



Burriscarra N.S.

Carnacon, Ballyglass, Claremorris, Co. Mayo.

21. 12. 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our Christmas Newsletter. Please find below a brief outline of some of the activities our school has been participating in during this school year.

Welcome!

Everyone in Burriscarra NS welcomes the new children who have enrolled recently and are part of our school community.

Retirement

Our School's Deputy Principal Marie Hughes retired from her post in October. The school community came together before the mid term break to celebrate and recognise Marie's great service to our school over many years. Welcome to our new teacher, Maura Dolan.

Board of Management

A new Board of Management has been formed for our school for 2023 - 2027. Thank you to the previous Board for their great service over the past 4 years. Welcome to our new Parent Representative, Niamh Hughes and our new Teacher Representative, Helena Hastings onto the incoming Board.

Junior Room Update

We have been busy working in the Junior Room this term. Our Aistear themes have been "The Café" and "The Post Office". We have learned all about working together through play. We took a trip to the Carnacon post box to post our letters!

In early December we went on a walk through the village to look for signs of Winter. We also went to the Museum of Country Life in Turlough House, Castlebar for a tour. We learned lots about life in Ireland in the past.

We made jam sandwiches together based on our procedural writing genre...they were delicious!

We have also been busy learning about money in Maths, this was useful in our classroom café and post office!

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We have focused on animals for Art this term. We have some friendly penguins, cute owls and scary tigers on display around the school hall.

Virtual Dairy Farm Visit

Our senior room attended a live virtual open day on a Dairy Farm in September hosted by the National Dairy Council. We met a dairy farmer who showed us around his farm and milking parlour and explained all that is involved in producing milk.

School Garden

We were delighted to harvest a bumper crop of potatoes, onions and peas from our school garden earlier in the term. We also spent some time adding leaves to our leaf composter and did some weeding in our raised beds and in our herb garden. Later in the term we planted garlic in our raised beds and planted chestnuts and acorns in growing trays in our nursery. We also continue to harvest spinach which continues to grow after cutting!

Cuman na mBunscol - Mini 7s

In September, our 5th and 6th class boys combined with boys from Crimlin NS and participated in the Cuman na mBunscol West Mayo Mini 7s competition in Breaffy GAA club. Manulla NS were defeated in the first round. Breaffy NS were the opposition in the quarter finals. The boys put in a great performance and raced into an early lead. Midway through the 2nd half, the teams were level but a couple of late Breaffy points saw them prevail by 2 points. Everyone was disappointed with the result but proud of putting in an excellent performance.

Cross Country

Well done to all the children who participated in the West Mayo Primary School's Cross Country Competition in September. This year's competition was in Aughagower and was a much more challenging course to run on. They trained really hard on our school pitch in the lead up to the event and everyone performed brilliantly on the day.



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Halloween Fancy Dress

There was great excitement on Friday October 27th when the children got to wear their favourite fancy dress costumes to school. We had a fancy dress parade and party in the afternoon where everyone had great fun!

Trip To Turlough House

Earlier this term, We had a really enjoyable visit to the National Museum Of Country Life in Turlough. We were lucky enough to receive a guided tour from Sean Hallinan. Sean showed us around Turlough House and then gave us a very interesting guided tour of the museum. Sean was a great guide and told us lots of interesting information about life in Ireland in the past.

Swimming

The children in the senior room have just completed a very enjoyable seven week block of swimming lessons in Claremorris Leisure Centre. The children were commended by the swimming instructors for the great effort they put in and for their exemplary manners and behaviour. Well done, boys and girls!

All-Ireland Champions!

Before the mid term break, we were delighted to welcome past pupils Áodhan and Eoghan Hughes back to our school. Áodhan and Eoghan are members of the Piper's Cross Céili Band who during the summer won the senior band competition at the All Ireland Fleadh in Mullingar. They are the first band from Mayo to win this prestigious title and the children really enjoyed listening to the lads play a number of jigs and reels.



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Maths Week

Maths Week took place in mid October and all the children enjoyed playing maths games, exploring maths trails using ICT and problem solving as part of a team.

Science Week/STEM

In the Senior room we have been working on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) activities for our silver Curious Minds award. <https://www.sfi.ie/engagement/curious-minds/>

We are learning to ask questions about the world around us, how to conduct fair experiments and how to gather data to compare results and prove or disprove a theory.

We looked at shapes used in buildings and structures around us and explored which shapes are the strongest and most useful by designing and making bridges.

We learned about electricity and made our own circuits to power motors, bulbs and other electrical loads.

We have explored forces such as gravity, push and pull and magnetism and have experimented to better understand their effect in the world around us. We explored centres of gravity by designing and making balancing clowns and did 'magic' tricks using magnets.

We are currently designing balloon rockets to explore the changes forces exert on objects. We look forward to continuing our STEM journey after Christmas.

Dare To Believe Olympic Movement Breaks

We are really enjoying participating in these Olympic Movement Breaks which help generate classroom-based movement opportunities. These breaks are led by famous Irish athletes who will be representing Ireland at next year's Olympic Games. Regular movement for children brings many benefits to the teaching and learning process, and following these high-performance athletes is a great way for our children to see some of



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the athletes who will represent Ireland in the 2024 Paris Olympic Games next summer.

Christmas Shoebox Appeal

A big thank you to all the children and parents for your support for the Christmas Shoebox Appeal. Thank you to Ms. Hastings for co-ordinating the appeal and to June for dropping off our completed boxes.

Shared Reading

The children in both rooms continue to enjoy their shared reading at home. Remember to read with or to your child every evening. Thank you to everyone for signing the reading record sheet when a book is completed.

School Policies

A reminder that all school policies are available in the school office should you wish to view one at any time. Our school's mandatory policies can also be viewed on our school website - www.carnaconnns.ie. The school's Anti - Bullying Policy was reviewed by the Board Of Management in September and our school's Extra Personal Vacation (EPV) Policy was ratified in November. If you would like to view and contribute to any of our school policies, please contact the school office.

Christmas Holidays

The school will close for the Christmas holidays at 12pm on Friday December 22nd.



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Please see our calendar below for the remainder of the school year.

Burriscarra National School Closures 2023 - 2024

Month	Date of Closure	Details
December/January	Friday 22 nd Dec. - Friday 5 th Jan. 2024 School re-opens Monday 8 th Jan. 2024	Christmas Holidays
February	Monday, February 5 th	Bank Holiday Weekend
February	Thursday 15 th , & Friday 16 th	Mid Term Break
March	Monday March 18 th	St. Patrick's Day
March/April	Monday 25 th March - Friday 5 th April School re-opens Monday 8 th April	Easter Holidays
May	Monday 6 th May	Bank Holiday Weekend
May/June	Friday May 31 st and Monday 3 rd June	Bank Holiday Weekend
June	Friday - 21 st June (school closes for summer holidays)	Summer Holidays



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Finally, on behalf of all the staff in Burriscarra NS, I would like to thank you for your continuing support and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year.

Yours sincerely

James Rafter
Príomhoide