



*Scoil Mhuire*



**SCOIL MHUIRE**

Phone : (094) 9030803

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[www.ballyheanens.com](http://www.ballyheanens.com)

*Ballyheane*

*Castlebar*

*Co. Mayo*

*Beal Aitha hEIn*

*Caislean a`Bharraigh*

*Co. Mhaigh Eo.*

## **Beginning of School Year Newsletter**

Dear Parents,

I wish to welcome you and your children back to a new school year and hope you had an enjoyable summer.

**Firstly**, I want to extend a warm welcome to our new Junior Infant pupils, Dylan Lydon, Jack Fitzgerald, Ruairi Kelly, Aidan Taylor, Ben Alder, Luke Daly-Cusack, Alannah Kelly, Ella Power, Alanna Reilly; 3<sup>th</sup> Class, Katie Gavin and 5<sup>th</sup> Class, Karina Tropman.

**Best wishes** also to last years 6th class as they start secondary school.

### **Green Flag**

Our first Green Flag will be officially raised on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> September at 9.30am by An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny. All parents, grandparents, friends and members of the local community are invited to attend and celebrate this very exciting occasion with us. After the ceremony, there will be tea/ coffee, and refreshments and it is hoped that as many parents as possible will become involved in helping out with the preparation and the serving of the food. If you would like to help organise the food on the day please attend a Parents Association meeting on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September at 8p.m. in the school hall. All help would be very much appreciated.

### **Text-a-Parent**

As you are aware most of our school-related messages are conveyed to parents via text messages. Please inform us if you have changed your mobile number or if for some reason you are not receiving the messages.



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### **School Uniform**

All children are expected to wear their **full school uniform** everyday. Days allotted to P.E. are, as follows (**school tracksuit must be worn on the following days**):

Ms Mc Donnell's Class: Wednesday and Friday

Mr.Gormley's Class: Wednesday and Friday

Ms. Kelly's Class: Monday and Wednesday

(Please put your child's name on his/her school uniform to avoid them being misplaced.)

### **Parent/Teacher meetings**

Parent/Teacher meetings will take place on **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2011**. Further information to follow.

### **Swimming Lessons**

Swimming Lessons for children from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class, will commence on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2012 for a block of ten weeks (Further details will be given at a later date)

### **Photographer**

The school photographer will visit the school during the 2<sup>nd</sup> term to arrange a date for individual and class photographs to be taken. Parents will be notified in advance.

### **Gaelic football**

Mr.Gormley will continue to provide football training for the middle and upper classes of our school during lunch break.

### **Calendars**

The children from 6<sup>th</sup> class will produce individual family calendars for each family for 2011 under the guidance of Ms. McDonnell. These will be available at the beginning of December.

### **Homework Journals**



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Children from 1st to 6th class are asked to have a homework journal which should be signed each night by their parent/guardian. If a child has any difficulty with his/her homework, please note it in the homework journal as the class teacher checks the journal daily.

### **Healthy Lunches**

Children are encouraged to eat a healthy and wholesome lunch each day. Crisps, big bars, fizzy drinks and chewing gum are not allowed.

### **Ballyheane After School Care**

A daily bus service from the school to Ballyheane After School Care is now in operation. Children who finish school at 1.50pm or 2.50p.m. can avail of this service. This bus service is run by Michael Moran Bus Company.

### **An Post Saving Scheme**

Saving stamps valued at €1 can be purchased from Mr. Gormley. After saving €20 the child can lodge the €20 directly into their own post office savings account.

### **School Trips**

Class outings will be arranged on various dates as the school year unfolds (Details regarding these trips will be given to you prior to the events).

Pictures are posted on our website [www.ballyheanens.com](http://www.ballyheanens.com).

### **School Mass**

End of year school mass will take place in the school hall in the last term.

Music/choir for the mass will be provided by the children. All parents grandparents, friends etc..are welcome to attend.

### **School Absences**

As a parent or guardian you must let the school know if your child is absent from school and the reason why. It is school policy that reasons must be given in writing. The school



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is obliged to notify the National Education Welfare Board if a child is absent for 20 days or more, or where the absences give rise to concern.

### **W.S.E**

As you are aware a Whole School Evaluation will take place in Ballyheane N.S. starting next Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September. As part of this evaluation parents are asked to fill out the enclosed questionnaire and return it to the Principal on or before Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Congratulations**

Congratulations to the following children for winning prizes in "Breaffy Blast Festival" Art Competition-Saoirse Tuffy 6<sup>th</sup> class, who got 1<sup>st</sup> prize and Shane Gavin who got second. Well done Saoirse and Shane!

Finally, I wish to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Board of Management of our school for their continued support, interest and dedication throughout the school year. Members of the BOM are as follows: Chairperson Fr. John Cosgrove, Patrons Representative Kieran Irwin, Parents Representatives Michael Gibbons and Ellie Malone, Community Representatives Kathleen Flynn and Jarlatha Kelly.

In addition, I also want to thank our Parents Association for the wonderful work they are doing for our school. Members of the Parents Association are Chairperson Kieran Irwin and Treasurer Breege Gibbons. Parent Association meetings are held once a term and we encourage parents to attend these meetings.

Thanking you,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Anne Marie Kelly

Principal

*(A copy of this letter is also available on our website)*