

# BALLYHEADA N.S. NEWSLETTER

February 2025



## *Welcome Back!*

Welcome back to our newsletter. Spring has well and truly sprung. We hope you are all enjoying the spring weather as much as we are. February has been a short but busy month here at Ballyheada NS. Read all about what's been going on!

## *A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL*

Welcome to our new website. We are thrilled with the opportunity to share the exciting adventures of school life on this forum. It is a work in progress but I am sure that we will all get into the routine of using it very quickly!

February has been a wonderful month and we are eager to share the findings of our WSE-MLL report with the school community. First and foremost, Ballyheada NS was fully compliant in relation to all child-protection and anti-bullying procedures. Our wonderful school was highlighted as a happy place with a very good standard of teaching and learning. The provision of supports for the wellbeing and social and emotional development of our children was recognised by the inspectorate and Ballyheada NS was commended on our principles and ethos of inclusion and



equality. Our children were seen as being highly motivated young learners who experience a wide and diverse range of teaching and learning styles and who are active thinkers. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our school community for contributing to this inspection and for clearly showing what a safe and happy place our school is. The full report is available to view on [www.gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie). Enjoy the first bursts of spring. Kind regards, Jacqui Mc Carthy.

## *ST. BRIGID'S CROSSES*



We started off the month of February by making our own St. Brigid's Crosses to celebrate St. Brigid's Day. Ms. Murphy and Ms. Horgan's class learned how to make them and then used their knowledge to help children from the other classes to make their own. Thanks to everyone from our school community that send in rushes to help us make our crosses.

## *ACTIVE FLAG NEWS*

From March 31<sup>st</sup> to May 9<sup>th</sup>, our school will be taking part in a 'Skip Around Europe' Challenge. This initiative focuses on **participation**, **inclusion** and **fun** with lots of **learning opportunities** along the way while working towards our Active Flag. All classes, at all levels will build a short skipping break in to their daily routines, across the 4 weeks of the challenge. Working together as a class, and as a school, the children's combined skips will allow them to travel to many of the capital cities across Europe while having fun, working together as well as learning and developing the skill of skipping.

Well done to our Active Flag Committee who currently are working with 1<sup>st</sup> Class in teaching them yard games and encouraging teamwork and fun through activity!

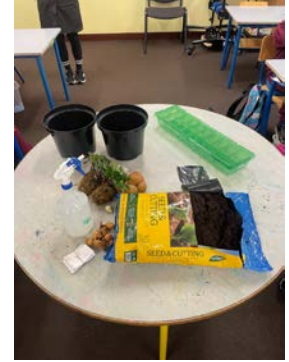


## *FIRST CONFESSION*

On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February, Ms. McEvoy's Second Class made their First Confession with Fr. Pyburn. Second class put a lot of work and preparation into making this a very special occasion. The whole class sounded fantastic singing Circle of Friends and Connected, and our readers did a fantastic job too. All our practicing paid off and we are now ready to start preparing for our First Communion in May.

## *INCREDIBLE EDIBLES*

Ms. Hayden's class is currently participating in the *Incredible Edibles* program. This month, the students have been learning about the process of growing their own fruits and vegetables. In class, they have planted a variety of produce, including carrots, lettuce, pole beans, radishes, turnips, onions, potatoes, and strawberries. These plants are now growing in pots on the classroom windowsill, where the students take turns watering them each morning. Once the plants are ready, they will be transferred to the school garden, allowing them the space to thrive and develop. We eagerly anticipate the results of their hard work in the coming weeks.



## *STUDENT NEWS*

Well done to Rebecca Rice in 4<sup>th</sup> Class. This month, Rebecca donated 15 inches of her hair to The Rapunzel Foundation, and is now fundraising for LauraLynn Children's Hospice for their Locks of Love campaign. This is Rebecca's second act of kindness, first donating 15 inches of her hair in 2022.

## *BIRTHDAYS*

Happy Birthday to all the pupils who celebrated their birthdays in the month of February: Meghan Ahern, Grace Keohane, Liam Aherne, Dan Salter, Kevin O'Brien, Hazel O'Brien, Charlie Cullinane, Matthew Cottrell, Cuileann Browne, Aidan Dennehy, Millie Kiernan, Heidi Kiernan, Donnchadh Looney, Lily Cooney, Emma Ring, Emma Holland, Niamh O'Sullivan, Tadhg Galvin.



## *SLÁN LIBH*

We hope you all enjoyed reading our latest newsletter and enjoy perusing our new school website.