

## *February Newsletter*

### **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.

### **Enrolment**

We are accepting enrolment applications for September 2020. Please contact Pam in the office for an enrolment pack or see our website [www.ballyadamsns.com](http://www.ballyadamsns.com) for information regarding enrolment.

### **School Uniform**

Children are expected to wear their school uniform on all days except for designated P.E Days. Many thanks for your cooperation.

### **Catholic Schools Week**

We celebrated Catholic Schools week in recent weeks. The children practiced random acts of kindness, experiencing gratitude & complementing others. Our Prayer Service celebrated the theme 'Living In Harmony With Gods Creation'. The children enjoyed sharing their many talents during our school 'Talent Sharing Assembly'.

### **Communion & Confirmation**

Mrs. Malone's First Holy Communion Class celebrated their Candle Ceremony in Ballyadams Church January 26<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Holden & Mr. Mullooly's Confirmation Classes participated in their Enrolment Ceremony last Sunday. Dates for upcoming ceremonies are listed in the calendar section of the school website. [www.ballyadamsns.com](http://www.ballyadamsns.com) Best wishes to all our classes receiving the sacraments.

### **Christmas Shows**

Our Christmas Shows were a joy to behold. I would like to applaud the amazing talent of the children in our school. Their superb performances ensured 'Eddie The Penguin Saves The World' & 'Sherlock & Cinders' were a tremendous success. Sincere thanks to all those involved in contributing to the success of the shows and the incredible hard work invested by the staff in Ballyadams preparing the children for two unforgettable nights on the stage.

### **Thanks**

A big word of thanks to all families for their generous support of our recent Christmas Raffle & Annual Bake Sale. Thanks to our dedicated Parents Council for organising both events.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Class Charity Fundraiser**

Our 6<sup>th</sup> Class pupils recently organised their 'Bric A Brac' sale. The children succeeded in raising €400 in aid of former pupil Aidan Brennan's upcoming volunteering trip to Zambia. We wish Aidan well in his humanitarian endeavours.

### **Green Schools**

Our Green Schools Committee are continuing their activities in pursuance of the theme of 'Globalization Litter & Waste'. Thanks to Mrs. Burke for guiding the committee and all the children in the school in promoting the message to reduce our carbon footprint, cut down on use of plastics and tinfoil and being mindful of the little things we can do to help play our part in protecting the environment.

### **Science Blast Competition**

Mrs. Murray's 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Classes will travel to the RDS on March 3<sup>rd</sup> to take part in the ESB Science Blast Showcase. The children will demonstrate their intriguing project titled, 'How To Catch A Thief Using Chromatography'. We wish the children every success and thanks to Mrs. Murray for overseeing this excellent project.

### **Junior Entrepreneur Programme / J.E.P!**

Our 5<sup>th</sup> Class are diligently preparing to launch an exciting product for our school community in the coming weeks. Our budding entrepreneurs in 5<sup>th</sup> Class are developing 'Amber Shine' a non – chemical, organic surface cleaner. They intend to produce, package & market this useful household product in the coming weeks.

### **Pitch**

We encourage children to use our playing pitches at break times provided they use spare footwear / boots and wear spare clothing.

### **Swimming**

Pupils from 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class will commence swimming lessons in Portlaoise Leisure Centre on Thursday February 27<sup>th</sup>. These lessons will run for 6 weeks. Children are charged €5 per week or €30 for the six weeks. Payment can be made through the office or through our e-payment facility.

### **Hurling & Camogie**

Hurling & Camogie training will resume for the children shortly. Rugby coaching takes place under the guidance of Tadhg Kelleher of Leinster Rugby each Friday.

### **Music Generation**

Kim Melia is overseeing a musical programme at present. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Classes receive instruction in the recorder and children from our senior classes receive woodwind instrument tuition.

### **Outstanding Requisites/Book Rental or Fees**

Please contact the school to finalise payment of any outstanding balances for Requisites, Book Rental, Music Lesson, Swimming etc. Payment can be made through the online payment system or through the office (cheque/cash only).

### **Upcoming Half - Day School Closures**

There will be two half day closures to facilitate training for staff in the new Primary Language Curriculum. We will be *closing @12noon Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March & Friday May 1<sup>st</sup> @12noon.*

#### **Reminder of School Closures 2019/2020**

- **February Midterm:** Monday Feb 17th - Friday 21<sup>st</sup> (Week)
- **March 13<sup>th</sup>:** Half Day In-Service
- **Monday March 16<sup>th</sup>**
- **Closed for St. Patrick's Day Bank Holiday** - Tuesday March 17th
- **Easter:** Close Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April and reopen Monday April 20<sup>th</sup>
- **May 1<sup>st</sup>:** Half Day In-Service
- **Closing for the Summer Holidays on Friday June 26<sup>th</sup> 2020**

#### **Standardised School Closures for School Year 2020/21**

- Halloween Break 2020: Monday 26th October 2020 to Friday 30th October.
- Christmas 2020: Closing on Tuesday 22nd December 2020 – Re-open on Wednesday 6th January 2021.
- Easter 2021: Closing on Friday 26th March 2021 – Re-open on Monday 12th April 2021.

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Mr. R. Stapleton  
Principal