

Balla N S

**NEW SCHOOL OPENING
AND CLOSING TIMES TO
COMMENCE 04.11.2024**

We would like to extend our thanks for your participation in the recent survey regarding the new arrival and dispersal times. We are pleased to inform you that the results were overwhelmingly in favor of the proposed changes. As a result, starting from after Halloween, the new school times will be implemented.

School opening times 8.50a.m. – 1.30p.m. (Infants) 2.30 p.m. (1st – 6th Classes). The Board of Management does not accept responsibility for children on school property outside of these times.



**School reopens on Monday 4th
November**

Save the Dates!

Communion

Saturday 17th

May 2025 11am

**PARENT - TEACHER
MEETINGS**

Wednesday 20th November Details
to follow on Aladdin

COSTUMES

Halloween 2024-
Children may dress up
for Halloween on Friday
25th October.





TO OUR JUNIOR INFANTS



We welcomed our junior infants with a visit to Mrs. Egan's office and we went on a Bear Hunt to the sensory park.



LOTS OF GREAT THINGS TO DO IN OUR SCHOOL FOR EVERYONE

SPORTS

Tag Rugby The 5th and 6th class had a great day at the school tag rugby event. A huge thank you to Sean Tonra for his invaluable support and guidance in coaching the students, helping them develop their skills and teamwork. His dedication is greatly appreciated, and the students are looking forward to showcasing what they've learned. A big thank you for all the staff for helping out on the day

SPORTS

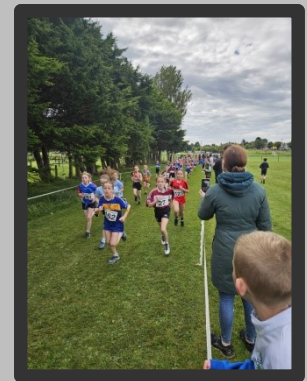
Pitch-Our pitch is in fantastic condition, freshly cut and rolled to perfection. It's ideal for all the sports and activities we rely on it for, including football, hurling, camogie, soccer, tag rugby, and cross-country, just to name a few. We're so fortunate to have such a well-maintained space for our students to enjoy and excel in

SPORTS

Cross Country Our students took part in runs in Ballinrobe and Belleek in Ballina on two beautiful days and did themselves and the school very proud. A big thank you to Mr. Cunningham. Ms Sammon, Ms. Sinnott and Rose for organising this event.



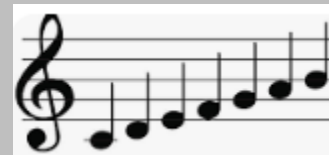
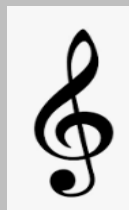
Mini 7's



Cross Country



LOTS OF GREAT THINGS TO DO IN OUR SCHOOL FOR EVERYONE



Music

Music

Ukulele We are very fortunate to have Jamie Mulrooney coming to our school to teach ukulele to 3rd and 4th class. His talent and passion for music will provide a wonderful learning experience for the students, and we're excited to see them develop their musical skills under his guidance

Ceol na nOg-We are exceptionally lucky to have the Ceol na nOg initiative for children in Junior Infants to 1st class at our school. This programme offers a fantastic opportunity to introduce young students to the joy of music. We hope its inception will foster a great love of music and help plant the seeds for a strong musical foundation within our school



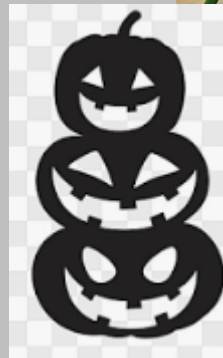
LOTS OF GREAT THINGS TO DO IN OUR SCHOOL FOR EVERYONE

Languages

Spanish lessons- Spanish lessons are back for children in 3rd to 6th class, aligning with the new language curriculum, which now includes modern foreign languages. Lessons with Maria are lively, engaging, and full of energy. She is brilliant, and the kids absolutely love her.

SSE Mé féin-As part of our school self-evaluation, we are paying special attention to Irish- focusing on verbs and developing informal Irish, or "Gaeilge Neamhfhoirmiúil" thus helping students express themselves more confidently in everyday conversations. Our focus for this month is "Mé Féin,"

Languages



**OUR WOW BOARD SHOWCASES EACH CLASSES
AMAZING WORK DURING THE YEAR**



After School Chess Club



Chess club-Mr. Byrne has set up a chess club, and he welcomes any new members or those interested in starting. If you're interested



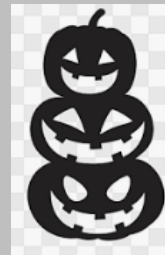
Please contact Mr. Byrne for more details



Green Schools



Well done everyone on the huge turnout for National Walk to School Day. Lukasz from Green Schools Travel joined us and did a wonderful presentation in Junior Infants to 3rd class on how children in other parts of the world travel to school. 4th - 6th will have a presentation on Climate Change next month. As we continue our Global Citizenship-Travel theme this year we were delighted to be accepted in our application to Green Schools Travel for a ten space bike and scooter rack and shelter. It's great to see it getting such great use especially by our 5th class cyclists this term. Keep up the great work everybody and don't forget to wear your Hi Vis when walking or cycling to and from school these darker days.



5th class

The children in 5th class have been very busy over the last two months! They have recently started cycling with Cycle Right and lesson 1 taught about road safety. Last Thursday the class took to the front yard with helmets fastened and bikes at the ready. They showed some serious skill and agility! In Science the children completed group projects on nutrition. Each group investigated nutritional properties in different fruits and vegetables on the ipads. We chose different fruits and vegetables mentioned in Ms. Armstrong's first book 'Granny Mai Eats The Rainbow.' In music the children have been playing a mix of modern and traditional tunes on the tin whistle and have been singing songs in both English and as Gaeilge. In English the children have completed some fabulous recount pieces through the writing workshops. We are now beginning a new genre- report writing. We are very impressed with all the hard work the children have put in over the past few months. Hope everyone has a lovely mid-term. Happy Halloween!



Rang a Trí

Third class has been very exciting so far and we have all settled in so well to the new school year. We are very fortunate this term to be enjoying lessons in Spanish with Maria and we look forward to this each week. We now are the proud owners of our own ukuleles and take part in music lessons each week. It is a great instrument to learn to play and we love how we all can take part and play together as a class. We will showcase our skills in the near future!!

We have been working hard in the classroom across all subject areas - we loved getting hands on during maths week with games, group work and a maths trail in the sensory garden. We are very impressed with all the hard work from everyone in third class.

Wishing you all a lovely mid-term break and a happy Halloween.



Students Council



Pictured below are this year's members of the student council. (From left to right)

Fionn Mc Donald, Lochlann Howley, Carol Basquille, Rose Broderick, Peter Bourke and Grace Pierce. Missing from the photo are our 6th class members, Elijah Basquille and Grace Broderick.

The children were testing out our new goals purchased using the funds raised by last year's outgoing student council.

This year's crew are full of great suggestions and ideas. We have already started thinking about more fun events we can plan this year and we are looking forward to the year ahead



2nd Class



It has been a busy first term in Second Class. Two teams entered the Cross Country running competition for the first time. We enjoyed training as a class to increase everyone's fitness levels. Congrats to Kyle Conway and Keela Nally on securing gold medals.

We enjoyed learning about Autumn and had a lovely walk in the Balla Woods on a sunny day.

We were fortunate to have Kiara Mellett teaching in our class. She taught lovely, interesting lessons especially in relation to the earth, moon and stars. There were some lovely music lessons also, making shakers and beating out a rhythm to songs such as "The lion sleeps tonight". The children also enjoyed learning "The community song" with actions.

It was great to see such creativity in Second Class when the children wrote their spooky stories for Hallowe'en. Well done everyone!

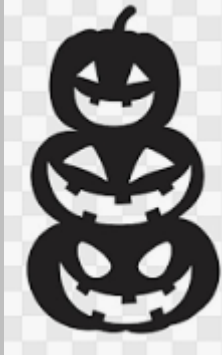
Well done to Ms Sinnott on organising the maths week trail in the sensory garden for our classes for maths week. The children had an amazing time.



4th Class



It has been a busy first term in 4th class. Our Mondays are now full to capacity with our Spanish lessons in the mornings with Maria followed by our Ukulele lessons in the afternoon with Jamie. In Art this term we have focused on our drawing skills firstly completing self-portraits and we followed this up with drawing portraits of our classmates. In our P.E lessons we were determined to improve our athletics skills, in particular we focused on relays. We also had a coaching session for Futsal where we learned lots of new skills. In English we concentrated on recount writing in September and we are currently doing report writing for October. Mr. Cunningham has really helped us with this when he comes in for team teaching; he has lots of fun lessons to help us improve our writing skill. Everyone in fourth class is excited for mid-term break and we would like to wish everyone a happy Halloween.



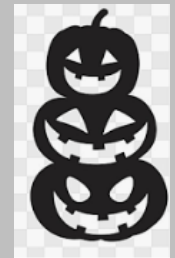
OUR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS

We have Ms Corcoran in our Autism class this year. She and Steve our caretaker have given the classroom a wonderful revamp for children and staff to enjoy.



OUR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS

New play area on yard-The new play area, complete with sensory gadgets and a sand tray, is a feast for the senses, and the young children absolutely love it. It's incredibly engaging and offers a wonderful space for them to explore. A big thank you to Ms. Corcoran for her vision and to Steve Walsh for bringing it to life!



Bike shelter-A bike shelter has been installed shortly near the school gate, providing an ideal space for children who cycle to safely store their bikes. This is a great addition for our cycling students!



Mrs Corcoran's Autism Class

We have had a great start to the year. The children have enjoyed lots of outdoor learning in our mud kitchen and messy play area and have lots of fun blowing bubbles and cycling their trikes. We are working hard on our fine motor and playing skills and enjoy singing and dancing to our songs and rhymes during circle time. Our weekly visit to the Sensory Garden is something we all look forward to and the children have gained so much from this space thus far. We have had some lovely day trips on the bus and look forward to many more outings. Two birthdays were celebrated in our class in October and we did some wonderful baking to mark these occasions. October also saw the addition of pumpkins, costumes, witches cauldrons and spiders to our classroom and we are having great fun dressing up and practising Trick or Treating. Have a lovely mid term break from all in Mrs. Corcoran's class.



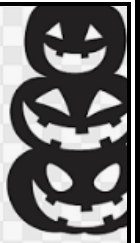
Junior Infants

We have had such a busy start to the year - making new friends, getting to know staff and exploring our new school. We have worked on our phonological awareness, numbers and patterns, learned all about autumn, are building an impressive array of nursery rhymes and love to display our artistic endeavours. Scavenger hunts, maths trails, nature walks and trips to the park are regular activities and our great behaviour and manners on these trips always thrill our teacher. At the moment, our classroom is all about Halloween - art, songs, gaeilge and playtime. Dress-up on Friday will be spooktacular! Happy Halloween!!!



Maths week in the sensory garden.





Sixth Class

Our 6th class pupils are diving into an exciting range of subjects this term! They've been exploring the Industrial Revolution in history, learning how technological advances shaped modern society. In maths, they're mastering long division, a skill that is both challenging and rewarding as they build their confidence with complex calculations. On the digital front, students have just begun an exciting Digital Country Project, where they'll create their own virtual countries, complete with maps, economies, and systems of government. This is a great way for them to blend creativity with technology skills. In English, the class has been working on recount writing, honing their ability to reflect on personal experiences and communicate them clearly and engagingly. The 6th class pupils have also been heavily involved in cross country, mini 7s, tag rugby this term and recently started futsal. We're proud of their hard work and look forward to seeing their continued progress!



Senior Infants



We've been having a fang-tastic time in senior infants where we are learning all about autumn and Halloween. We went a little bat crazy and made some of our own to hang around our room. We have been busy buying and selling pumpkins at our pumpkin patch and love creating shelters for our woodland animals on our autumn tuff tray. The children enjoyed a 'show and tell' where they brought in something special to talk about. It was really lovely to hear the children share their memories with the class. We had great fun during maths week and were busy building bridges, creating patterns and enjoying maths trails. These days, we love pretending to be witches while singing and dancing to our Halloween songs. We think the children have perfected their cackles at this stage! Listen out for them on Halloween night!





First Class

It has been a busy few months in 1st class and everybody has settled in very well to a new routine and a longer day. Because of the lovely weather earlier on we were able to get outside a lot more for nature walks, scavenger hunts and maths trails along with an odd trip to the playground. Between autumn and Halloween our classroom is a hive of activity from spiders to skeletons and everything in between. The children are very much looking forward to showcasing their Halloween costumes on Friday. Hope everybody has a lovely mid-term break. Happy Halloween!



Shannon Aviation Museum Winners

Our 6th class group has won a visit to the award winning Shannon Aviation Museum for a unique fun day 13th November. What an exciting tour for our students



OUR NEW BUILDINGS

The school refurbishment and new building work are still in progress, with revisions underway for our new school designs. The plans include a new classroom, two autism classes, a multi-use activities space, a hall, a soft play area, a sensory garden and two special educational teaching rooms. Once the drawings are finalised, we will move straight to the planning stage. Exciting times ahead!!!

Instrument Rental

We have a small number of violins and 1 banjo available to borrow for short periods if any child is interested in getting lessons outside of school.

Absences

Good attendance is crucial for your child's success in school, as it helps them stay engaged with their learning and maintain progress. If your child is absent, it is the responsibility of the parent to provide a reason for their absence through the Aladdin app to ensure accurate records

Educational Needs

If your child has received an updated report from any agency linked with the school (e.g. Speech & Language, Psychology, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy) we would be most grateful if you can share this with us. All information is treated confidentially & only shared with parental consent. The relevant staff value this information very much as it can greatly assist with teaching, planning and differentiation of tasks to meet your child's individual needs.

Contact Information

Reminder; If you wish to contact a member of school staff,

- Write a note in the homework journal or on Aladdin
- Email office@ballans.ie and the relevant staff member will be contacted and will respond to your enquiry
- phone Rose in the office 094 936 5280



Home School Links/ Emergency Contact Details

It is vital that we are able to contact you in case of an emergency. We require a minimum of 3 contact numbers. Please contact Rose at the office email address office@ballans.ie to inform her of emergency names and relationship to the child e.g. grandparent, aunt, neighbour. If you recently changed home address, phone number or email, please let us know. All this information is necessary for communication and Child Protection.

**Feliz Halloween de parte de los alumnos y el personal de la escuela primaria Balla. We are making great progress with the Spanish lessons.
Thank you from Alma Egan and all the staff at Balla NS**



HAPPY HALLOWEEN

