

St. Joseph's National School



Ballyadams, via Athy, Co. Laois

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September Newsletter

Welcome to the 2021 / 22 school year. We wish all our pupils a happy, healthy and productive year in school. We would especially like to welcome all our new pupils in Ms. Murran's Junior Infants and congratulate them all for settling in so well to school in Ballyadams N.S

Opening Times and Morning Supervision

Morning supervision does not begin until **9:10am** each morning. In the interests of health & safety we would ask that pupils are not on school grounds before 9.10am. Thank you for your cooperation.

First Penance & First Holy Communion

The children in Ms Holden's 3rd & 4th Class celebrated their Sacrament Of First Penance recently in Ballyadams Church. The children were treated to a reception in the school after the service. A selection of photos from the celebration can be visited here on our school website <https://www.ballyadamsns.com/>

Best wishes to the boys and girls in 3rd & 4th Class who will be celebrating their First Holy Communion next Saturday 25th September. 3rd Class will celebrate the Sacrament at 11am and 4th Class will have their First Holy Communion Mass at 12.30pm. Both masses will be streamed live on the Ballyadams Parish facebook account.

Junior Infants & Fáilte!

For the current 2021/22 School Year we are delighted to welcome seventeen new Junior Infants and a new pupil to Senior Infants. We also welcome a new pupil to 2nd Class. All the boys and girls who have joined the school community are adding much joy to the school and enjoying their experiences both interacting and learning together in their new school as you can see from the photos on our school website <https://www.ballyadamsns.com/> We wish all families who have joined the school a very warm welcome.

Covid 19

Thanks to all families for their continued vigilance in minimizing the risk of Covid 19. A big thank you to all the boys and girls and their teachers for their care and consideration when in school to consistently observe good hand hygiene and minimize the risk of Covid 19. Our school Covid 19 Response Plan may be accessed on our school website <https://www.ballyadamsns.com/school-covid-information.html> Any changes to the Response Plan or schools approaches going forward will be communicated to all parent(s).

Welcome Ms. Murran & Ms Westgate

We are delighted to welcome our Junior & Senior Infant Teacher Ms Anne Marie Murran to Ballyadams N.S for the next number of months. We also welcome our new Special Needs Assistant Ms Andrea Westgate to our staff in Ballyadams N.S Best wishes to you both.

Farewell Pamela Cooney – Celebration 30th September

We are greatly saddened that our incredible school secretary Ms Pamela Cooney has bid farewell to Ballyadams N.S Pam has been an incredible school secretary and friend to all in Ballyadams N.S for the past fourteen years. In that time Pam has touched and enriched the lives the children, families and staff in Ballyadams. We wish Pam every blessing and happiness in her new role as school secretary in Dunamase

College in Portlaoise. To celebrate Pam's extraordinary service to Ballyadams N.S we will be welcoming Pam back to Ballyadams N.S the afternoon of the 30th September for a special presentation and school celebration.

Non Uniform Day & Messages For Pam Friday 24th September

This Friday we are hosting a special Non – Uniform Day for all the children in Ballyadams N.S. Boys and girls from 1st – 6th Class are invited to donate E2 for the Non – Uniform Day which will go towards a present to be presented to Pam next week.

We are inviting all families who wish to write a message to Pam to do so tomorrow night and send to school Friday 24th. The messages will be included in a special Book Of Messages which will be presented to Pam next week.

The position of part time school secretary has been advertised in recent weeks. Please visit the following web link to view the full advertisement <https://www.educationposts.ie/post/view/159972>

Parking

The car park at the school is for **staff parking only** and should not be used for parking, dropping off or collecting children. **This applies at 3pm, 9:20am and 2pm.** All parents are asked to use the car park adjacent to the church. **Please bring this notice to the attention of child minders and anyone who might drop or collect your child from school.** From a Health & Safety for all our pupils, I would ask that good practice is observed in this area. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

GAA Coaching Laois GAA

We are delighted to welcome Laois GAA Coach Jason to Ballyadams N.S for the next number of weeks. Jason will be coaching the children in 5th & 6th Class and 3rd & 4th Class for a number of weeks.

Creative Cluster Schools Excellence Programme

We are very pleased to be part of the 2021/22 Creative Cluster Schools Excellence Programme. We are proud to be one of 86 schools to be selected to be on the programme which will involve promoting new ways of collaborating imaginatively between schools and developing creativity of both student learners and teachers. We hope to use our recently upgraded high speed broadband infrastructure and new school Ipads alongside access to Virtual Reality & Augmented Reality technologies to deepen the learning experiences of the children in classrooms throughout the school year.

Digital Learning Platform Seesaw

As part of our whole school Digital Learning journey our students will be utilising Digital Technologies to enhance their learning throughout the school year. All teachers will be receiving continued professional development in the use of digital technologies and we look forward to integrating digital technologies into pupil teaching and learning.

Each child will have a new Seesaw account created. Each Thursday the children will be encouraged to complete an item of homework via the Seesaw whole school learning platform. Seesaw will be utilised to enhance the children's digital literacy and also to ensure continuity of learning in the event of remote learning. Please contact your child(s) Class Teacher if you have any issue accessing your child(s) Seesaw account.

P.E. Times

Tracksuits may be worn on P.E days. On **all** other days your child should be in their school uniform. Children who wish to play football/games on the playing field at lunch time should bring a spare tracksuit bottoms/shorts and football boots/old runners to school. Spare footwear & clothing will also be required for the pitch as we enter the Autumn & Winter months.

Marking Clothes

All tops, jumpers and coats should be clearly marked with your child's name. There are a number of coats, jumpers and trousers left unclaimed in the school. You are welcome to call and claim items if you please.

Parents' Council

The Parents' Council A.G.M. took place virtually Monday 6th of September. The officers elected were as follows; Chairperson: Mary Nolan. Vice Chairperson Pamela Greene. Secretary Mary Redmond Vice Secretary Treasurer Gemma Day. Vice Treasurer Denise Rainey. Best wishes to all newly elected officers and sincere thanks to Mary Howes and all parents who have given great service in the roles in recent years. Thanks to all parents in the school community for your continued support of school activities and our important fundraising efforts.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Ballyadams N.S Parents Council will take place **Monday 27th September at 8.00pm on Zoom**. The Parents Council have always added enormously to the fabric and spirit of school life in Ballyadams N.S. New members are very much welcome to attend the meetings and take part and support our important fundraising initiatives and events throughout the school year.

Parenting Talks links

Laois & Offaly Library Services have put together a series of online Parenting talks. The programme of talks is free and open to everyone including parents, caregivers, healthcare professionals, teachers, special needs assistants and all those working with children and young people. Each session will be delivered over Zoom. Details of each talk and how to register can be found at the following link: <https://midd.me/OKFV>

Used Clothing Collection

There will be a used clothing collection the 3rd November. Rewearable clothes, paired shoes, handbags & belts, towels & blankets can all be donated. All items should be packed securely and dropped at the front of the school from 9am – 10am Wednesday 3rd of November. The school will be awarded a payment for all clothes collected. Thank you for your anticipated support.

Music Generation

Tuition will resume this Friday 24th September for all children partaking in small group Woodwind Instrument tuition. Kim from Music Generation will be providing tuition for children from 3rd – 6th Class who are interested in learning to play the flute, clarinet and the saxophone. Lessons for all music generation students will resume next Friday 24th. **All children playing an instrument are asked to bring their instrument to school Friday 24th**. Kim will also be providing taster and introductory lessons for all children interested in playing a woodwind instrument in 3rd Class.

Lunches

As you are all aware we have a Healthy Eating policy in the school. Thanks to all families for supporting Healthy Lunch practices for the children.

School Policies, School Website & Twitter

We would ask that you familiarize yourselves with our school policies. Our policies are accessible on our school website www.ballyadamsns.com. Follow St. Joseph's N.S Ballyadams on @ballyadamsns for updates and information throughout the school year. Please contact Sharon in the office if any family contact information needs to be updated.

Invitations

Birthdays are great occasions and a source of immense joy to children. Organising your child's birthday party is great fun but with classes of 20+ it would be unreasonable to expect that any family would invite every member of the class to a celebration. Invitations delivered at school can unintentionally cause hurt when one or more are not included. Please ensure no invitations are issued by children through the school.

Requisites/E-Payments

Thank you to parent(s) for payment of requisites. Please contact Sharon in the school office to complete your payment of requisites if not done so already. Remember that 24 Hour accident insurance cover from Allianz is provided within that payment. If you have any queries or wish to seek further information/clarification, please contact Sharon in the office 0598627226.

Reminder of School Closures 2021 / 22

Halloween Midterm: Monday October 25th – Friday October 29th

Half Day 12pm School Closure November 19th : Staff Training Primary Language Curriculum

Christmas: Close Wednesday 22nd December & re – open Thursday January 6th 2022.

February Midterm: Week – Monday 21st – Friday 25th

Close for St. Patrick's Day Bank Holiday March 17th

Close Friday March 18th

Easter: Close Friday 8th & re – open Monday April 25th

Close for the Summer Holidays on Friday June 24th 2022

School Contact

Please contact our school office 0598627226 9 – 12pm each day Monday – Friday. You can contact myself on principal.ballyadams@gmail.com and our school secretary secretary.ballyadams@gmail.com

Should you wish to contact a Class Teacher please call the school office to schedule a phone appointment or you may contact our teachers on their school email addresses.

We wish all pupils and all members of our school community every blessing, happiness and success in all their pursuits in Ballyadams N.S in the 2021/ 22 school year.

Ní neart go cur le chéile.

Is mise le meas,
R.Stapleton
Principal