**Ballymacarbry Central School 2023**

**Prologue -**Since our last report was filed in late 2022, we said ‘slán’ to our Rg 1 pupil Danny, a very sad end to the calendar year for the Norris family, school and indeed entire community. 2023 started in similar sad vein, when on 2nd day of January, our colleague Paul Brunnock, died after having spent only two years here. Paudi’s dad, Colm died in April and our former groundsman and caretaker Frankie Connolly passed away in September. Ar dheis Dé go raibh siad go léir. Tá siad imithe ar slí na fírinne.

**BOM -**Our new Boards of Management commenced this month. We say thanks to the outgoing members and welcome new additions. These people give of their time voluntarily, to help the school thrive.

We welcomed 22 new junior infants in September and graduated 23 Rg 6 pupils last June. Ms Melissa Walsh and Miss Hanrahan joined our staff in September and November respectively. We congratulate Mrs McGrath, Ms Dunlea and Ms Blain, our colleagues, who gave birth to Mollie, Ellie Jean and Ben respectively in October last.

**Enrolment -**Our enrolment process has opened for the upcoming academic year and application forms can be sourced from our website or from the school itself. We will write to all applicants at Easter. Open Day is scheduled for mid- June. Our associated Breakfast Club and After School Service continues to thrive, since its inception in September 2022.

**Ethos -**We celebrated our catholic ethos this year with a start of year and an end of year mass. We also celebrated Grandparents’ Day in January. Communions were held in May in both local churches and Confirmation on 30th March at both FMW and Touraneena. We had many visits from our Chaplain, Fr Michael in addition to a visit from our patron Bishop Cullinane, following the deaths of Aisling, Danny and Paul and a religious inspection day in spring led by Sr. Antoinette. The pupils and staff are busy preparing for two pre-Christmas Carol Services at both local churches during this advent season.

**P.A. -**We get tremendous help from the P.A. on your behalf. They organise many events during the year such as Santa’s visit, Uniform Exchange, Active week, Sponsorship of Graduation Night and Pyjama Day, to name but a few. Thanks to Aoife, Catherine and Caroline as the newly elected officers, not forgetting Therese and Teresa who stepped down at AGM.

**School Tours -**Our school trips this year took us to Lismore Castle for the infants, Dublin Zoo for Rg 1/2 as a special treat from the Norris family. Rg 3/4 went south west to Cork and the Zippit Centre, while Rg 5/6 travelled northwest to Craggaunowen and Bunratty Castle, Clare, stopping off in Raheen on the return journey.

**Visitors -**We had a visit from Waterford City and County Mayor Cllr John O’ Leary in June. Our Cigire called in late September for an incidental inspection. Throughout 2023 we also had calls from geology specialist, Tina Keating, Dungarvan Fire Crew, Brendan and his colleagues at Battle Group Centre, staff from both Clonmel and Dungarvan Libraries, the staff of the Holy Family Mission, Glencomeragh for a Confirmation retreat and Edel Harding who facilitated an RSE talk to Rang 6 pupils, not forgetting Albert Nolan, who came to assist us in our Green School’s Programme.  We were glad to be able to assist some past pupils in their transition year obligations and also facilitate the placement of trainee teachers to add to the teaching fraternity.

**Sports -**I’m glad to report that three of our past pupils held captaincy of Senior Waterford teams this year, namely Jamie, Dermot and Karen. Well done on the sport stars you’ve become and role models that you are. We partake in many sporting events internally and externally. The Boys won the A Hurling Shield this year while the girls reached the final of the A Football. Local coaches and Waterford GAA coaches came along to help our pupils and staff. Taylor, Aaron and Emily represented us in the Primary Game. We participated in the Aisling Kennedy, and the Deirdre O’Ryan memorial tournaments. We enjoyed good success at Clonmel Athletics where Anna, Áine, Saorlaith and Michaelatook back medals to the school. We also entered the Fit 4 Life athletics programme. We welcomed back the Ballymac Ladies on winning county and Munster Club honours and Thomas, Rocco & Gavin who won All Ireland Basketball medals with Raheen College. We congratulate our past pupils, the Peters, on their ‘Ireland’s Fittest Family’ endeavours. Our senior classes participated in swimming and our infants had the use of balance bikes from Waterford Sports Partnership, a partnership we also used to promote the skill of skipping in school. Active Wk in June is a highlight of the year, when we are ably assisted by the P.A.

**Extra Events** – In addition to celebrating standard days such as Hallowe’en, Christmas, St Valentine and St Patrick, the school also participated in Science Wk, Maths Wk, Seachtain na Gaeilge, Grandparents’ Day, World Book Day, Crazy Hair Day, a Bake sale for C-Saw, Christmas Hamper Funding and a recent Pyjama Day, raising €357 for the local Playground Comm. Our pupils would have enjoyed success in local quizzes such as Clonmel Credit Union, Ballinameela, Clonea and Touraneena.

We enjoyed the fruit and veg provided by Food Dudes and the African Drums provided by Waterford Teachers Centre along with games sponsored by Cartamundi, Waterford. We are glad to have a defibrillator installed to the rear of the school which hopefully won’t be needed. Our Jubilee Concert in January was the highlight of the Arts year, where a fantastic show was performed on two nights by all classes. The infants performed a Nativity play, Rg 1/2 No one wraps like an Elf, Rg 2/3 Annie, Rg 3/4 Matilda and Rg 5/6 Joseph & his Technicolour Dreamcoat. Our resident Banna Ceoil played their part as they do at many school functions under the direction of Miss Kelly.

**Buíochas**– There are many spokes needed to keep a wheel turning. Thanks to all who support the school, be it in a paid, or voluntary capacity. Your time and efforts are very much appreciated. The pupils are the cog in the centre. Education is the oil which keeps it turning.

**Epilogue -**A full and enjoyable year, I hope you’ll agree, at the local school.We have attached some photos of the year in review for this publication. For others, please like our social media page on Facebook or simply log into our website to keep up-to-date with events at Ballymacarbry N.S. We wish our entire school community a happy, peaceful and holy Christmas 2023. Nollaig beannaithe agus athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh. **MJOR.**