

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

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

As the 2017/18 school year comes to an end it is an opportune time to reflect on our year's work here at St. Mary's N.S. It was a year of on-going development with progress across many areas. We all survived two very significant weather events, Hurricane Ophelia and Storm Emma. A huge WELL DONE to our pupils on all their achievements. The highlight for me was 'World Diversity Day' held recently in our school hall. I wish to acknowledge our outstanding annual pupil school attendance rates. This school year it stands at 95% 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. Their sausage blaas were a real treat when Ian Dempsey and Today FM were here last October! Funds raised this school year will be spent on Maths resource, I.T., ASD classes trampoline and playground markings.

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 was our Camogie Team

successfully defending their county title and former pupil and Munster Rugby star Jack O'Donoghue visiting us to present medals. 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 26th June.

Our Communion and Confirmation Classes celebrated their special day in great style. We thank our priests Fr. Liam and Fr. John for all their support.

Looking ahead to 2018/19 we hope to focus on improving I.T. access for pupils, finish our Junior Library project and apply for funding to resurface our playground. Please note as per Children First National Guidelines there will be significant change in how parents and visitors access our school for 2018/19 school year. Our Board of Management will issue details to all families in August.

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 **Friday 31st August** when pupils return to begin the new school year!

Killian O'Reilly
Principal Teacher

School Calendar Year 2018/19

	CLOSE	RE OPEN
School Year 18/19	-	Fri 31st Aug
Halloween Mid term Break	Fri 26th Oct *	Mon 5th Nov
Christmas Holidays	Fri 21st Dec*	Mon 7th Jan
Spring Mid term Break	Fri 15th Feb	Mon 25th Feb
St. Patrick's day Weekend	Fri 15th Mar	Tue 19th Mar
Easter Holidays	Fri 12th Apr *	Mon 29th Apr
May BH Weekend	Fri 3rd May	Tue 7th May
June BH Weekend	Fri 31st May	Tue 4th Jun
Summer Holidays	Fri 28th Jun*	-

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

What's going on at School...

*** Communion and Confirmation**

Congratulations to all our pupils who received the Holy Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. A special thanks to all our teachers for their help preparing the pupils during the year.

Confirmation

Pupils in 6th Class were confirmed by Bishop Alphonsus Cullinane on Friday the 18th of May. The pupils spent many months preparing for this and they did themselves proud on the day. All in attendance would agree that the participation of pupils through singing, prayers and readings was excellent. Many thanks to all the parents and families who attended on the day and for their continued support throughout the year.

First Holy Communion

Congratulations to all our 2nd class pupils, who received their First Holy Communion, at St. Mary's Church, on Saturday May 26th. Mass was celebrated by Fr. John Treacy, assisted by Fr. Liam Power. The children participated sincerely and prayerfully in the ceremony, with all music and singing provided by the pupils themselves. This added greatly to what was a very special occasion, for the children and their families. Well done to all involved.

*** 6th Class Graduation Mass**

The Graduation Mass for the 6th Class pupils took place in St. Mary's Church, Ballygunner on Tuesday 26th June at 7pm.

*** Sports Day**

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

*** Multicultural Day**

We had a Multicultural Day in school on Friday 15th June. A wonderful day was had by all. The children's projects on different countries were all displayed in the hall and parents, grandparents and children alike all went down to view them. Huge thanks to all the parents who came in to talk about their native countries before the children did the projects, and also for coming in to answer any questions on the day.

*** Acknowledgment**

Congratulations to everyone involved in our school show last year Charlie's Chocolatey Adventure, which received a Nomination for "Best Youth Performance." in the Green Room Awards in the News and Star.

*** Autism Awareness Week**

On Friday 4th May the whole school turned various shades of blue in support of Autism Awareness Week. Thanks to the Parents Association and Mrs. Piper for arranging the blue balloons which were released by the two ASD classes during lunch time. Some classes even had a chance to sample some blue buns!

*** Library**

The senior library is functioning well using the new scanner system. There is a slight delay in applying the scanner system to the junior library but we hope to have it working by September.

If anybody has two hours per week to check books in and out please contact Derek O Neill. Finally we plan to have the author Marita Conlon McKenna visit the school on October 9.

If you find any school library books at home during the summer holidays, please return them to the school in

September. All donations of books to our school libraries are welcome at any time!



*** Happy Feet**

Well done to Sharmishta Das and all her pupils – children and adults - for a wonderful performance of Indian Classical Dance at W.A.M.A. on Saturday 9th June. The costumes, dances, hand movements and facial expressions were wonderful to watch. The proceeds of the concert were donated to "Rainbows" at St. Mary's N.S., in Ballygunner. Rainbows is a peer support programme to help and support children and young people who are experiencing grief through bereavement or separation. It is run in many schools and communities throughout Ireland. A huge thank you to Sharmishta from all in Ballygunner N.S.

Sports

*** GAA**

-Hurling News

Boys Hurling for this year.

The boys won the under 12 seven a side competition in Carriganore on March 20th. It is the third year in a row that the school has won this competition. Unfortunately they lost the county final to Tallow.

In May the boys under 11 hurling team won their competition for the sixth year in a row.

Well done to them.



On May 31 the under 13 boys beat St Declan's in Walsh park to win the Billy Howlett trophy for the fifth year in a row. However they lost the county final to Lismore in a very close match.

Over the year the boys won three football trophies and three hurling trophies. Well done to all of the teachers who coached and managed the teams.

-Camogie News

St Mary's NS continued their rich vein of form on the Camogie Scene for 2018, when they retained all five Cumann na mBunscol Titles this year. This is the third year in a row that the School has completed this wonderful feat.

With the Indoor Title won in February and the Mini 7s County Title won in March, all eyes turned to the 13-aside competition from April – June where Portlaw NS were tipped to challenge Ballygunner's dominance this year.

In the Mother of all Battles in the dying days of May, Ballygunner emerged bloody but victorious from a Walsh Park showdown with their keenest rivals. With Emma Berry in inspired form between the sticks and Holly O'Sullivan scoring two crucial goals, Ballygunner eventually quashed the Portlaw revolution in a fine game of Camogie.

Team Captain Kelsie Obanya carved her name in the history books by becoming the first player to hoist the inaugural Oliver Murphy Cup aloft. A week later, she was again busy delivering victory speeches when the team completed another blemish-free year after defeating Abbeyside in the County Final.

The School would like to thank the Sixth Class pupils of Kelsie Obanya, Alex Healy, Aine Forrest, Emily O'Mahony, Faye Murphy and Ciara Sherlock who gave 3 years of committed Camogie service to the school, alongside all the other sixth class girls who joined the team this year. All will be greatly missed.

*** 7-a-side Soccer**

Our 6th class boys recently competed in the annual Willie Moran 7-a-side tournament in the WIT sports complex. The boys did extremely well and won all their three group matches comfortably. They were then unfortunately defeated in the quarter finals 1-0 by a strong Glór na Mara side; a game in which we were very unlucky to lose.

Well done to all boys involved!

*** Athletics**

On April 24th, our school competed in the Waterford Primary schools athletics. Despite the awful wet conditions on the day, 74 medals were collected and both boys and girls achieved highest points for both categories bringing home a cup each to add to the cabinet! Many athletes went on to compete in the County Schools in Dungarvan on May 31st. There was further success at the counties – 24 medals won.

Gold medals were collected by the U8 and U9 girls relay teams, U10 boys relay team, Grace Schultz and Elaina Coady in their sprint, and Sarah Abullo in the 600m.

Silver medals were won by u12 boys relay team. Bronze by the Over12 boys relay and Cora Miller in the sprint. In the long race, Laura Flynn, Ronan Quinlan and Sarah Abullo ran a fantastic race finishing 4th. As did Aaron Coughlan and Harry Kavanagh in the sprint.

Well done to all who took part and represented our school so well in athletic performance and behaviour!

Thanks to all helpers who organised the children for the events on both days. Due to large numbers competing, the help was very much needed and appreciated.

*** Junior Achievement Programme**

Mrs. Whittle's 4th Class took part recently in a very enjoyable Junior Achievement Programme in association with the local enterprise office. It involved three visits to the classroom by a Waterford based business person. Róisín Hartley of Hartley People was our very dedicated mentor. The children learned about the "4 Ps of Business" - Product, Price, Promotion and Place before coming up with their business ideas. Each group of 6 then had to present their business in the WIT Business School in a Dragon's Den style in front of two judges. One of the groups received an overall prize with each child receiving a participation certificate. A great day was had by all and it may well lead to many budding entrepreneurs! It was a very worthwhile programme. Thanks to all involved!

Ms. Murphy's 6th class recently had the opportunity to take part in the valuable Junior Achievement Programme. Pat Evan's delivered an enjoyable programme exploring the theme 'Our Universe' over the course of 5 weeks. 6th class were also very fortunate to be given the chance to visit Bausch and Lomb factory which included a very informative guided tour. Overall a very fun and enjoyable experience was gained by all thanks to the Junior Achievement Programme.

*** Garden**

Thanks to everyone for their continued support and hard work in our beautiful school garden. Our garden is in full bloom with beautiful sunflowers, strawberry plants and potatoes that the kids have sown. If anyone is interested in gardening we are always delighted with help in the garden.



New Teachers

The New Teachers for September are as follows:

2018/19 Class Teacher	2017/18	
Jr. Infants:	Emma Tallon	-
	Katie Slattery	-
	Conor O'Neill	-
Sr. Infants:	Maura Upton	Deirdre Cullen
	Emma Looney	Conor O'Neill
	Catherine Morris/ Helen Hennessy	Katie Slattery
1st Class:	Laura Keating	Emma Looney
	Kerryanne McCarthy	Maura Upton
	Niamh Dennehy	Catherine Morris
2nd Class:	Lisa Murphy	Niamh Dennehy
	Deirdre Ogle	Laura Keating
	Ann Marie Walsh	Kerryanne McCarthy
3rd Class:	Bina Glynn	Ann Marie Walsh
	Áine Barrett	Lisa Murphy
	Tom O'Sullivan	Deirdre Ogle
4th Class:	Noeline Whittle	Bina Glynn
	Colin Breheny	Áine Barrett
	Edward Kehoe	Fionn Smith
5th class	Sinéad Power	Colin Breheny
	Liz Kearney	Noeline Whittle
	Jennie Dollard	Edward Kehoe
6th class	Nicola Kennedy	Jennie Dollard
	Sandra Rellis	Liz Kearney
	Neil Kirwan	Sinéad Power
	Philip O'Leary	Emma Tallon
Jr. Autism Unit:	Maeve Murphy	Aoife Piper
Sr. Autism Unit:	Mary Cantwell	Mary Cantwell

Parents Association Activities

* 6th class Disco

The Annual 6th Class Disco took place on Fri 9th June in the School hall. The Parents Association organized this as a BIG THANK YOU to our 6th Class pupils in recognition of their help and support of our Junior Infants through the Buddy System for 2017/2018.

* 6th Class Students

We would like to wish all of our 6th class pupils well as they start Secondary School this September.

* Lost and Found

After the hot weather jumpers, jackets etc have turned up in the Lost and Found Box! However, most

can't be returned to their owners, as there are no names on them. For the coming school year, please make sure to write **FULL NAME** or **RE WRITE** it if it's faded on all items. The school will clear the box out as soon as school is over. Items in good condition will go to charity the rest will go to the clothes bank.

I would like to thank the committee again for all their help this year and especially those of you who are retiring this year after 3 years. We are looking forward to welcoming new members in September it is a great way to help out when you can, learn what's happening in our school, meet new people and make new friendships, I know I have. The date for our AGM has yet to be decided, during that meeting some changes need to be made to the constitution so I would encourage people to attend. I've really enjoyed my term as chair and I want to wish Angela Jackman the best of luck as she takes over in the upcoming school year. I hope everyone has an enjoyable and safe summer.

Ruth Curran

Kids Corner

Girl: Where did your mom go for her summer vacation?

Boy: Alaska.

Girl: Never mind, I'll ask her myself.

Boy: Why didn't the elephant buy a suitcase for his vacation?

Girl: Why?

Boy: Because he already had a trunk!

What do you call a dog on the beach in the Summer?
....A hot dog!

Where do sharks go on summer vacation?
....Finland!

Why do fish swim in salt water?
....Because pepper makes them sneeze!

What happens when you throw a green rock into the Red Sea?
.... It gets wet

What did the ocean say to the sailboat?
....Nothing it just waved.

