

# St. Joseph's National School



*Ballyadams, via Athy, Co. Laois*

Telephone: 059 8627226

E-mail: [principal.ballyadams@gmail.com](mailto:principal.ballyadams@gmail.com)

Office: [secretary.ballyadams@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.ballyadams@gmail.com)

[www.ballyadamsns.com](http://www.ballyadamsns.com) Twitter@ballyadamsns

## *‘Halloween’ Newsletter 2022*

October 28<sup>th</sup> 2022



### **Morning Supervision**

Morning supervision for the children begins at 9.10am. Please ensure the children are not on the school premises before 9.10am. Thank you for your cooperation.

### **Uniforms and Tracksuits & Pitches Clothing & Footwear**

Thanks to all children and families for their efforts to wear the school uniform on non PE & designated school tracksuit days. We will be using the pitches in November at Lón Mór weather permitting 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Class. Please ensure children bring spare clothing and footwear to school for using the playing pitches. Many thanks.

### Halloween Walk

Today we hosted our much loved Halloween Walk. It was a wonderful whole school experience with all classes taking part and once more the creativity and imagination of the children's costumes was wonderful to see. The emphasis was very much on fun and taking part in this popular whole school activity. Thanks to all families for generously supporting sponsorship cards for the Halloween Walk which raised over E1400. It is hoped to use some of the monies raised to replenish and upgrade our PE equipment in the school for all classes. Please visit our school website to view pictures from today's Halloween Walk. A big thank you to Willie Nolan for kindly capturing photograph's today for the school and our Parents Council for providing treats for the occasion. You may visit our website to view some images of our classes today <https://www.ballyadamsns.com/photo-gallery.html>

### Parents Council

Our Parents Council have organised a series of fundraisers in the lead up to Christmas and it would be great if parent(s) could help out with the initiatives!

We will be selling Raffle Tickets for our Christmas Raffle at **Supervalu Stradbally Friday 9<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December.**

Our Parents Council are also carrying out bag packing in **Dunnes Stores Portlaoise Friday 18<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November.**

These fundraisers could not take place in recent years due to the pandemic but they are making a welcome return in 2022! All support from parent(s) to help out on one or more of the above dates / support the initiatives is greatly appreciated. Please contact Parents Council Chairperson Mary Nolan if you are in a position to help out at the above fundraisers / contact any member of the Parents Council. All support is greatly welcomed. I would like to extend my thanks to the entire parent body in Ballyadams N.S for their wonderful support of school fundraisers.





### **Anti Bullying Parents Information Talk November 8<sup>th</sup>**

A guest speaker from the National Parents Council will be visiting the school on November the 8<sup>th</sup> to deliver a talk to parents on the topic of Anti – Bullying in the school that evening. We pride ourselves on living the values of fairness, tolerance and mutual respect in Ballyadams N.S. Our recently updated Anti – Bullying Policy <https://www.ballyadamsns.com/policies.html> is reflective of our commitment in this area. As part of our teachers commitment to best practice in this area we as a staff will be welcoming a facilitator from the PDST to carry out professional development for our school staff in the area of Restorative Practice following the Halloween break. Thanks to our Parents Council for organising a talk for all parents in the coming weeks. I would encourage all parents to attend this talk which promises to be both informative and of value.



### **Book Fair & Athy Library Spare Uniforms / School Clothing**

The School Book Fair will take place Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November from 1 – 4pm. 60% of all funds from our book fair will go directly towards restocking our school library. Cash and card will be accepted by our providers Usborne Books on the day.

Athy Library are a wonderful local resource and are currently offering complementary children's books for all new children joining the library. The beautiful library is on the former Dominican Church site and our local librarians have been in touch to encourage families to pop in and see what they offer . visit [kildarecoco.ie/library](http://kildarecoco.ie/library)

We have a number of previously worn school items of clothing in Ballyadams N.S in good condition available to be claimed for re – use by parents on the 10<sup>th</sup> November from 1 – 4pm.

### **Cumann na mBunscoil**

Well done to all the children who competed for the school in Cumann Na Mbunscoil competitions in the first school term. The children enjoyed representing their school immensely and it was great to see their performances improve in each round of the competition. Thanks to the dedication and hard work of their trainers Mr Mullooly and Ms Crosby.







### **Active Schools 2022 /23**

Our Active School Committee have been a bundle of energy in the first school term! Our Parents Council kindly sponsored skipping ropes for the children and they have been a huge hit on the playground in the first school term. At a recent Active Assembly the children were invited to offer suggestions for our new Active School Slogan!

The new Active School Slogan **2022/23** is **‘Exercise A Lot Give It Your Best Shot’**

Healthy bodies and healthy minds are important to us in Ballyadams N.S and the children are enjoying partaking in their ‘Active Line’ exercises each day at present and our monthly 10@10 whole school activities. A big thank you to all the children and our Active School Coordinator Ms Malone for leading the way on our Active School initiatives.

### **Laois Regional Debating Championships**

Congratulations to the children in 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Class who successfully competed in the opening round of the Laois Inter Schools Debating competition this week. The children successfully opposed the motion ‘If we really care about climate change we should all fly less’. The team showed exceptional skill, clarity and poise throughout their debate and claimed a deserved victory in their debate with Knock N.S. We wish all the pupils well in the next round of the competition. Thanks to Ms Holden for preparing and guiding the children in their efforts. Visit our school Twitter to see more

<https://twitter.com/ballyadamsns/status/1585624387499089920>

### **Green Schools**

Our new Green Schools Committee has been formed under the direction of Mrs Murray and announced today to great excitement during our school Assembly. We will be working alongside all families in our efforts to carry out surveys and actions to promote our Green School messages and values. Thanks to Mrs Murray and Ms Crosby for overseeing our Green School initiatives in the year ahead.

### **GOAL Jersey Day & Christmas Shoebox Appeal**

Thanks to all families for their very generous support for our recent GOAL Jersey Day and Team Hope Shoebox Appeal. Over E214 was raised on GOAL Jersey Day and there was a tremendous response from families in support of the Team Hope Shoebox Appeal <https://twitter.com/ballyadamsns/status/1585644283347861507>

### **Ms Downey’s Class**

We are all delighted the children in our new class for children with Autism have made a wonderful start to their school journey in Ballyadams N.S. We recently received whole school professional development from the NCSE in the area of Autism as a school staff. Our NSCE Advisors spoke of the importance of how to appropriately recognise the children’s class and for the children in the school to know how to recognise the children’s class in a considered and inclusive manner. As a result of this learning, for now, we will be recognising the boys class as ‘Ms Downey’s Class’ similar to ‘Mr Mullooly’s Class’ or any of our classes. Throughout the school term the boys and their teacher Carmel Downey and our S.N.A’S Sandra, Angie and Laura have become part of the fabric of our school. Ms Downey’s Class have taken great joy in joining in whole school assembly’s and whole school celebrations and activities. We look forward to many more positive and rewarding experiences taking place in the near future.



### **Sacraments 2022 – First Holy Communion and Confirmation**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Class pupils to keep in mind;

- Enrolment Mass: 27<sup>th</sup> November Ballyadams Church
- Candle Ceremony: 22<sup>nd</sup> January Ballyadams Church
- First Confession: 29<sup>th</sup> March Ballyadams Church
- First Holy Communion: Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May Ballyadams Church

### **School Calendar 2022 / 23**

You may view school closure dates 22/23 on our school website on the following link <https://www.ballyadamsns.com/calendar.html> Please note there will be an additional school half day / full day closure in 2023 to facilitate staff training in the Primary Language Curriculum and a further school closure in 2023 for whole school professional development in the area of Autism. Dates will be confirmed and shared in the next school term.

### **Whole School Celebrations Ms Burke and Ms Rowan & Visit of Laois Ladies & St Joseph's Minor Champions**

We bid farewell in recent weeks to both Ms Burke and Ms Rowan in moving and special whole school celebrations. Thanks to all families for contributing towards the children's gifts for both teachers and the children showed their appreciation in a beautiful medley of song, poetry and performances. You can read all about the celebrations and view images from the celebrations in an article which featured on Laois Today available on the following link <https://www.laoistoday.ie/2022/10/12/end-of-an-era-as-long-serving-teacher-retires-in-ballyadams-ns/>

Visit our school website to view images of the celebrations also <https://www.ballyadamsns.com/photo-gallery.html>

### **Parent/Teacher Meetings**

We will be offering parent(s) a choice of either an In Person Parent/teacher meeting / Parent Teacher Phone Meeting in November. In Person meetings will take place Wednesday 23<sup>d</sup> and Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October / Parent Teacher Phone Appointments will take place the week of the 21<sup>st</sup> November. Bookings for the meetings will be made via the whole school App Aladdin Connect and details will be shared with all parents following the Halloween Break.

Well done to all our pupils for their efforts and enthusiasm in recent months.

Wishing all families, pupils, staff and friends of Ballyadams N.S a very happy Halloween break.

Rory Stapleton  
Principal