

Prologue Another decade has passed and our school is celebrating four dozen years. 2020 was often used to signify excellent sight. It seemed so far away, yet it is almost upon us. Many things have changed in the last decade and will change again in the next. One thing for certain, Ballymacarbry N.S. will continue to offer an education to the pupils of this area, as we approach our Golden Jubilee.

New Board of Management A new Board was elected in Nov. We thank the last Board for its assistance since 2015, especially Thomas Crotty who first became a member in 1987 and spent the last 12 years as chair. To PJ Ryan who also started that same day 32 years ago. We thank Catherine Ryan for the last 2 terms and Breda Houlihan for 2019. We remember Ciarán Ó Riain, a past Board member who died and we welcome on board Andrew Ryan, Melissa Meehan, Nuala Power and Mr. Stephen Earley.

Staff Changes Since June we have had many changes. Our 3 temporary teachers, Miss Moore, Miss Mitchell and Mr O’Cuirín, who had all been with us for 2 years received permanent posts in St. Olivers, Stradbally and An Rinn respectively. Furthermore, Miss Melody took up a teaching position in Howth, Co. Dublin. She made an enormous contribution to our school since 2001 and while we were sorry to see her go, we wish Niamh the best in the capital. Miss Denmead has replaced Miss Melody. We welcomed back Mr & Mrs McGrath from the Middle East and while Michelle returns to her post, Sean takes up a temporary role with Rang 5, a post he last held here in June 2013.

School Concert Rg 3-Rg 6 In mid February our pupils performed the Pirates of Ballymac, Red Riding in the Hoodie, Jack & the Beanstalk and Cinderella at the Community Centre. A very enjoyable night was had. Some of the pupils wouldn’t be out of place in the West End or Broadway. As is customary, our Banna Ceoil provided the musical entertainment for the night and the PA was instrumental in staging the production.

Sport We participate in the Boys and Girls INTO Football and Hurling competitions, also competing in the 7 a-sides. We take the senior side of the school to Clonmel swimming Pool annually and compete in the Track & Field Meet in each May. Our girls reached the Western A Football Final only to be narrowly defeated by Lismore. We also broaden our participation in sport during Active Week each year. Thanks to our local G.A.A. clubs who contribute to P.E. coaching at our school.

Visitors Those who called by this year include our Garda Phil Dee, coaches Jamie Barron, Stephen Enright, Barry Dunne, Barry Mullane and Hayley Fitzsimons with her haul of world medals. From the world of science, Michael Costello, Albert Nolan and staff at Nore Valley Farm. We also engaged with artist Ciara Gormley and WC&CC in completing an historical project on placenames. Our local libraries called to present their awards; the Fire Service, to highlight the importance of safety in the home and local paramedic Alan Walsh to deliver up to date First Aid and emergency techniques. As we speak we are also expecting a certain man in red complete in time for Christmas.

STEM Again in 2019, we collected an award for Maths and Science Excellence, one of 14 Waterford. As part of Science Week 2019, we facilitated Lismore Heritage to call and give lessons in Electricity and Antarctica. Rg 3-Rg 6 enjoyed the experiments and saw science in everyday topics. A highlight of the year was engaging with Nore Valley in watching the 3 three week hatching process from egg to chick, indeed, a clutch of chicks, taking care of them until they could do so themselves. There was a daily audience in the school foyer witnessing the incubation process.

Enrolment We welcomed 28 pupils in Sept, 25 of whom were

juniors. We bade adieu to 23 from Rang 6. Those intending to enrol their children are urged to do so by contacting Rose at 6136349. An Open Morning will be held in early June 2020 for prospective pupils.

Philadelphia We were delighted to be a co-beneficiary from the staging of “Philadelphia Here I Come” by Bride View Players at the Community Centre in early February. A great night was had by all and sincere thanks to Pat Melody & Jim Ryan for inviting us on board. At this time of writing, plans are in train to promote “Bailegangáire” by Tom Murphy on 7th Feb. at the same venue. We look forward to its staging.

School Tours & Trips Our 2019 tours brought us to Ardmore, Tramore, Cork City and Dublin. Our 6th class made their annual excursion to the Nire lakes prior to departure and our middle classes travelled to Cahir Castle and Rock of Cashel on an historical Field Trip. We enjoyed many other nature walks throughout the school especially during Active Week.

Environment In our quest to attain our 5th Green Flag on Bio diversity we welcomed different speakers on the subject. Albert Nolan carried out an audit on our school grounds identifying all from the world of flora and fauna. We also benefitted from the expertise of Michael Costello from “Grow Your Own” in showing our pupils how to grow and care for organic fruit & vegetables. We continue to maintain our wild flower garden to the rear. We still continue the policy of “reduce, reuse and recycle” in striving to be litter free, conserving energy and water also. We collaborate with Tidy Town in their annual submission and we congratulate them on their continuous efforts and rewards.

Ethos As a catholic school we have been busy espousing the Christian way. Holy Communion was held in the Nire and FMW in May last where 22 received the sacrament over two weekends. We had a graduation mass in FMW in June. Representatives from both schools attended a Conference on the Future of Catholic Schools in Clonmel. The Christian way is not what we say, but best judged by what we do; to this end we fundraised for Dungarvan Lions Club in their Christmas Hamper Appeal and we also collected Christmas Shoeboxes for the less well off families in Eastern Europe. Thanks to all who continually support these worthwhile projects. Our Carol Service is scheduled for Wed 18th Dec in FMW at 7:30pm. Confirmation is scheduled for Tues 19th May at both FMW and Touraneena Churches. Holy Communion will be held in the Nire on Sun 24th and in FMW the following Saturday. Sacramental reparation is already underway in both parishes.

Finish & Return Date School will finish for Christmas on Fri 20th Dec at 12:30pm and will reopen on the Feast of the Epiphany, Mon 6th Jan.

Buíochas As with all schools another busy year was had at the local seat of learning. Thanks to all who contribute to our continued development as we steadily approach our fiftieth. There are too many people to mention individually but our special thanks to our pupils, their parents and entire families, our staff including teaching, ancillary and support staff, including Secretary, Supervisor, Cleaner and Caretaker. To members of our past and current Boards of Management and also our Parent Association, our bus drivers, our transition year students, our trainee teachers on placement, visitors and members of the local clubs and organisations, our clergy and parish teams who help with sacramental preparation.

Epilogue May the joy of the upcoming Christmas season bring happiness to you all. Nollaig beannaithe agus athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh go léir. M.S.O’R.