



BALLYFINANE NATIONAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Christmas 2025



Principal's Message

Dear Ballyfinane School Community

As we wrap up the first term of the school year, I want to congratulate all our fantastic students for their hard work and enthusiasm. From engaging lessons and creative workshops to memorable sports events and community celebrations, this term has been full of wonderful activities. The success and progress of our students have been truly inspiring, and it's been a joy to see them grow both academically and personally. Together, we have made many great memories so far, and I'm excited for all the learning and fun still to come in the new year. Thank you to our dedicated staff, supportive families, and, of course, our amazing students for making this term so special!.

Le gach dea-ghuí i gcomhair na nollag agus na h-ath bhliana - Ms. O'Shea



Junior Infants 2025

There was huge excitement around Ballyfinane in late August as we welcomed these fantastic nine boys & girls to our school family. Congratulations to you all on beginning your primary years of education. We wish you all many happy days of friendship, laughter & learning with us here in Ballyfinane National School.



Every Child a Reader

This term we concluded what has been a fantastic initiative awarded to us from Children's Books Ireland. The Every Child a Reader Campaign opened our minds and imaginations to so many ideas & adventures through literature. Thank you to our wonderful reading champion Dr.Katie O'Donoghue for all of her support. Dr.Katie is an accomplished author and illustrator and it was such a pleasure to have her with us here at Ballyfinane N.S.



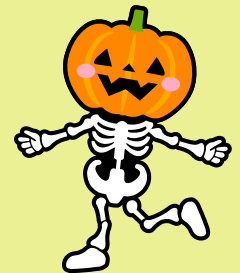
Term One Activities...



Halloween Week



We enjoyed our annual Halloween Fest, full of activities for all children to enjoy. The Junior & Senior Room children enjoyed Halloween Baking, Dress Up & Art activities. Our Pumpkin Carving Competition was a huge success again this year & a credit to all of your efforts at home. The week ended on a high with our Halloween Disco.



Science week and Anti-Bullying Week

During Science Week, the children enjoyed a visit from scientists at Astellas and took part in exciting experiments. During Anti-Bullying Week, the children learned valuable lessons around kindness and belonging, helping us all to connect deeper as a school community.



Tesco Community Fund

We would like to extend a big thank you to everyone who supported us through the Tesco Community Fund. Thanks to your generosity, our school received a wonderful cheque of €500! This funding will help us organise even more exciting and enjoyable activities for our fantastic students. We truly appreciate the support from our community in making these opportunities possible.



Kerry Hospice Coffee Morning

A huge thank you to Eileen, Marian, and everyone involved in the Ballyfinnane Hall Association for organising a fabulous coffee morning in support of Kerry Hospice. The children were thrilled to enjoy the lovely treats and drinks, and we truly appreciate the kindness and generosity of the whole community.



Term One Activities...

Curricular Learning

Here is a snapshot of some curricular activities where we share learning! We love learning through activity & group tasks together.



Gaelbhrtach

Léafaimid ar aghaidh arís i mbliana. Maith sibh as an iarracht íontach ag gach uile leis an caint is comhrá. Beimid ag súil go mór leis an blian seo chugainn chun é a fháil arís leis an spioraid céanna! Bhain gach uile taitneamh as imeachtaí Ghaelinn go dtí seo.

Making Sporting Headlines...

Thank you to Daniel & from Ballymac GAA for paying us a special visit. The children were thrilled to see the trophy up close and it was a great opportunity for them to learn about commitment and hard work in sport.



Our Very own Football Stars...

We are beyond proud of our school footballers who did us so proud. The children showed great skill, hard-work and sportsmanship in every match.



Amazing achievements...

The children of Ballyfinane have truly amazed us this term with their outstanding awards and achievements. We are immensely proud of all the boys and girls who have excelled in dancing, art, and Community Games competitions over the past few months. Their hard work, talent, and dedication continue to inspire our whole school community.



Term One Activities...

Golf Ireland visit

The Senior Room was very lucky to welcome Robert from Golf Ireland to our school for a fantastic golf workshop. The children learned lots of basic golfing skills and by the end, everyone was showing great improvement and growing confidence in their swings. We're excited to keep practising and developing our golf skills in the new year.



Our Tree of Light Ceremony

On the 9th of December, our whole school community came together with their families to celebrate our Tree of Light ceremony. This special event marked the lighting of our school tree and offered a heartfelt moment to remember and honour those who are no longer with us. The children sang beautiful hymns and performed wonderful dances they had learned with our amazing dance teacher, Aileen. We are very grateful to all families for their generous donations and for their support on the night.



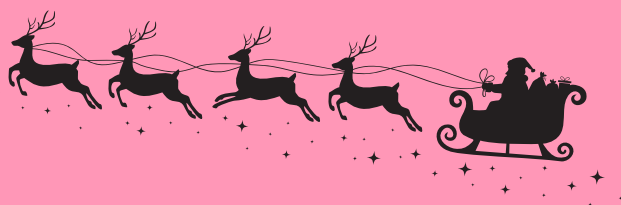
Santa Surprise Visit

The whole school enjoyed a magical surprise trip to meet Santa at the Kerry County Museum. The children loved watching a beautiful festive movie before making their way through a series of enchanting Christmas scenes filled with cheerful characters. The highlight of the day was, of course, meeting Santa Claus himself! It was a truly memorable experience that brought excitement and Christmas spirit to everyone.



Christmas Fun in Ballyfinane

The children of Ballyfinane enjoyed a well-deserved Christmas Fun Week in school after all their hard work this term. They created fabulous Christmas art, baked delicious festive treats, and had great fun playing their favourite board games on Board Game Day. Everyone looked wonderfully festive in their Christmas jumpers, bringing lots of Christmas cheer to the school, and the week finished with a fun no-uniform day and a brilliant Christmas disco. A fantastic and well-earned celebration for all!





Term 1 Recap

