

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

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**Newsletter
Issue 52 – Easter 2018**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It has been an extremely busy, yet shortened second term here at St. Mary's National School and I wish to thank you all for your continuing support as we approach the Easter holidays on Friday 23rd March. Storm Emma was a significant event, the likes of which none of our pupils, recent past pupils or indeed parents! had seen before. Thankfully we were all able to return to a secure, safe and warm building on Tuesday 6th March.

I wish to acknowledge all our school staff. They are the single most important asset to our school. Their commitment and hard-work ensures that our pupils are always striving towards their full potential. Please remember teaching staff are available by appointment via Anne Quealy our school secretary on 051 878388.

Our Board of Management's work is on-going regarding the New Child Protection Procedures for Primary Schools. There will be further details following our next Board meeting in April and I expect some changes to how parents/guardians and visitors access our school and playground during school hours.

Our Board of Management supports the establishment of an ICT Working Group as we

plan to make ICT more available to enhance teaching and learning for pupils and staff. I welcome any assistance from parents/guardians. Please email office@ballygunner.ie if you think you have expertise/knowledge that may help.

I wish to acknowledge our teaching staff's work on the New Primary Language Curriculum in both Irish and English, the review on timing of Pupil Reports and our Homework Policy. I wish to compliment our pupils on all their hard work and achievements this term. There were many notable successes. Special mention goes to **all** involved in Seachtain na Gaelige Ceolchoirm (concert) on 15th/16th March. Bhí an seó go h-iontach!

Sincere thanks to our Parents Association who continue to work tirelessly in support of our school. Their recent Book Sale was a fantastic fundraiser and I encourage everyone to attend the Quiz on Friday 13th April in Oskar's Bar, Dunmore Road.

There was great celebration in Newpark Hotel Kilkenny on Friday 9th March when St. Mary's N.S. won 'Large School of the Year' at the Cumann na mBunscol GAA National Awards. Huge credit to all pupils and staff who worked to complete our winning project, most especially Ms. Kennedy. The trophy and project will be on display here at school.

Our 2nd and 6th class pupils and their teachers continue to prepare for the sacraments of Communion (Saturday 26th May) and Confirmation (Friday 18th May). I wish to extend a sincere thank you to Fr. Liam Power P.P. and Olive Ruane Parish Catechist for their support. Both ceremonies will take place in St. Mary's Church Ballygunner.

Finally on behalf of the Board of Management and Staff I wish you all a very Happy Easter. *Please drive carefully on our roads and we will see everyone back at school on Monday 9th April.*

Principal Teacher
Killian O'Reilly

What's going on at School...

* **Seachtain na Gaeilge**

Bhí Seachtain na Gaeilge ar siúl sa scoil seo againne ón 12ú lá go dtí an 17ú lá de Mhí Márta. Bhí comórtais, ceol traidisiúnta, tráth na gceist, am scéalaíochta, drámaíocht, céilí agus ceolchoirm ar siúl i rith na seachtaine. Tá súil againn gur bhain na páistí sár-thaithneamh as na h-imeachtaí go léir.

Maith sibh!

Bina Glynn

* **2nd class First Penance**

The 2nd class children celebrated their first penance on the 8th March in St Mary's church Ballygunner.

The mass was co-celebrated by our own Fr. Liam and other priests, from neighbouring parishes. It was a very special occasion for the children and their families, as it marked another important milestone in the 2nd class year.

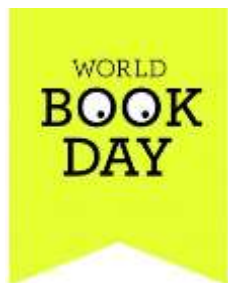
As always Fr. Liam's thoughtful contribution to the ceremony added to the occasion. The choir performed fantastically on the night, supported by the talented musician Declan Foley with the very special choral version of Ar nAthair being particularly memorable.

The 2nd class children now continue with their preparations for their First Holy Communion which takes place on May 26th 2018.

Lisa Murphy

* **World Book day/Book character day and Book sale**

Our planned World Book Day Book Sale and follow up Book Character Day had to be rescheduled due to the snow. All celebrations happened together on Friday March 9th instead. A great day was had by all. The parent volunteers were busy all day as class after class streamed in dressed as princesses, pirates, Harry Potters, Gangsta Grannies, witches and wizards to name but a few. Each class was delighted with the wide array of books on sale and came away delighted with their purchases. Reading, drawing, quizzes and storytelling were the order of the day as classes celebrated reading and books.



Thanks to all who made the day such a success – those who donated books, the parents who helped sort the books and prepare the hall for the sale, parent volunteers on the day, all who bought books and all those who dressed up! It was a great day celebrated by the whole school community!

Noeline Whittle

* **School Library Update**

Computerised systems for the library have been purchased and are in place. The job of scanning each book, reviewing its contents and setting up a cataloguing system is now under way. The childrens' individual library cards are currently being laminated and numbered. Lots of hard work completed to date by a number of very dedicated staff. The Junior Library is next on our list. We look forward to the children returning to a highly organised library soon!

Therese O'Shea

* **Cake Sale**

The 6th class cake sale was a great success and €3,000 was raised for local charities, Irish Cancer Society, WSPCA and Childline. Thank you to all who supported this event. Well done to 6th class and their teachers!

Sports

* **Hurling News**

-Internal Schools Hurling League

February marked the end of the 3rd & 4th Class hurling league. Over 70 players took part in this league which was run over a seven week period. Great skill and heart was shown throughout the tournament with Cork coming out winners at the end of a hard fought final. Winners were presented with medals after the final. Thank you to Mr. O'Neill for providing medals.

As the 3rd & 4th class league finished the 5th & 6th class league started. Approximately 50 players are currently taking part in this tournament. The level of skill shown at this age is exceptional and it augurs well for the upcoming outdoor tournaments. The final of the league will be played on Wednesday 28th March.

Well done to all taking part.

Philip O'Leary

-Indoor hurling

Third and fourth class boys took part in the recent indoor hurling competition in Gaelscoil na nDeise, Gracedieu. On day 1 we beat St Stephen's, Ferrybank and Gaelscoil na nDeise. On day 2 we beat St Declan's and drew with Mount Sion and St Stephen's. St Stephen's won the competition. Well done to all of the boys on a terrific effort.

-7 a side hurling

Day one of this competition has been played at the time of writing. We beat Gaelscoil Port Lairge and Scoil Lorcan in our two games. The competition was held up by the snow. We are through to day 2.

Derek O'Neill

*** Camogie**

-Indoor Camogie Champions 2018

St Mary's NS, Ballygunner successfully launched their 2018 Cumann na mBunscol Camogie Season by defending the Allianz Indoor Camogie Title for the fifth year in succession back in early February.

After a series of five round robin games played over two days, it was Ballygunner NS and Portlaw NS that emerged from the smoke to draw swords in the final.

Portlaw NS landed some jaw crunching blows on the Defending Champions throughout the match and looked to have their rivals on the ropes on a number of occasions, before a Holly O'Sullivan inspired Gunners' Outfit eventually emerged victorious by the narrowest of margins.

Team Captain Ali Ferguson spoke magnanimously afterwards in her victory speech and paid tribute to the increasing efforts that Primary Schools like Portlaw NS are putting into Camogie as the Gap closes ominously between Ballygunner NS and their Rivals.

The St Mary's NS team comprised of Aggie Hutchinson, Ava Peelo-Whelan, Caoimhe O'Regan-Duggan, Emma Berry, Eva Finan, Sarah Abullo, Zoe Raethorne, Amber Phelan, Holly O'Sullivan and Ali Ferguson (Team Captain).

-Camogie Training

Forty two girls from Fifth and Sixth Classes are training regularly at lunchtimes and after school as they prepare for the busy Camogie Season after Easter.

Once again, the School will field teams in both

the A and B Divisions of the Cumann na mBunscol Primary Schools' Competitions to give as many girls as possible the opportunity to represent the School on the Field of Play.

The School has already qualified for the Mini 7s Eastern Finals after victories over Passage NS and Gaelscoil Phort Láirge, as the team aims for a four-in-a-row of titles.

With the pitches drying up after the Easter Holidays, we look forward to having over 80 girls out training frequently as the forty -plus girls from Fourth Class, who took part in our Internal School Leagues before Christmas are chomping at the bit to get going again.

Colin Breheny

Parent's Association

The Parent's Association finally held their book sale on Friday March 9th along with dress up book character day. The children all looked amazing. A big thank you to everyone who donated their much loved books and who helped out on the day, we raised a wonderful €1,800. Thank you all.

Our table quiz social night will be held in Oskar's on Friday the 13th of April, all welcome to come along. This is always an enjoyable social night out and a great way to meet up with other parents from the school. There will be spot prizes and a raffle on the night. If you are unable to attend and would like to buy a ticket(€5) to support, please return your ticket to the office with your name and contact number on it and it will be entered into the door prize on the night.

We are hoping to have our own 'World Diversity Day' at the school. We are asking parents/guardians or family members for help in doing this. If you are originally from outside Ireland and would like to come and talk to the children about your country we would love your support. Please leave your details at the office for the attention of the Parent's Association and we will be in touch with you.

On behalf of the Parent's Association we would like to wish everyone a Happy Easter and enjoy the break and the chocolate!

Ruth Curran

Dates For Your Diary

Fri 23 Mar School closes from 12:00 for Easter Holidays

Mon 9 Apr School re-opens

Fri 13 Apr Table Quiz

Fri 4 May School closes for Summer Mid-Term Break

Mon 14 May School re-opens

Fri 18 May 6th Class Confirmation

Sat 26 May 2nd Class First Communion

Thu 7 Jun School Sports day in RSC

Fri 8 Jun 6th Class Disco



Follow the school on Twitter
@BallygunnerNS
(You can see the post on the web site: www.ballygunner.ie)

Our school sports night is booked for Thursday June 7th in the RSC.



Kids Corner

Q: What kind of jewelry does the Easter Bunny wear?

A: 14 carrot gold!

Q: What happened when the Easter Bunny met the rabbit of his dreams?

A: They lived hoppily ever after!

Q: What do you call a rabbit that tells good jokes?

A: A funny bunny!

Q: What did the rabbits do after their wedding?

A: They went on a bunnymoon!

Q: How do you know that carrots are good for your eyes?

A: Have you ever seen a rabbit wear glasses?

Q: What do you call a bunny with fleas?

A: Bugs Bunny!

Q: Why do we paint Easter eggs?

A: Because it's too hard to wallpaper them!

Q: What do you get if you cross a bee and a bunny?

A: A honey bunny!

Q: What is the Easter Bunny's favorite type of music?

A: Hip Hop!

Q: What did the rabbit say to the carrot?

A: It's been nice gnawing you!

Q: How does Easter end?

A: With a R!

Q: Knock, Knock

Who's there?

Easter

Easter Who?

Easter Bunny!

Q: What do you call a mischievous egg?

A: A practical yolker

Q: What do you call an egg from outer space?

A: An "Egg-stra terrestrial"

Q: What sport are the eggs good at?

A: Running

Q: How did the students feel getting their Easter Holidays?

A: Egg-static and Egg-cited.