



# HAPPY HALLOWEEN

St. Sourney's N.S.  
Ballinderreen,  
Kilcolgan,  
Co. Galway.  
091-796632

[info@ballinderreenns.ie](mailto:info@ballinderreenns.ie)

A very warm welcome to all our new students and families who have joined us this term, especially our new Junior Infants who have settled in so well. It's wonderful to see so many new faces becoming part of our school community.

It has been a very busy few weeks with a wide range of activities taking place across all classes. Congratulations to our 3rd and 4th Class pupils who took part in the Connacht Rugby Blitz, and to all the boys and girls from 2nd to 6th Class who represented the school so proudly in the recent Cross Country event.

A big well done also to our 5th and 6th Class pupils who took part in the INTO Mini 7's competitions in camogie, boys' and girls' football, and hurling. We are especially proud of our boys' team who reached the county final—a fantastic achievement!

We are delighted to share that Spanish lessons have now begun for 5th and 6th Class, with funding kindly provided by PPLI. The children are really enjoying learning a new language and culture.

All of our pupils have settled very well into the new school year, and there's a great buzz of activity around the school. We are now looking forward to our Dress-Up Day on Friday, which promises to be a fun event for everyone, and to a busy few weeks ahead as we build up to Christmas.

Thank you for sharing your feedback regarding the hot school lunches. We greatly appreciate the time you've taken to provide your thoughts and suggestions.

Your input is invaluable as we review the current arrangements and consider the next steps. Once a decision has been made, we will update you with further details.

Finally, I hope that you enjoy reading our newsletter. It is but a snapshot of all the varied and interesting work being carried out, not just in individual classrooms, but throughout the school generally. I am grateful to each staff member for the effort they make in providing articles and photos, and to Angela who is left with the task of pulling it all together.

Mr. Quinn - Principal

## Mid-term Break



School will be closing at  
2.40pm on Friday, 24th Oct.  
and will be re-opening at 9am  
on Monday, 3rd Nov.



## Fancy Dress Day



On Friday 24th October Children are encouraged to come to school dressed using Hallowe'en as the theme. Children may bring a small treat in their lunch box. There will be no sharing of treats between children. Also, no gadgets allowed.

## Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal

Shoeboxes go directly to children that are victims of war, disease or poverty. Your child has already received a leaflet to explain how the Shoe Box Appeal operates. (This of course is optional).

Team Hope suggests the following when filling a shoebox: Pens or pencils, crayons, paper etc. Soap (wrapped), hairbrush, Socks, underwear, flip flops, hat, scarf and gloves. Shoeboxes can be brought into the school the week after the Hallowe'en break, before

**Thursday, 6th Nov.**



### Winter Ready



Please ensure that you child is wearing a coat and hat (labelled) coming to school every day. We will be going outside at breaktimes - weather permitting.

### Attendance

Schools are obliged to report absences of 20 days or more in any school year to the Education Welfare Board. Reports are also made if attendance is irregular or without explanation. We are also required to report poor punctuality. Parents are asked to notify the school when a child is absent and to give a brief reason for the absence.

### Important Dates:

- Oct. 24th - Halloween Fancy Dress.
- Oct. 27th - Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> - School Closed - Midterm.
- Nov. 3rd - School Re-opens at 9.00am.
- Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> - Seamount Musical (3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Classes).
- Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> - School Photos. (All Classes).
- Nov. 17th & 18th - Parent/Teacher Meetings.
- Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> - School Closed - Child Protection Training.
- Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Carol Service at 11am. in the church.
- Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> Christmas Holidays begin at 12 noon.
- Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> '26 - School Re-opens at 9.00am.

## Parking

Please **DO NOT** park in the vicinity of the church gate at drop off or collection times.

This area must be kept clear for cars entering or leaving the church car park.



### Seamount College Musical

The children from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> classes will attend 'Sister Act', on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>, Nov. in Kilcornan Hall, Clarinbridge. Payment can also be made online before, Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov. to cover cost of bus and musical.



### Incidental Inspection

On Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, we received an unannounced SEN and Level 1 Child Protection inspection from our inspector, Sinead Guinnane. The overall feedback was extremely positive, and she commended the school in many areas. I would like to thank all staff for their continued dedication to supporting students who avail of SET support. Teachers and SNAs in Ballinderreen consistently go above and beyond to help students reach their full potential.

A special thank you to Maria Murphy for her excellent work as SET Co-ordinator. We wish Maria and her husband Brian the very best as she begins her maternity leave after the midterm break. Mr. Conor Cooney will take the position of Acting Deputy Principal during her leave.



### Key Information to Know In Relation to Child Protection

The school's Child Safeguarding Statement can be viewed at reception and on the school website.

*The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is the principal, Mr. Barry Quinn. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLDP) is the acting deputy principal, Mr.*

*Conor Cooney*

You can bring any matter in relation to child safeguarding for any child in the school to the DLP. Please report any issues of concern in relation to the school's child protection procedures to the DLP.





What a wonderful first term it has been for our Junior and Senior Infants! The children have all settled in so well and have spent much of the term getting to know one another.



We created bright and cheerful self-portraits and name collages, which now decorate our classroom beautifully.



TRICK  
OR  
TREAT



As the leaves began to fall, we explored the theme of autumn. The children learned about the changing seasons, animals preparing for winter and the fruits and vegetables we harvest at this time of year. We even went on an autumn walk to spot signs of the season in our local area and paid a lovely visit to the church to see their beautiful space. Back in the classroom, we set up our very own Farm Shop and created an eye-catching Autumn Display filled with artwork and crafts.



We're getting ready for Halloween. The children are having great fun creating spooky silhouette art.



HALLOWEEN



## Senior Infants & First Class



Senior Infants and First Class have been very busy since they came back to school

In September, they painted self-portraits and they discovered lots of fun facts about each other in SPHE. They learned about the five senses during Science class and went on a sensory walk around the school.



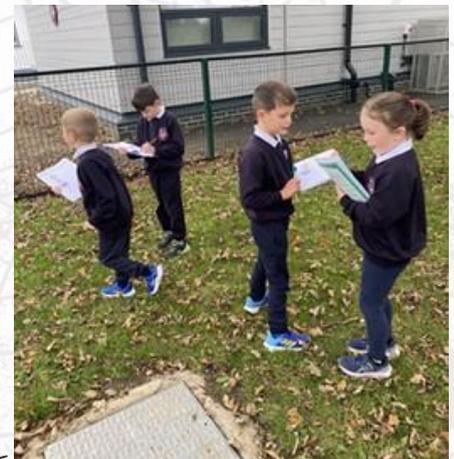
Both classes learned interesting facts about our school in the past during their History class and they also enjoyed their STEM challenge which was to construct colourful school bags.



Both classes enjoyed using iPads to research facts about Autumn and play Maths and literacy games.



First Class paired up with their friends in Senior Infants and went on a 2D shape hunt together in the school yard.





# Second Class

2nd Class have been busy with lots of art work this year. We have explored the colour wheel, made self-portraits and printed with autumn leaves.



We learned all about electricity and used our new knowledge of how to make an electrical circuit to make these cool robots that used vibration to draw a picture.



We have been using the iPads to do our Maths seeds activities and we went on a nature walk to discover the signs of autumn and collect leaves for our autumn



Maths week was great fun, we especially enjoyed our Maths Trail and Outdoor Maths Scavenger Hunt!





**It's been a busy first half-term in 3rd Class. We were all delighted to welcome two new students to our class. Cody and Lucas have settled right in and it feels like they have always been here.**

Everyone really enjoyed taking part in the Tag Rugby tournament with Connacht Rugby in Gort in September. We had a great day out with our friends in 4th Class and can't wait for the next tournament.



We've been learning chess, starting off with some simple games in order to learn about the different pieces. Chess is a great game for promoting cooperation, patience and problem-solving and everyone is having lots of fun.



We've been keeping Maths interesting with lots of hands-on activities, games and Maths Talk. We've used chalk to do our Maths outside on the tarmac, worked on measuring, addition and subtraction to help us with our recipe for baking gingerbread men and created symmetrical pumpkins for Halloween. We also enjoyed a fun Maths Quiz for Maths Week on Zoom with hundreds of other schools from all over the country.

*In Art, we worked on Picasso self-portraits and enjoyed painting pictures of our partners on plastic sheets before printing them on paper. We created Autumn silhouette art and even tried painting some haunted houses with just coffee and water. We have also designed and created our own clay monsters and are enjoying writing stories about them in English class.*



We also had a super day with our visiting Transition Year students Grace and Adam. They joined us for some fun drama activities in SESE, where we acted out events from the story of Táin Bó Cúailnge (the Cattle Raid of Cooley). Then they took over for a really fun PE lesson that everyone enjoyed.



It has been a great first half-term and we are all looking forward to more fun and exciting learning experiences after the Halloween break.



**HAPPY HALLOWEEN**



# Fourth Class

4th Class have had a brilliant start to the school year, packed with fun and learning, both inside and outside the classroom.



We kicked things off in September with a trip to Gort, where we joined 3rd Class for a tag rugby tournament. It was a fantastic day and everyone had the chance to give tag rugby a go!

BOO!

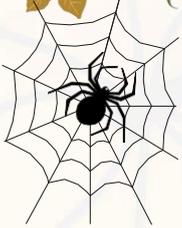


Back in the classroom, we've been hard at work on a variety of projects. Our walls are now filled with artwork. Here's a glimpse at some of these!





## Fifth Class



We have had a great half first term in 5th class. Along with all the regular school stuff we have really enjoyed starting our first STEM projects of the year. The Projects this term are a Shadow Puppet Theatre, a Hot Air Balloon, an Alien Planet and a Camel in the Arctic.



We have also embarked on our Digital Skills Programme. Over the last two weeks we have made great strides in the basics of Scratch programming.

At the Assembly on this coming Friday we are looking forward to regaling the school with our rendition of Paddy Casey's "Saints & Sinners" with everybody participating fully. We are being ably lead with some great singers and our 4 guitarists are adding so much to the song.

### Student Council

We o welcome our new Student Council.



The members on the council this year are Isla Mae Kealy, Elliott Fahy, Zach Quinn, Freya Healy, Conor McTigue, Ellie Jordan, Ruby King, Éanna Fenwick.

The Student Council continue to grow and develop into a real resource for the school as they support the staff in activities in the day-to-day running of the school. So far, they are responsible for putting out PE equipment every Wednesday to facilitate activities for all the classes in the school. They are also taking responsibility for ensuring the digital devices are kept charged overnight to ensure we get the most out of our Digital Skills curriculum.



### Green Schools



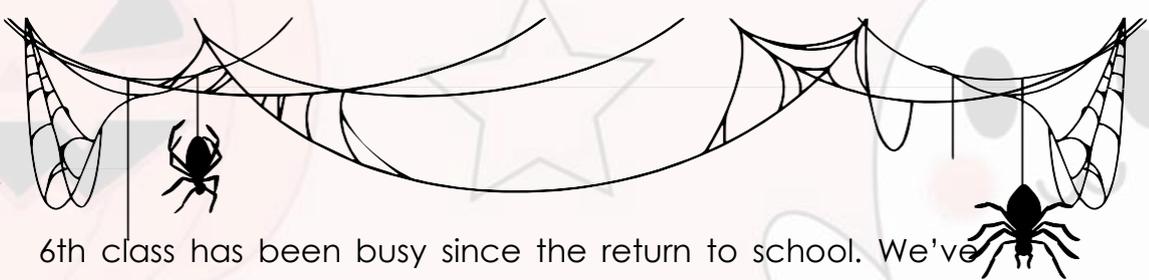
We would like to congratulate the new Green Schools Committee.

This year our representatives are Cathal McTigue, Elle Quinn, Oskar O'Donoghue, Laoise Rigney, Matthew McCusker, Aoibhe Clarke, Zara Finn, Gary Morgan



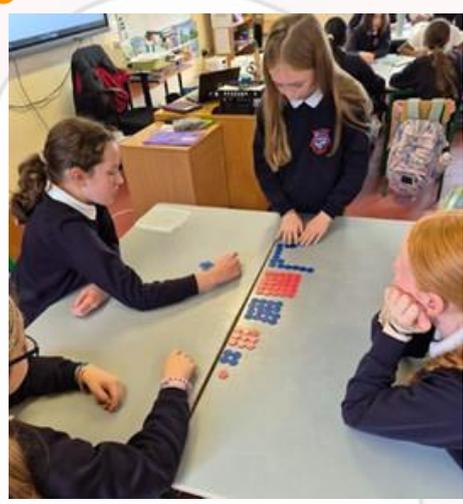
We are embarking on a new flag this year. It is the "Global Citizenship Food and Biodiversity" flag. This theme explores how growing and eating our own food impacts our personal health, and how it has knock-on impacts for local and foreign biodiversity. This is an exciting flag which will allow us to further develop our school garden and test our green fingers! In our first meetings we have agreed to survey the school to get a baseline for our awareness of the importance of sourcing food locally. We have also decided to map out our school from the perspective of food.





6th class has been busy since the return to school. We've enjoyed building solar powered robots as part of STEM lessons, spent some time reading with the senior infants and played lots of sports. We enjoyed joining 5th class for some Athletics lessons in PE. Well done Dorthy Niland and Amelia Henry who took part in the County County finals in Renmore recently. They both great race. Well done to all of the boys in the INTO mini 7's and Garda football

6th class also gave a great performance at assembly and began Spanish lessons which have been great fun.





# Junior Autism Class

The children in the Junior Autism Class have settled back into the school routine and have been very busy upon their return.



We have been taking advantage of every fine morning and going for a lovely walk to kick start our day!

We love exploring with paint during our art lessons and have created some beautiful masterpieces so far!



## SPOOKY

The children have been working hard on their pre-writing skills with chalk and black card, an activity that was enjoyed by all!



We have also integrated many of our subjects into baking edible treats and some that were not so edible!!



All activities were very fun to take part in! We look forward to baking some more in the future!





Senior  
Autism  
Class

# HALLOWEEN

The Senior Autism Class has been super busy since we came back to school!

In September, we were learning all about Myself and Colours. We made lovely name art and had lots of fun mixing colours.



We also learned about Autumn, went outside to collect leaves, and used them to make leaf prints.



For Maths Week, we were learning about 2D shapes, and we even made some spooky, Halloween-themed shape art!

