

# Ballinderreen N.S.

## December 2025

Message from Mr. Quinn

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we reach the end of another busy year, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to every member of our school community. Thank you to our staff for their professionalism and care they show each and everyday to all the children, to you the parents for your continued partnership, and to our students for their hard work and positive contributions to school life.

This term has been filled with outstanding achievements—academic, sporting, and personal. Our pupils continue to impress with their hard work and determination, whether they are exceling in the classroom, representing our school with pride on the pitch, or supporting one another as friends and teammates. Their accomplishments and friendships remind me of what makes Ballinderreen NS such a special place.

I wish each of you a safe and peaceful Christmas break. I look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year, ready for a successful 2026.

Nollaig shona daoibh go léir.

Mr. Barry Quinn



**Christ Our Saviour Is born!**

## Important Dates

### Christmas Holidays

School will close at 12 noon on Friday 19th December  
School re-open on Monday 5th January 26 at 9.00am.  
Grandparents Day - 21<sup>st</sup> January in the school at 11am.  
School closed 2<sup>nd</sup> February - Public Holiday.

### Farewell

We are sad to say Goodbye to Mr. Brendan DeCourcy MacDonnell who is leaving us on the 19<sup>th</sup> Dec. to take up principalship in Carron N.S. on January 5th. We thank him for his five years of teaching in Ballinderreen N.S. and wish him the very best of luck in his new school.

### Best Wishes

To Ms. Claire Roche and Ciara Ward who begin their maternity leave in the coming days. We welcome Ms. Aisling Connolly who will be teaching in the Junior Autism room and Paul Flaherty who will be replacing Ciara. Also, we welcome Mr. Aidan Linnane who will be temporarily replacing Mr. MacDonnell after Christmas

### New Website

We're delighted to announce that our school website has been redesigned and would like to invite you to visit the updated site. You can view the website by visiting [www.ballinderreenns.ie](http://www.ballinderreenns.ie)  
We hope that you can take some time to exploring the website over the next few weeks!

### Swimming

Lessons for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> classes will commence on Monday the 12th of January for six weeks (12th, 19th, 26th of January, 9th, 16th & 23rd of February). The cost is €60.00, a link has been set up on Aladdin for payment. Thank you to everyone that has already paid.

### DES Survey

The future of our school, have your say. Please have your say in this national survey. Each school will be looked at individually. It is very important regarding the patronage of our school and the future direction of our school. The greater the representation the fairer the outcome.

<http://gov.ie/primaryschoolsurvey>  
Please complete survey by Dec. 16th

### Christmas Jumpers

Children can wear their Christmas Jumpers next Thursday and Friday.

### Congratulations

To Ms. Maria Murphy and her husband Brian on the birth of baby Aoife.

### 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 at:

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

***The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLDP) is 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 in confidence. Please report any issues of concern in relation to the school's child protection procedures to the DLP.

### Sharing Data with the HSE

Please be aware that schools now have a legal obligation to share data with the HSE related to School Health Programme examination and treatment service for pupils and/or immunisation under the National Immunisation Programme. The school must provide the following when requested: Name, address, DOB and sex of pupil, mother's birth name, contact details including the name, phone number and email address of their parent/ Guardian, pupil's PPSN, school name and roll number. Our registration form will be updated so incoming parents will know this.

### Christmas Shoe Boxes

We would like thank everyone who donated a shoebox for this year's shoebox appeal. These shoeboxes are on their way to the Team Hope depots for distribution around the world to children affected by poverty. Thank you once again for kindly supporting this worthy appeal.



## Junior Infants/Senior Infants - Ms. Kelly

Our junior and senior infants have been very busy over the past few weeks! We've been learning all about winter and enjoying plenty of seasonal arts, crafts and songs. During imaginative play, the children enjoyed playing at the hot chocolate stand, followed by a special hot chocolate day in the classroom which everyone absolutely loved.



We've also been getting ready for Christmas, taking part in lots of festive art activities both in our classroom and with our buddies. The children are working hard as we prepare for the Christmas carols, filling the room each day with music and song.



Alongside all the seasonal fun, the boys and girls have been making great progress with their phonics, as well as engaging in plenty of hands-on maths activities.



It's been a wonderfully busy and exciting time in infants!



# Senior Infants/First Class - Ms. O'Toole

We have been very busy in Senior Infants and First Class. We had great fun during Science week and we conducted lots of experiments.



We learned about different types of homes in Geography class and we made a fantastic street scene.

Senior Infants used felt to make colourful patterns on winter hats and we all enjoyed creating snowmen pictures and Christmas art.



We discovered lots of information about seasonal change and we went on a nature walk to identify the signs of Winter.



We are enjoying all of our hands-on activities in Maths. We learned about 2D shapes and we made some amazing shape monsters. We have lots of fun using our iPads to practice our Scratch, Maths and literacy skills every week.

We also enjoyed taking part in an online Christmas Maths Quiz in conjunction with Clare Education Centre.



Well done to everyone on their performances in our Christmas Carol Service and all of the wonderful work during this term.

Happy Christmas from Senior Infants and First Class.



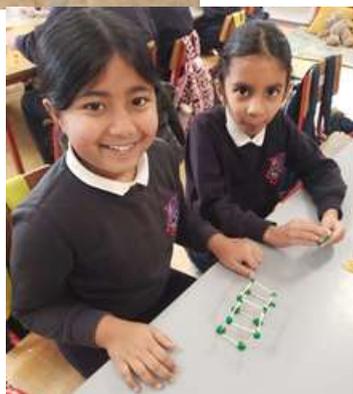
# Second Class Ms. Kelly Ms. Brennan



We have been busy with our artwork this term and have been printing winter snowflakes, drawing and painting Rudolph and constructing advent wreaths.



This term, for P.E., we have participated in gymnastics lessons and also had Alannah from Colga F.C visit to teach us soccer skills.



We love to get hands – on with our maths lessons and we've been learning all about 3-D shapes.



# Third Class-Ms. Fahy

## Our Aquarium

This month, as part of the Marine Institute's Explorers Education Programme, we have gotten an aquarium for our classroom. In the aquarium we have lots of animals that can be found along local seashores. We have Bubbles, the small spotted catshark who is very lively and loves swimming around, Rocky the starfish, who sometimes hides under rocks and Speedy, the common prawn, who is always helping his friends. Steve, the second common prawn, was murdered on the first day we got him. We don't know who killed him but we have some evidence that points to the hermit crabs. Bob, the hermit crab, is the bully in the tank and is always bothering Speedy, Rocky and Bubbles. His friend Ronnie could also be the murderer. We love having the animals in our classroom and will miss them when they leave.

(Erin and Heidi)



## Sister Act

We went to see Seamount College Kinvara's Transition Year Musical Sister Act. We went on a double decker bus to Kilcornan with some other classes. We really enjoyed the show, it was so funny and the songs were brilliant. There were lots of different schools at the musical. We're looking forward to taking part when we are in Transition Year!

(Elliott and Isla)



## Soccer with Alana

We have loved soccer training with Alana over the last few weeks. We had a mini World Cup and we also did lots of skills such as dribbling and passing. Alana is Saorla and Cody's aunt. She coaches for the under 13 Colga girls and we're all looking forward to more training with her in January.

(Elle and Logan)



## Egypt

We have been learning about Egypt in History and Geography and we have found out a lot of new information. We learned all about the Sphinx, Pyramids, King Tutankhamun and Queen Cleopatra. We also studied the Egyptian gods. Some of the gods were Ra, Thoth, Nut and Geb. Over the years, Ancient Egypt was weakened by other countries. After Cleopatra died in 30BC, the power of Ancient Egypt came to an end.

(Joe and Sarah)

## Water Safety Ireland

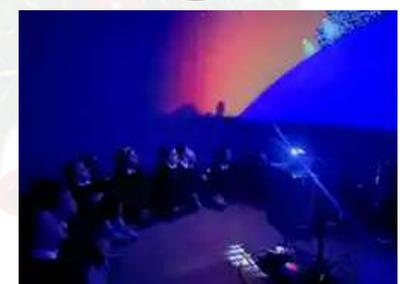
Rosie from Water Safety Ireland came in and told us about water safety. Then she took us outside and we had to throw lifebuoys, it was really fun. Some things we learned included - stay two metres away from the edge of the water, don't go near slurry tanks because the smell is toxic and bad for your lungs and make sure you're with an adult when walking near slurry tanks and rivers. It's important to be very careful around water.

(Cody and Dara)



For Science Week, we got to go to the planetarium dome. It was all about asking the questions of if we are alone in the universe or if there is life on another planet like on Earth. It was very good, everyone enjoyed it and we would definitely recommend it. A big thank you to Mrs Brennan for organising it.

(Cathal and Niamh P).



(All articles written by third class pupils)

# Fourth Class – Ms. Murphy

It has been a very busy term in 4th Class with exciting projects, creative art, and some very cool visitors to our school.



This term, 4th Class took part in the STEPS Young Engineers competition, where they designed innovative engineering projects to help or improve their local community.



- One group created the Pooper Scooper 2.0, a robot that collects dog waste.
- Another group designed the Camocam, a camouflaged speed camera that records cars speeding.
- A third group built the Rubbish Bot 2000, which collects and sorts rubbish into recyclable and non-recyclable categories.
- The final group developed Lights in the Night, a Hi-Vis borrowing system to help keep people safe at night.

The students worked incredibly hard and showed fantastic teamwork throughout the entire process. They even had the opportunity to present their projects to engineer Jordan Cahill, which was a brilliant experience. We now eagerly await the results from the Engineers Ireland STEPS judging team!



Mr. MacDonnell

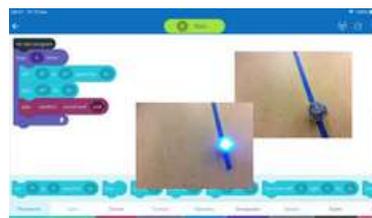
# FIFTH CLASS



Fifth Class continue to excel in everything they turn their hands to. We had a GREAT time at the Halloween Assembly. The pupils performance was excellent. It was improved dramatically with the guitarists, shakers and tambourines.



Even though our Hot Air Balloon never achieved lift-off we had great learnings in putting together 3 "nearly successful" maiden flights. We also finished our "Alien Planet" and "Puppet Show". These 2 can be viewed in video format on our NEW revamped website.



After doing so well at our Coding, this week we moved on to Robotics with our attempts to programme our Spheros.



We thoroughly enjoyed our visiting Planetarium (thanks Ms. Brennan for organising such an inspiring visit).



In Geography we loved our project on Greece.



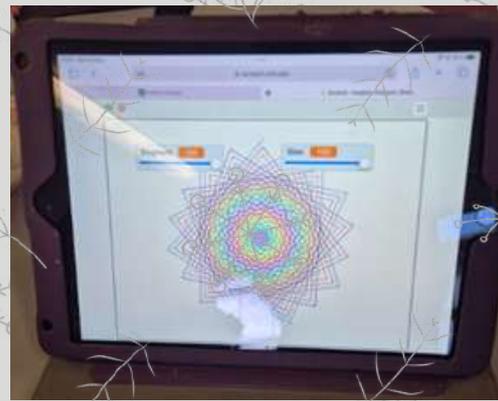
In art we made snowflakes to decorate our Classroom.



# Sixth Class - Mr. Cooney

6th class has been very busy over the last few weeks. We've been hard at work preparing for the Christmas Carol Service. Which everyone is looking forward to. The school advanced to the finals of the Olympic handball competition in both the boys and girls categories. Our boys were very unlucky to have been beaten by a Golden Goal in the final on the day. Both teams performed brilliantly. We've been taking part in soccer lessons which have been provided by Colga F.C.

We also completed some Christmas themed artwork with the infant classes and enjoyed some coding as part of STEM. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves when the Planetarium visited the school. 6th class are looking forward to participating in Secret Santa before the Christmas break.



# Junior Autism Class Ms. Connolly

The children in the Junior Autism Class have been extremely busy since returning from the Halloween break.



The children have thoroughly enjoyed developing their soccer skills during their weekly soccer training with their coach Alana.



We have excitedly explored our winter themed sensory play both indoors and outdoors over recent weeks.



The children have continued their baking endeavors, with our latest challenge being Christmas cookies.



We have enjoyed learning all about gymnastics during PE time.



# SENIOR AUTISM CLASS

MS. FLAHERTY



The Senior Autism Class have had a very busy term. The children really enjoyed carrying out experiments during Science Week. Katie also took part in a group project with 4th Class, and we were so proud of her! 3rd Class kindly invited us to visit their class aquarium, where we saw lots of different fish. The children learned all about transport and created beautiful artwork on this theme. They also made robins for November Remembrance. As we moved into the festive season, we began preparing for Christmas, practising our carols and creating wonderful Christmas art.



## Green Schools

Green Schools  
We made a start to our new  
Flag holding our first few  
meetings.



In this photo Elle and Gary are doing up new signage for our notice board, Zara is working on creating the “Food Map” and Laoise & Oskar are entering the data to show how many lunches are not being eaten. Laoise and Oskar found some startling data. Some classes showed an average of 13 lunches being sent back on the days the data was collected.

Over all, the 7 classrooms showed an average of 8 lunches each day in each classroom. This has improved dramatically since Mr. Quinn arranged for all lunch left-overs to be sent home.

## Students Council

On the subject of lunches, the Student Council had the onerous duty of taste-testing the fare of the prospective lunch providers. They were mostly positive over the new offerings.

They are continuing to execute their list of duties each day and have become extremely reliable in every task they are given.

# Christmas Carol Service

DECEMBER 2025

