



# St. Joseph's National School

*Ballyadams, via Athy, Co. Laois*

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21<sup>st</sup> December 2020

## **Holy Day December 8<sup>th</sup>**

Fr Dunne celebrated the Feast of the Immaculate Conception through a whole school Zoom Call with all classes December the 8<sup>th</sup>. All the children and staff enjoyed sharing in this whole school experience and connecting meaningfully and spiritually with each other at this time of year.

## **P.T Meetings**

Parent Teacher meetings will take place the week of the 25<sup>th</sup> of January 2021. The Parent Teacher meetings will take place via phone conversations. Parents will be allocated a timeslot for a 10minute Parent Teacher Phone Meeting. Confirmation of Parent Teacher Meeting timeslots and dates for the meetings will be communicated when we re - open in January.

## **Enrolment**

Enrolment for the 2021 School Year will open on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Enrolment Application Forms will be made available to download from our school website and will be provided upon request from the school office. A notice of the upcoming enrolment date of the 14<sup>th</sup> January and the timeline for accepting enrolment applications will be published on the school website on the 7<sup>th</sup> January. We look forward to welcoming enrolment applications. <https://www.ballyadamsns.com/enrolment.html>

## **Santa Dash**



The beloved Santa Dash took place last week. The drizzle and unsettled weather failed to dampen the spirits of the children from all classes who took part in the Dash. Well done to the boys and girls for all taking part. A big thank you to Ken Meredith for accompanying us on the Dash in the Fire Engine and also a special word of thanks to the Parents Council who did an excellent job stewarding the route and giving the children lots of encouragement.

## **'Go Raibh Maith Agaibh' Day**

We recently celebrated the hard work and dedication of all in our school community. The children enjoyed a homework pass and classes took part in a range of fun and enjoyable activities to celebrate the occasion. Amidst the hustle and bustle of everyday school life and the ever-present threat of the virus which has affected families in many ways in 2020 it was most welcome to pause, reflect and acknowledge the efforts everyone continues to make to ensure the health and wellbeing of our school community.

## **Best Wishes Ms Malone**

We wish Ms Malone every blessing and good wish as she takes her maternity leave from the school. We welcome Ms Caoimhe McElhinney to Ballyadams N.S in January and wish her well in her role as our Junior & Senior Infant Teacher in the coming months.

### **Christmas Jumper & Odd Socks Day!**

Last Friday the children wore Christmas Jumpers and a wacky medley of odd socks to school in aid of St. Vincent De Paul raising E185! Thanks to all families for supporting this charity initiative which our 6<sup>th</sup> Class champion each year. This year the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> classes took part in a Winter Soccer League which culminated in the finals being played last Friday to the delight of the children from 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Class and 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Class. Ms Malone's Junior & Senior Infants were wowing their parents with their fantastic outdoor medley of Christmas hymns and songs at the time. It was certainly a day to remember in Ballyadams N.S!

### **School Calendars 2021 & Annual Christmas Raffle**

School Calendars will be distributed to all who placed an order tomorrow Tuesday the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The calendar captures many of the standout moments throughout the school year and the quality of the production is first rate. Thanks to Parents Council Chairperson Mary Howes and Kathleen Crosby for making this production happen and continuing this excellent publication. Sincere thanks to all families for generously supporting the Christmas Raffle this year. The support has been outstanding in terms of purchasing tickets and also many thanks to all who donated such wonderful prizes.

### **Christmas Letters from 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Class & Sleeping Out For The Homeless & Athy Community Services Award**

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Classes recently wrote letters to the residents of St. Vincent's Nursing Home in Athy. This kind gesture organised by Ms Murphy's Class was much appreciated by those living in St. Vincent's and emblematic of the kindness the children in Ballyadams N.S practice.

Well done to Lar Harrington in Mr Mullooly's 2<sup>nd</sup> Class and his Mother Ruth who braved the cold to sleep out overnight and raise much needed funds and awareness for the plight of the homeless in recent times.

A special word of recognition for our own Luke Doogue who was awarded the Athy Services Community Award in recent weeks for the role he plays in supporting his local community. Well done Luke.

### **Christmas Performances & Images From School**

All classes took part in producing a Christmas performance in recent days which may be viewed by following the link below. Poetry, readings, songs and drama were to the fore and the children enjoyed preparing and performing their pieces immensely. We are very proud of their efforts. We invite you to view and enjoy the Christmas performances by following the link below. Pictures from around our school and classes in recent times can be viewed by following the link below to the Photo Gallery section of our school website. The creativity and endeavour of the children is in full flow. <https://www.ballyadamsns.com/photo-gallery.html>

### **Schoolbooks Sent Home**

Schoolbooks will be sent home with the children today Monday the 21<sup>st</sup> of December and tomorrow Tuesday the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please ensure the schoolbooks are stored safely over the Christmas. This is a precautionary measure in the event schools will not re – open in January and should we be instructed to operate Remote - Learning. Many thanks.

### **Christmas Wish**

I would like to wish all our pupils, your families and all our staff a happy, blessed and peaceful Christmas. Stay safe and rest well.

Is mise le meas,

R. Stapleton