

**Parents Association  
St. Mary's National School,  
Ballygunner**

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**Newsletter  
Issue 49 – Summer 2017**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As the 2016/17 school year comes to an end, it is an opportune time to reflect on our year's work here at St. Mary's National School. It has been a progressive year with many notable achievements across our school community.

I wish to acknowledge our outstanding annual pupil school attendance rates. This school year it stands at 96% and sends a clear message to all the priority that primary school education receives across our community.

I wish to thank our Board of Management for their support and guidance, all our school staff for their hard work and commitment to our pupils and all of you our parents/guardians for the interest you have in your child's education.

Also, I wish to extend sincere thanks to our dedicated Parents Association, for their enthusiasm, cooperation and energy. Most especially those volunteers who gave so much time on a weekly basis, to enhancing our school library and garden.

Our trophy cabinet is again laden with cups and shields from school quizzes, cross country running, track and field and Gaelic Games. Well done to all those pupils who represented our school and their families so well throughout the year. The highlight has to be our school show

'Charlie's Choccolato Adventure' staged in early April.

I wish our departing 6th class pupils the very best as they move to Secondary School. They are a talented group of pupils who are a credit to their teachers and families. This year a 6th Class Celebration Mass in St. Mary's Church is scheduled for Tuesday 27th June at 7.30pm.

I am pleased to inform you there will be extensive painting works in seven classrooms on school office corridor this Summer and an application for funding to upgrade pupil furniture will be submitted to Department of Education and Skills next week.

The Diocesan Catholic School Advisory Team visited our school on Tuesday 23rd May. They were very impressed with the enthusiasm, confidence and understanding shown by our pupils and hugely complimentary of 'the vibrant, happy and relaxed atmosphere in the school, creating a wonderful environment for growth and learning'.

Finally, I wish all associated with St. Mary's National School a restful and enjoyable Summer holiday. Here's hoping we will all return refreshed on Thursday 31st August when pupils return to begin the new school year!

Killian O'Reilly  
Principal Teacher



## What's going on at School...

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### \* Communion and Confirmation

Congratulations to all our pupils who received the Holy Sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation in St. Mary's Church Ballygunner in May. A special thanks to all our teachers for their help preparing the pupils throughout the year.

### \* 6<sup>th</sup> Class Graduation Mass

A special graduation mass took place on the evening of June 27<sup>th</sup> at St. Mary's church for all our 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils who are leaving us this year. Each pupil was presented with a graduation certificate and a class photo signed by everyone. We wish all of them well as they start Secondary School this September.

### \* Sports Day

We had a very enjoyable evening in the Regional Sport Centre on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June where our teachers, pupils and families attended and took part in a fun filled evening. Feedback from the pupils was very positive.

### \* 4<sup>th</sup> Write a Book Project

Ms. Frewen and Ms. Whittle's 4<sup>th</sup> classes took part in a Write a Book project recently, organised by the Teachers' Centre. The theme was the history of the school. Ms. Frewen's class wrote about a famous past pupil, Jack O' Donoghue. Ms. Whittle's class wrote about the history of our school from 1772 to the present. The book launch took place in the Woodlands Hotel on Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup> June. The guest speaker was John Burke of Irelandopedia and Historopedia fame. Three children were chosen to represent their class, Leah Rooney, Maureen Corrigan and David Leavey were there from Ms Frewen's class. Grace Geraghty, Sam Harte and Millie Hoban Sloan represent Ms. Whittle's class. Well done to all involved!

### \* Library

Huge thanks to the Parents' Association Library Committee, who have spent many hours sorting, fixing and cleaning out books from both our Junior and Senior Libraries. And also a big thank you to all the families who donated books this year. The library committee invested in more factual books to help your children research their projects and the children's favourites as listed in the suggestion box such as Bear Grylls, Soccer Squad, Rainbow Magic, David Walliams, Dork Diaries Judy Moody, Horrid Henry and many more! They have literally had thousands of books pass through their hands in the last few weeks. If you find any school library books at home over the summer, please return them in September. All donations of books to our school libraries are welcome at any time!

## Sports

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### \* GAA

Best wishes to Donagh Cooney in 6<sup>th</sup> Class who will represent our school by playing in Croke Park at a half time exhibition match during an All-Ireland Semi-Final in Croke Park this August.



Laoise Forrest, also in 6<sup>th</sup> Class, will have the opportunity to play at half time during the All-Ireland Final in September. Good luck Laoise and well done again to all who took part in this year's successful Mini 7's hurling and camogie County Final triumphs. Well done to Ciara Berry who had the honour of playing in Thurles's famous Semple Stadium last Sunday during the half time break of the Waterford vs Cork Munster Championship game.

### -U-13 Hurling

In the Eastern Championship, victory in all of the group games earned a semi-final spot against Mount Sion. A hard fought victory at home set up a final showdown in Walsh Park against St. Declans. The closest and toughest game of the year to date was only settled by a late goal and Donnacha Fitzpatrick received the coveted Billy Howlett Memorial Cup on behalf of his teammates for the 10<sup>th</sup> time in the history of our school.

It wasn't meant to be in the County Final as a close and tense game against the old rivals Lismore ended in a 2 point defeat. The width of the crossbar was all that denied the boys an unprecedented 4-in-a-row of County titles Fraher Field. A late late shot bounced back into play off the frame of the goal and despite a great effort by all it just wasn't to be on the day. Final score: Ballygunner 0-8 Lismore 2-4. Overall it was a fantastic year for hurling in our school as we won the U-11 and U-13 Eastern titles, as well as the Mini 7s County Title. Well done to all involved!

### -Camogie

It has been another fantastic year for Camogie here in School, where our Girls successfully defended each of the 5 Titles that they won last year in fine fashion. Following on from their Indoor Title victory in February and their Mini 7s County Title in March, the Girls went into the 13'aside Roinn A Campaign full of confidence.

Since January, scarcely has a School Day passed where the girls from fourth, fifth and sixth classes not been out on the GAA grounds of Ballygunner honing

their skills for the battles that lay ahead of them. And it is this hunger for training that served, and continues to do so, as their passport to the most elevated Theatres of Sporting Combat.

Jointly captained by Vicky O'Sullivan and Ciara Berry, the team cruised through the early Group Stages of the competition before defeating Holy Cross NS in the Eastern Final by 4-10 to 0-01.

The County Final Joust turned into another scoring fest for the Gunner Girls in Fraher Field as they condemned St Mary's NS, Dungarvan to an 8-08 to 0-1 defeat and bring the Roinn A Camogie County Title back to Ballygunner for the third time (2013, 2016 and 2017).

The school have now retained the Five Camogie Titles that they won last year and have gone on a 35 game unbeaten run across all competitions.

It is a truly remarkable achievement by a group of girls who are besotted with the Magical Hurl of Ash and it is an achievement that will ensure that the names of the 2016/2017 Sixth Class players of Laoise Forrest, Vicky O'Sullivan, Ciara Berry, Ana Cullinane, Alannah O'Sullivan, Sarah Power and Lauren Cullen will always be synonymous with the Glory Era of Camogie in the School.

#### \* 5-A-Side Soccer

The first Ballygunner 5-a-side soccer team ever competed in the Spar FAI 5-a-side competition. The 6<sup>th</sup> Class boys were fantastic and managed to win their county final. They then played the Munster Championship in Cork reaching the final also. The boys were eventually defeated by Nenagh Primary School. A huge achievement from the boys to reach the Munster Final in the school's first ever time competing in the competition. Well done to all the boys involved.

#### \* Athletics

Following Ballygunner School's great success at Waterford City Primary School Sports competition, many proceeded to County Final in Dungarvan.

Despite the bad weather on the day, St. Mary's brought home a large collection of medals.

##### Sprint

U9 Jack Power: 3rd, U10 Sarah Abullo: 2nd,  
U11 Grace Schultz: 1st, O12 Lauren Shiels: 1st

##### Relay

U9 Boys: 2nd Jack Power, Harry Kavanagh,  
Michael Fingleton, Eoin Kelly

U12 Boys: 2nd Rohit Das, Eoin Cuddihy, VJ  
Mooney, Kieran Caulfield

O12 Girls: 3rd Lauren Shiels, Eimear Walsh,  
Etse Oshiogwemoh, Isobel Eorrest

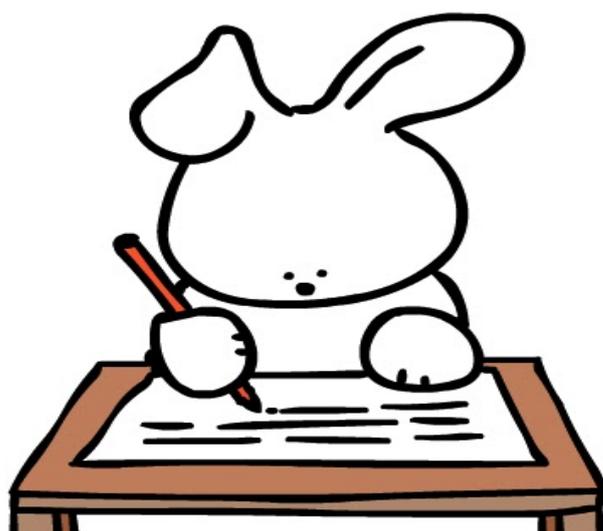
O12 Boys: 1st Alex Papatomas, Patrick Doyle,  
Jack Gear, Oliver Power

Well done boys and girls who competed on both days!

## New Teacher

The New Teachers for September are as follows:

2017/18 Class	Teacher	2016/17
<b>Jr. Infants:</b>	Deirdre Culllen	-
	Conor O'Neill	-
	Katie Slattery	-
<b>Sr. Infants:</b>	Emma Looney	Deirdre Culllen
	Maura Upton	Conor O'Neill
	Catherine Morris	Aoife Piper
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Class:</b>	Niamh Dennehy	Ciara McSweeney
	Laura Keating	Emma Looney
	Kerry Anne McCarthy	Maura Upton
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Class:</b>	Anne Marie Walsh	Deirdre Ogle
	Lisa Murphy	Laura Keating
	To be confirmed	Niamh Dennehy
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Class:</b>	Bina Glynn	Lisa Murphy
	Áine Barrett	Anne Marie Walsh
	Fionn Smith	Philip O'Leary
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Class:</b>	Colin Breheny	Bina Glynn
	Noeline Whittle	Áine Barrett
	Edward Kehoe	Fionn Smith
<b>5th class</b>	Jennie Dollard	Cathy Frewen
	Liz Kearney	Noeline Whittle
	Sinéad Power	Jennie Dollard
	Emma Tallon	Katie Slattery
<b>6th class</b>	Philip O'Leary	-
	Sandra Rellis	-
	Aileen Cummins	-
<b>Jr. Autism Unit:</b>	Aoife Piper	
<b>Sr. Autism Unit:</b>	Mary Cantwell	



## Parents Association Activities

### \* 6<sup>th</sup> class Disco

The Annual 6<sup>th</sup> Class Disco took place on Fri 9<sup>th</sup> June in the Scout hall Ballygunner. The Parents Association organized as a BIG THANK YOU to our 6<sup>th</sup> Class pupils for their help with and support of our Junior Infants through the Buddy System.

### \* AGM and New Offices

The AGM of the Parent Association will take place in early October. All parents are encouraged to attend the meeting and are welcome to join the Committee. We currently require a Vice-Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary for next year. Please contact the school office, if you are interested.

### \* Lost and Found

After the lovely sun came out, lots of jumpers, jackets, gloves, hats, etc ended up in the Lost and Found Box! However, most of them can't be returned to their owners, as there are no names on these.

For the coming school year, please make sure to write **FULL NAME** and **RE WRITE** if it's faded. The school will clear the box out as soon as school is over. Items in good condition go to Sue Ryder Charity Shop in Ballybricken, the rest goes to clothes bank.

### \* Garden News

Thanks to everyone for their continued support and hard work in our beautiful school garden. Since Easter, a lot of work has been done on our Senior Garden and it is looking great.

We now have a wormery in our school. Ms Whittle's 4th class have been happily vermicomposting for the last few months. They have to feed and water the 1,000 Tiger Worms daily! A very big thank you to Betty Kehoe of Savefood Waste for all the help and training.

Next year we are planning a DIY caterpillar as seen in schools bloom! It requires a large collection of colourful bottle tops, such as 7 up bottles etc.

Could you please put aside some over the summer and also some different textures to put on the outside wall such as 1 or two tiles, shells, mirrors and other such sensory items. If you have any outdoor colourful slabs stepping stones spare, they would be very welcome.

In case you are clearing out sheds/playroom book shelves etc, can you just think about checking with the school, as these could be very useful resources for our school garden.

## School Calendar Year 2017/18

	CLOSE	RE OPEN
School Year 17/18	-	Thu 31st Aug
Halloween Mid term Break	Fri 27th Oct *	Mon 6th Nov
Christmas Holidays	Fri 22nd Dec*	Mon 8th Jan
Spring Mid term Break	Wed 14th Feb	Mon 19th Feb
St. Patrick's day Weekend	Fri 16th Mar	Tue 20th Mar
Easter Holidays	Fri 23rd Mar *	Mon 9th Apr
May BH Weekend	Fri 4th May	Mon 14 <sup>th</sup> May
June BH Weekend	Fri 1st Jun	Tue 5th Jun
Summer Holidays	Fri 29th Jun*	-

\* Half Day: School closes at 12:00 noon.

## Kids Corner

*Knock, knock.. Who's there?.. Gladys ..Gladys who?*

Gladys the last day of school — no homework ALL SUMMER!

*Knock, knock.. Who's there?.. Justin...Justin who?*

Just in time for the last day of school!

Why was the teacher wearing sunglasses on the last day of school?

She had bright students!

*Knock, knock.. Who's there?.. Orange.. Orange who?*

Orange you glad it's the last day of school?

Why did the M&M go to summer school?

Because he really wanted to be a Smartie!

*Son:* I'm not going back to school ever again!

*Mother:* Why not?

*Son:* The teacher doesn't know a thing, all she does is ask questions!

*Knock, knock... Who's there?... B-4!... B-4 who?*

B-4 you leave school, thank your teacher for a great year!



