



BALLYFINANE NATIONAL SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2026



Principal's Message

To our Ballyfinane school community, Parents & Friends,

As we come to the end of another wonderful school year, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude and appreciation to our entire school community for a memorable 2025/2026 school year. To our fantastic pupils, Thank you for the enthusiasm, kindness, curiosity, and resilience you have shown throughout the year. It has been a joy to watch you grow in confidence, develop new skills, embrace new challenges, and support one another along the way. Each of you has contributed to making our school a happy, caring, and vibrant place to learn. I am immensely proud of all that you have achieved.

To our parents and guardians, Thank you for your continued support, encouragement, and partnership throughout the year. Your trust, involvement, and the many ways you support your children and our school are deeply appreciated. Working together, we help create the best possible environment for our children to learn and flourish.

As we begin the summer holidays, I hope everyone takes the opportunity to slow down, relax, and enjoy special moments with family and friends. I hope the weeks ahead will be filled with happiness, laughter, adventure, and time to recharge. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on August 25th rested, refreshed, & ready for another year of learning, friendship, & new opportunities.

With warmest wishes for a happy and safe summer, Catherine O'Shea

First Holy Communion

Congratulations to these wonderful children who celebrated their First Holy Communion at Kiltallagh Church in May. Thank you to MsLeane for preparing the children for this sacrament. Thank you to our wonderful choir & to Fr.O'Sullivan for a beautiful ceremony. We had beautiful sunshine on the day & First class parents gave us a party to remember!



Graduation

Wishing this fantastic Trio every happiness as they leave us to begin adventures new! They have brought us eight bright years of kindness, laughter & many happy years at Ballyfinane NS! Thank you all for so many memories! We celebrated a lovely Graduation ceremony with our school community to give our 6th class a send off to remember



Cumann na mBunscoil

We enjoyed huge success in Austin Stack Park on reaching the Cumann na mBunscoil county final. We are beyond proud of our girls who played together with true spirit to represent Ballyfinane NS. While it was not our day on the field, our girls showed great teamwork & determination. Thank you to MsLeane for leading us all the way. Ballyfinane Abú!



Celebrating Eileen



It has been our honour to come together to celebrate a very special day with Eileen, her family & friends on her Retirement. Eileen has been an integral part of our school community through her dedicated service over the years. She has kept our school clean, safe & welcoming to many who have come through the door. Eileen is a friend to all of us and holds a special place with us at Ballyfinane NS. We wish Eileen every happiness.

SCHOOL TOUR

The Junior Room enjoyed Tralee Garda Station & Library! Thank you to Patricia for taking us on tour & giving us a taste of An Garda Síochána! Afterwards we enjoyed a world of imagination with Natalia at Kerry County Library!



The Junior Room set off to Sandy Feet Farm for their well earned School Tour in June! There was so much to do & laughter to be had! We fed the animals & took the tractor for a spin!



BEACH

The Senior Room travelled to Castlegregory to Jamie Knox Water Sports on their school tour. There was lots of surfing & big waves!



The Senior Room paid a visit to Muckross Traditional Farms as part of our engagement with the Heritage Keepers initiative. There was so much to learn about how our past has shaped our heritage, from school days in the past to farming life. Thank you to Mr.Kelleher for sharing his knowledge with us earlier in the term ahead of this visit!





Wellbeing

A snapshot of some of our many curricular activities where we share learning through wellbeing activities. Children had some fun engagements with their learning experiences. Both the Junior & Senior Rooms enjoyed outdoor learning. Natasha gave us an opportunity to take part in her animation, ice-cream was made, PE activities, drama, gardening & lots of learning happened along the way.



Gaelbhratach

Cómhgháirdeas leis na páistí go léir! An sprioc bainte amach acu i mbliana. Maith sibh as an iarracht íontach.



Kerry GAA All Ireland Champions 2026



Cómhgháirdeas to the Kerry U20 football team who defeated Tyrone in May to win the All Ireland Football Final in Croke Park. Dara & Evan surprised us with a visit with the Clark Cup. These are the days when we learn the most through encouragement and inspiration!



Say Yes to Languages Award



Ballyfinane NS was awarded the Yes to Languages Award this term! The children enjoyed Spanish & French lessons to achieve this award.





Sports Day 2026



Once again this year, with our friends at Killtallagh N.S., we enjoyed Sports day in Milltown. Thank you to Mags for facilitating this wonderful partnership. The day was full of activity, laughter & friendships. The ice-cream van paid us a visit! Thank you to all parents who supported & made this possible through drop-off & collection.



Active Week

Active Week is always a highlight as it brings fun spirits & teamwork to the fore. Through team building activities older children lead the young with enthusiasm. This year we enjoyed yoga, playground games as Gaelige, Golf, Team building Games with Mighty Martin & our GAA day!

