school pitch in recent times.

## **Friendship Week & Active School Week**

We will be celebrating Friendship Week & Active School Week in Ballyadams in the final school term after the Easter Holiday's. Our message is simple and true for each boy and girl and class in our school. T.E.A.M. Together Everyone Achieves More. We will be organising interesting Art Ideas, cooperative Friendship Games amongst more activities to celebrate our values of fairness, tolerance and respect for others.

## **Morning Supervision & Parking**

**Morning supervision begins at 9.10am each morning** and I would ask that children are not on the school premises before that time. Please bear in mind the staff car park is for **staff only**. The Church Car Park is the designated drop off & collection point. Thank you for your cooperation.

## **School Closures**

- **Easter Holidays** – close on April 26<sup>th</sup> @ 12pm & re – open Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April
- **Friday April 30<sup>th</sup> & May Bank Holiday – Monday May 3<sup>rd</sup>**
- **Friday June 4<sup>th</sup> & June Bank Holiday – Monday 7<sup>th</sup>**
- **Summer Holidays** – Close on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June.



We will be finalising a return to school date and the school calendar for the 2021/22 school year in the next term. Details of the 2021/22 School Calendar will be outlined in the June Newsletter.

Well done to all our pupils who have shown tremendous care and kindness towards each other since our return to school. The children have shown remarkable resilience and adaptability and we are immensely proud of them. We look forward to doing our best to ensure a memorable and satisfying final school term for all our pupils., staff and families.

I would like to wish all in our school community a pleasant and relaxing Easter holiday.

Ni neart go cur le chéile.

Rory Stapleton  
Principal

Principal



Keep it Clean...Be part of our Team  
Save our Fuel....Walk, Cycle or Carpool !

“A Future Bright?” ... “Turn off the Light!”  
Show Your Worth.....Be Good To The Earth!

Don't Let it Go...Stop the Flow!  
Show Your Worth.....Be Good To The Earth!