

Ballygar National School



Ballygar, Co. Galway,

Tel/Fax: 090 6624951

Email: ballygarns@gmail.com

www.ballygarns.ie

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A Message From Our School Principal!

Welcome to the summer edition of our Newsletter, you can read about the successful summer term that we have had here in Ballygar N.S. I would like to thank the staff, pupils and parents for their support throughout this school year. To each and every one of our sixth class, I would like to wish you all the very best and every success as you move on to Secondary school and I hope you look back on your time here with fond memories! Finally I would like to wish you all a very enjoyable summer break!

Active Flag

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded with our Active Schools Flag. We have been working hard all year to achieve our Active Flag and on the 10th June, the Department of Education and Skills sent an acreditor to assess our efforts. She was more than impressed with all the initiatives we have undertaken this year and as a result we were awarded with the flag. All year we have been trying to get our students as active as we can by organising a number of different events throughout the year.



Throughout the year our pupils have taken part in a number of different activities some of which include 'Santa Dash' fun run, Mad Hatters Run, whole school circuits, orienteering, obstacle courses and much more. We have entered a number of different competitions and have had tremendous success with our Girls football winning the Cumann na mBunscol Championship and our 5th/6th class winning the Colaiste Mhuire Soccer Tournament. We have increased the amount of activity our pupils receive by introducing activity breaks and active brain breaks throughout the school day. The official flag raising ceremony will take place on **Tuesday 25th June at 1pm.** All are welcome to attend. We would like to thank Ms. Hanley for all the hard work she put into organizing and co-ordinating all of our Active Schools initiatives. We are looking forward to flying the flag outside our school with pride.

Active School Flag is a Department of Education and Skills initiative which is awarded to schools that strive to achieve a physically educated and physically active school community. It highlights the importance of physical education (P.E.), physical activity and sport in schools and communities in which they are based.

Maths and Science Award of Excellence

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded a Discover Primary Science and Maths Award of excellence once again this year.



Discover Primary Science (DPS) is the national programme designed to foster interest in science and engineering among children in primary schools.

Participating schools carry out a range of science activities in the classroom and are also encouraged to undertake additional explorative activities and projects in the area of technology, engineering and maths. Throughout the year, our pupils worked hard and carried out various experiments and investigations such as dissecting squid, static electricity, investigating push and pull forces, investigating simple circuits, identifying different plants, animals, birds and minibeasts in our school environment and many more. 3rd and 4th class also made oral reports on a range of science experiments that they completed.

We took part in a range of additional activities in the area of technology, engineering and maths including maths trails, a Lego workshop, hour of code, making windmills and hosted a range of activities for maths week. We also regularly used our ipads as part of lessons in class.

Well done to all involved, all of your hard work really paid off. Thank you to Ms. McManus for co-ordinating the award.



We will be unveiling our Plague at our Active Flag and Science Award Ceremony on Tuesday 25th June at 1pm. All are welcome to attend.

Activ Panels

We have invested in a new Activ Panel for our 3rd/4th class this year. We now have 3 Activ panels in our school. Activ panels are large tablet like interactive boards that bring learning to life for children. We are fortunate to be one of the very few schools in the locality with such technology and we hope that they will enhance the children's learning experiences in our school.



Junior Wardens Winners 2019

Well done to the school traffic wardens who won the Junior Warden Competition in Tuam on 14th May. Representing our school this year was Julie Ann Fahy, Evan Doyle, Harry O Sullivan, Aoife Kelly, Christopher Corcoran, Kacper Kryzstoforski, Eloise Daly and Harry Holmes. They did a terrific job representing our school! This year marks the 50th Anniversary since the inception of the Junior Wardens Scheme in 1969. A special thank you to all the boys and girls who were involved in the warden programme this year. 14 pupils in total. They play an important role in ensuring the safety of their fellow pupils when crossing the road at home time. A special thank you also to Garda Pat Regan and Mrs. Watson for all of their hard work putting all of our wardens through their paces this year.



Science Blast

Our 5th/6th class pupils attended the ESB Science Blast Fair in Mary Immaculate College on 21st May. Science Blast nurtures STEM skills (Science, Maths, Engineering & Maths) through entire primary school classes investigating a simple question about the world around them. Our pupils' investigation centred around the question 'What is more corrosive for your teeth - coke or orange juice?' They were surprised to find that orange juice was more corrosive.



They proudly displayed their work at the Fair and presented their findings in a commendable manner to fellow schools and the judges who were extremely impressed with their work! It was a fantastic day out. As well as viewing other schools' projects and investigations, they got to attend some Science shows, and take part in fun activities on the day.

Sports News

County Champions

Well done to our Girls football team who were crowned Cumann na mBunscol champions in Loughgeorge on 28th May. The girls showed how skilful they were in what was a wonderful display of football, beating Knockroon N.S. with a scoreline of 6-9 to 0-1. This is a fantastic achievement. Well done to all involved and to Ms. Hanley their coach.



Our boys football team also did extremely well in the competition and were unfortunate not to qualify for the finals this year.

Hurling and Camogie

Well done to all the boys and girls who took part the hurling Camogie Cumann na mBunscol competition. They represented the school very well and showed how skillful they were in both competitions and were very unfortunate to miss out on a place in the finals. A special thank you to Brian Healy who coached our hurling team. Thank you to Ms. Mannion who mentored our Camogie team for the blitz.

Football Coaching

3rd-6th class pupils have been receiving a number of coaching sessions with Thomas Hughes. We would like to say a special thank you to Thomas for sharing their knowledge and skills with us.

Lunchtime League

35 pupils from 3rd-6th took part in our Soccer football lunchtime league in May. Cloonlyon came out on top led by captain Harry Holmes, Diarmuid Bury, Aoife Kelly, Hayden Naughton, Niall Dowd, Patrick Connelly, Zofia Wandzel.

Harry O Sullivan and Evan Doyle received the award for the Top Goal Scorer both scoring 7 goals each throughout the tournament. Alex Kelly was awarded player of the league while both Diarmuid Bury and Caoimhe Molloy scooped the awards for the most improved players. Well done to all the boys and girls that took part.



Active Schools Week

As part as our drive towards receiving our Active School Flag, we celebrated Active schools Week between 13th-17th May. What an exciting week had by all! We got to experience a mini-golf and basketball lesson, along with an 'Ultimate Frisbee' tester. We also got to take on the teachers and had an obstacle course challenge. Active homework replaced written homework for the week! On Wednesday we had our WOW and COW day. Well done to the pupils of 3rd and 4th class who won our competition! They had the most pupils who walked or cycled to school on that day. Our walk a mile with a smile turned out to be the highlight of the week. It was wonderful to have parents and the wider community join us for our walk every morning, a big thank you to everyone who took part. Well done to all the boys and girls on our active school committee who worked extremely hard to make this week a big success.



Huge congratulations to Ella Daly who won our active school slogan competition. What a fantastic slogan to represent our school for the future:

Be healthy, Be cool, Be a happy active school!

A special thank you to Ms. Hanley for organizing all of the events for Active Schools Week.

Awards

This year we once again held an 'Awards Day' to acknowledge the hard work and good behaviour of some of our pupils. Choosing the award winners was extremely tough as there are many boys and girls in each class whose efforts and achievements this year deserve to be acknowledged. Prizes were awarded for 'Pupil of the Year' and 'Special Recognition'.



Awards are as follows:

Junior infant pupil of the year - Tommie McArdle

Senior infants pupil of the year- Gráinne Geraghty

Miss Hanley's Special Recognition - Finín Cahill

1st class pupil of the year- Wiktoria Ozga

2nd Class pupil of the year- Saibhe Naughton

Mrs Watson's Most Improved - Daniel Holmes

3rd class pupil of the year- Daithí Keegan

4th Class pupil of the year- Angela Krzak

Ms. McManus', Most Improved - Olivia Kelly

5th class pupil of the year- Harry Holmes

6th Class pupil of the year- Evan Doyle

Mrs. O Connor's Special Recognition - Oliwia Ziach

Overall Pupil of the Year- Aoife Kelly

Attendance Award- Katie Geraghty, Gráinne Geraghty, Connor Kelly, Klaudia Ozga, Diarmuid Bury, Hanna Holmes and Cillian Molloy all who have not missed a single day all year.

Well done to everyone and we are already looking forward to next year.



School Tours

This year all classes explored thrilling and exciting activities on their school tours.

Ms. Hanley's and Mrs. Watson's class explored the excitement that Upsie Daisies had to offer

Ms. McManus's and Mrs. O' Connor's class had an action packed fun filled day at Let's Go School Tours, Athlone.



Sports Day

On Monday 17th June, we had our Sports Day.

Everybody had a brilliant day taking part in lots of different fun events. Photos of the day can be found on our school website.



Communion Class of 2019

This year 10 children received their Holy Communion on 12th May 2018. This was a very special day for the school. A great day was had by all! We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Watson who prepared the children for this special occasion and for Miss King who prepared the beautiful choir! A special thank you to one of our parents Michelle Geraghty for accompanying the children.



Ballygar Shouts

Our 5th/6th class took part in the Community poetry event 'Ballygar Shouts' on 8th June in the Market Square and Courthouse. The performance was a culmination of work devised from a number of activities and workshops undertaken in the past six months with young people and adults in the Ballygar Area.

Back in January, our 5th/6th class pupils took part in a creative writing workshop with Pete Mullineaux where they learnt about writing poems. Following on from what they had learnt in this workshop the pupils each wrote a poem about Ballygar. Each pupil had the opportunity to record their poem with the support of Ballygar Arts and Theatre in the Town Hall. During the 'Ballygar Shouts' event on 8th June, some of our 5th/6th pupils performed excerpts from these poems. Some of the recordings were also played on the night.

This project was co-ordinated by Margaret Hannigan Pop and funded by Galway 20/20 EU Capital of Culture as a Small Towns Big ideas initiative.



Teachers For School Year 2018/19

Here is a quick summary of the staffing allocation for school year 2019/20

Infant teacher- Ms. Hanley
1st/2nd class teacher- Mrs. Watson
(Deputy Principal)
3rd/4th Class teacher- Ms. McManus
5th/6th class teacher-
Mrs. O Connor (Principal)
Special Education
Teacher- Ms. Mannion
Special Education Teacher- Ms. King



Incredible Edibles

Junior and Senior Infants have been working very hard towards the Incredible Edibles Agri Awards programme. This is an initiative that promotes healthy eating. Its aim is to educate the children about growing their own fruit and vegetables, about buying locally produced foods with the Bord Bia quality mark.

As part of our project this year they have:

- learned about the story of cheese (from farm to fridge)
- grown seven Incredible Edibles fruit and Vegetables,
- visited our local shop to find items with the Board Bia quality mark
- cooked a delicious pizza using fresh Irish ingredients

A big thank you to all the parents for sending in some fantastic pictures of the children eating and cooking healthy meals at home! Well done to Miss Hanley and the boys and girls for taking part in the initiative.



Class of 2019

The graduation mass for 6th class took place on Tuesday 19th June. All the staff of Ballygar N.S. would like to take this opportunity to wish all the 6th class boys and girls all the best for the future. They will be missed greatly!



School Notices!

Ballygar N.S. will reopen on Friday 30th August for the coming school year.

Booklists

All children have received a copy of their booklists for next year. A copy of all booklists will also be available to be downloaded from our school website.

Tips for Parents:

Tips for parents on how you can improve and support your child's learning are available on helpmykidslearn.ie

End of Year Video

Our end of year video featuring a quick look back at all of our fantastic achievements over the 2018/2019 school year will be available on our school YouTube channel (Ballygar N.S). It can also be viewed on our school website and Facebook account.

Facebook.

Our school facebook account is now up and running. Follow us and like our page 'Ballygar N.S.' to keep up to date with school events and news as they happen



Don't forget you can also check out our fantastic website www.ballygarns.ie or you can follow us on twitter www.twitter.com/BallygarNS to keep up to date with school news events as they happen.

All the staff of Ballygar N.S. are very proud of all our students for their fantastic success and achievements this year. **We would like to wish all our students a safe and happy summer and we hope for continued success in 2019/20**