



December 2020 -Scoil Réalt na Mara Echo

Welcome to the Scoil Réalt na Mara news letter. The news letter aims to bring home some of the excitement of School life in our wonderful school.

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Christmas term—A message from our Principal

Dear Parents & Guardians,

The final term has come to an end. we prevailed thus far because of the diligence and dedication of each and every staff member in all they do but also your commitment and support in maintaining the new restrictions and cooperating completely to the restrictive measures put in place at the beginning of the year. Hats off to the staff who successfully delivered the curriculum while maintaining a positive and safe learning environment while avoiding any additional anxieties for the children. Each and every child in our school has been amazing in how they have adapted to the change. It was wonderful to still be able to create a forum for the children to perform and get creative. The final assembly of 2020 it has to be said was a success and enjoyed by all the children. That's who and what it is all about!

Not only have the staff prevailed in the face of adversity but the Parents Council members this year have been astounding. Monthly meetings via ZOOM and innovative fundraising ideas involving the children. It goes without saying the Cookbook was an innovative idea, created great excitement in school and was produced to such a high standard of professionalism. We can't wait to get cooking! All their effort and drive has made the investment into a third and final high spec interactive board along with a height adjustable unit a possibility. Well done to all involved.

The passion and generosity shown again this year from past pupils Áine Flynn and Pearse Flynn along with all other contributors to the book, calendar and other initiatives encapsulates a community spirit and goodwill second to none.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy and Safe Christmas.

Eilis Casey

Win lunch for two at Garryvoe, See page 6 for more details



Lets cook with Scoil Réalt na Mara

As you have seen the Parents Council have pulled out all the stops to produce our very own school community cook book entitled **"Lets cook with Scoil Réalt na Mara"** thanks to this tremendous effort we put this in place in a matter of a few short weeks. So many people deserve so much thanks not least the children who have shown that the true can-do spirit of our wonderful school is shining this Christmas time.

The book was the brainchild of Bree Allen who along with Aine Flynn with graphic design and Susan McCarty with the illustrations make the book bright and fun.

A special thanks to our sponsors whom yet again have given generously to the school. To Cully & Sully a special word of thanks as they came on board to fund the entire print cost of the book.

Our friends in The Trawl Door and Broderick's deserve a mention too in that they have kindly placed the book on sale in their shops which is fantastic

The book will no doubt be a welcome present this Christmas time and indeed through out the year as there is a recipe in the book for all tastes and all seasons so please enjoy.

Aprons on, ingredients on the counter, LETS COOK!



Parents Council School Calendar

Its Christmas time and that can mean only one thing. The Scoil Réalt na Mara 2021 Calendar is published and out in the community. This is an annual staple in the school year and gives useful information on various local services not to mention the 2021 calendar with the various holidays and other important dates added in. As always please do support our local businesses who support our school community year in year out.

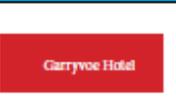
Scoil Réalt na Mara, Ballycotton

Tel: 021 4646068 Email: scoilrealtnamara@gmail.com

 <p>In Case of Emergency Dial 112 / 999 Rapid Response: 087 7561727</p> <p>Druf/Balatois localities: A: Ballycotton TIS B: Outside The Gaithri Pub C: Outside Lynch's Pub (Pier)</p> <p>0814</p>	 <p>SEA CHURCH BALLYCOTTON</p>	 <p>Garryvoe Co. Cork Tel: 021 4646232</p>	 <p>BOBBY BENSKIN CRASH REPAIRS</p> <p>Ballycotton, Cloyne, Co. Cork Phone: 021 8044900 Fax: 021 4982767 Email: bobbenkins@bt.com</p>
 <p>BALLYCOTTON SEA ADVENTURES</p> <p>Pier 26 Ballycotton, Co. Cork T: 087 2863990 E: ballycottonseaadventures@gmail.com W: www.ballycottonseaadventures.com</p>	 <p>CONCRETE & COMPANIES RESIN, STONE, TERRAZZO, GRANITE</p>	 <p>CarePLUS PHARMACY</p> <p>021-4622542 021-4642718 021-4646068</p>	 <p>HEGARTY PROPERTIES</p> <p>82 Hill Street, Midleton, Co. Cork Tel: 021 4639411 www.hegartyproperties.ie</p>
 <p>MTA1 CONSTRUCTION</p>	 <p>Filed Away CARTERS</p>	 <p>THE BAYVIEW AN BALLYCOTTON GOLF</p>	 <p>Soulful Soul Lunch</p>

2021 Calendar

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 <p>CUSH</p>	 <p>VETERINARY CLINIC CLOYNE T: 021 4651464 Snead Falway MVB</p>	 <p>WILDSIDE CATERING</p>	 <p>The Schooner Tavern Main Street, Ballycotton Co. Cork T: 021 4648710 F: 021 4648702 info@schoonertavern.com W: www.schoonertavern.com</p>
 <p>Blackbird Your Local Bar • Live Music Quality Steaks • Fresh Fish • Situated at The Field Kitchen</p>	 <p>Broderick's Fuel & Filling Station Shanagarry, Co. Cork Tel: 021 4648133</p>	 <p>HARTY'S BAR & RESTAURANT Cloyne, Co. Cork Tel: 021 4652401</p>	 <p>KENNEDY'S BALLYCOTTON POTATOES</p>
 <p>MIDLETON VETERINARY HOSPITAL Kingsbridge Industrial Park, Midleton, Co. Cork Tel: 051 891 891</p>	 <p>ban.ie BAY AREA NETWORKS Fast, Reliable and Affordable Internet for the Ballycotton Bay Region. Tel: 021 2375371 • www.ban.ie</p>	 <p>Garryvoe Hotel</p>	 <p>Ballycotton Montessori School and Charistown Montessori School Phone: 086 9441542 E: info@ballycottonmontessori.com</p>

Chocolate Santa's and Reindeers for everyone

The Parents Council has again delivered some festive cheer to the school in the form of chocolate Santa's and Reindeers for the whole school to mark the festivities ahead. Thanks to the kind donations throughout the year this little treat has been made possible. Yum Yum.

Great stories— Great Light Houses

In May this year , Fighting Words and Great Lighthouses of Ireland invited submissions of original writing inspired by lighthouses from young writers aged 7-12. They received 1,300 submissions: stories, poems, illustrations from young writers all over the island of Ireland and beyond!

Our very own school of course was not to be without contributors with Saoirse Barron , Cara Flynn & Dylan Tynan all getting their works published on the fightingwords.ie website. Indeed Dylan had the honour of having his Poem published in the lovely **Light House Story book—Let creativity shine** which is available for purchase at childreninhospital.ie, Which is a charity devoted to Making hospital a happier place for children through play and advocacy. Well-done to you all.

A Windy Night

by Saoirse Barron, Age 11

Upon the hill is a shining yellow light
Guiding ships of all kinds on these cold
dreary nights.

Waves pound against the rocks
Right below us

The light is guiding us so strong and
bright

I steer the ship telling everyone to hold
on tight.

As the sea roars against our ship with
all its might

However, for some reason something
does not feel quite right.

Bobby, Sam and some more under top
deck crew

Tell us they have some horrible news

There has been a flood under top deck
Now if we go down there the water will
be up to our necks

I am in a hurry to get back home

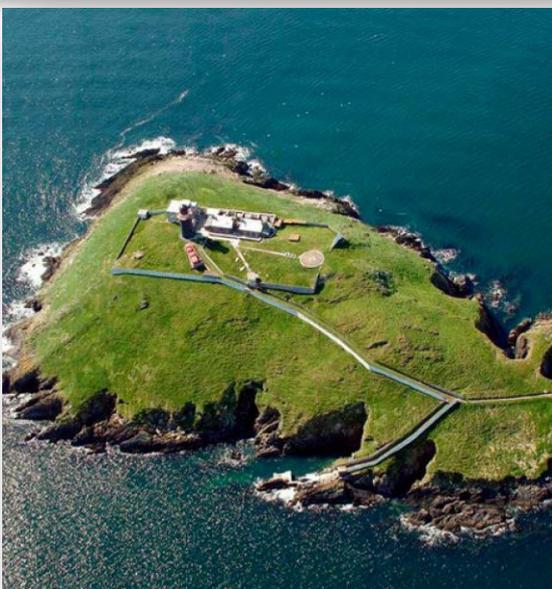
As underneath us, we all hear the sea
groan

We are home in a tick

With the lighthouse as our torch

Volunteers makes us steaming warm
hot chocolate

While we sit on Ballycotton's port.



THE SECRET OF THE LIGHT

Dedicated to Sr. Mary Keenan, who I played in the 'Great Lighthouses of Ireland' series.

I looked, I watched until I saw the boat sail away. It had happened many times. I don't like it when he leaves. It's hard on our family, Ballycotton Lighthouse is lucky; she is never lonely at all. She always has someone with her as she guides sailors. I miss him, he will be away for weeks and this time it's even harder because he will miss my Holy Communion.

I am Mary and this is where my story begins. My father is a lighthouse keeper and has to go away again. I stood on the wall at Spanish Point and waved until my arm almost fell off. Eventually, I got tired and sat down. A little tabby cat sat down next to me, he was a little mysterious if I'm honest.

My mother would usually say I shouldn't sit on the wall for so long or I'd catch my death but on this occasion she was feeling sorry for me and told me she told she would make me something nice for tea.

I went home and had potato soup for dinner, it's always potatoes for us but today there was an extra special treat for me, slims with jam and cream. I went to bed a little later that night; I had planned to write every night about me and my upside down life but I was exhausted.

A scratching noise woke me suddenly, it was dark but for a glimmer of light coming through a crack in the curtain, I jumped out of bed and peered through the window at two very large eyes looking back at me. It was the tabby cat, calling me! How strange. Without thinking I crept quietly out of the house, taking the package that my communion dress was wrapped in. I followed the little cat to a ghostly light on the pier. As we approached I realised it was a very big ship, it reminded of something, a ghost ship I'd read about. I wondered if my father and his lighthouse and led this ship to me.

I looked around for the little tabby cat but she was nowhere to be seen. Something was drawing me onto the ship and before I knew it I was sailing. The ship was heading towards the lighthouse, no captain, no sailors, just me. I felt like Gráinne Mhaol sailing the high seas with my father's light guiding me. The ship sailed through the sound; I was scared it was too shallow but before I knew it we were at anchor. I looked around and could see torch light on the island, my dad was coming. The tabby cat appeared again, clawing at the package that covered my communion dress. I quickly put it on and turned to see my father standing proudly; I hugged him and twirled in my dress. Suddenly, I woke up to the sound of

my mother calling me for breakfast. It was all a dream. I was so disappointed, I pulled down the covers to find myself wearing my communion dress and looked towards the window to find the little tabby cat sitting there.

Cara Flynn

DYLAN TYNAN | CO. CORK

Star of the sea

Flashing, flashing, towering over
electronic wizard from man took over.

Watching, watching restless sprays,
Circulating waters and roaring waves.

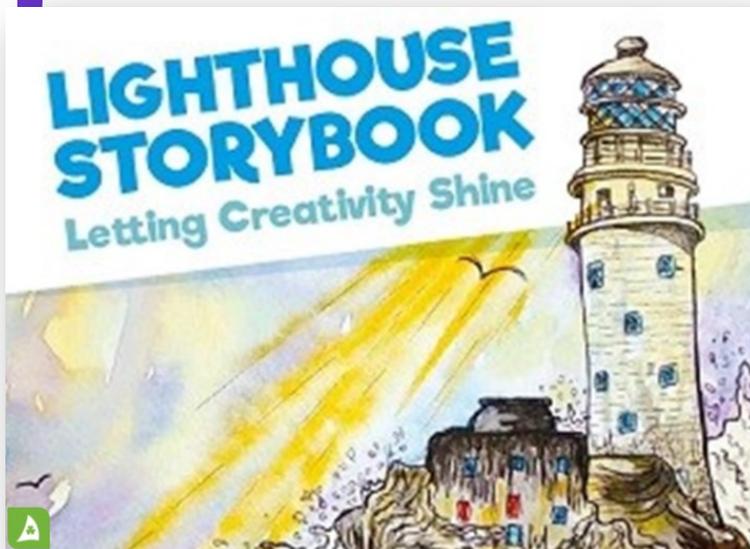
Jagged rocks beneath you soar
The crew of many below you lowered.

Pounding surf and windswept decks
That make that chill on soaked wet necks.

Flashing, flashing, shining over,
Out of the darkness sounds grow near
As of now, I've no more fear.

The star of the sea in the middle of the ocean
From out of the dark, a welcoming light
Like a helping hand on a wind-swept night.

Like many, many boat men owe
Pray for me, in one more week, must go.



THE COLD WATERS

I woke up with the cold waters thrashing against my feet;
I looked around.

"Where am I?" I thought, shaking even though it was
a hot summer's day.

My heart throbbed and my body ached. How far
away from my home must I have been, I wonder as I write
this story. I am very thankful, for at that moment I did not
think about the creatures lurking beneath me, as I would
probably have drowned in my own thoughts rather than
the ocean.

I was parched, and extremely glad my flamingo floaty
had a cup holder so I could balance my drink and sip it,
while trying to coax my awful fear.

"Shh, shh, just don't fall asleep," I mumbled quietly,
rocking myself all the while.

In the afternoon light, I noticed something. I looked
upwards; it was the light of a lighthouse shining brilliantly
in my face. I started crying out of sheer joy. I screamed
until I was hoarse and a number of people had gathered
on a beach nearby.

I knew the tide was turning again, so I would have
to jump off. I counted to myself: "A haon, a dó, and a trí!"

I then launched myself into the icy waters and swam.
I had thought it would be a lot shallower, but even with my
goggles, I couldn't see the bottom. I kept on swimming
until I snagged my chest on a jagged rock. The horrible
red blood oozing out terrified me, but I kept on kicking,
my eyes down and my hands moving like a windmill. All
of a sudden I could feel the sandy bottom. Someone
ran towards me and then there was blackness (I having
fainted).

I woke up in a cosy house with a little girl beside me.

"Mother said we were to take you in," said the little
girl. "And I know she said not to leave you out of the bed;
but I must show you the lighthouse."

Helping me get up (my head spinning all the while)
and outside, I saw the one and only Ballycotton Lighthouse.
Ahh, I am home at last.

*RIP, Isa Palona, written by a young eleven-year-old patient
through her failed chest cancer surgery, describing her
voyage to heaven from earth.*

Saoirse Barron
Co Cork

Win lunch for 2 at Garryvoe Hotel with the Parents Council fun quiz. Just figure out what these local hot spots & things are.

1.	The B.I.b	The Ballycotton Lifeboat
2.	T. Door	
3	The C.w. for sight seeing	
4	S.R.n.M	
5	The pier h	
6	B. s. in S	
7	Sea C	
8	B P 'n P	
9	S Bar m s Ballycotton	
10	M.V.A the Ballycotton g s.	
11	C&S make nice f	
12	The F K at the back of the BB	
13	S. Diner f f f & c	
14	The BVH	
15	C I is across t b	
16	Ballycotton S A for b trips	
17	The SRnM PC	
18	RR in the B&A	
19	M S up on the C	
20	A L the name of the BLb	
21	POS author	
22	B C S in S	
23	T B road	
24	E C is the P of SRnM	
25	B M C takes care of you	
26	O'B Tec.	
27	G DH & the C	
28	D R the m shot in B	
29	The B H the way to the S of the S C	
30	The LH is on the SRnM L	
31	B S F for fresh f	
32	H or M B the same place for swimming	
33	The C S near the P for crab f	
34	S V P on the C	
35	B M S for pre s k	

Send your answers to 0877425212 or ballycottonpc@gmail.com before 03/01/2021

Remembrance Christmas tree

For the second year running the Parents Council have placed a remembrance tree in the school grounds as a really nice way for everyone to place a remembrance ribbon for those loved ones we are missing at this time of year. The tree which was very kindly donated by Brodericks Shop in Shanagarry was erected by the Parents council and as the ribbons have come in they have been placed on the tree which serves as beacon as you come in to the village.

As always our local shops at the Trawl Door and Brodericks supported the initiative by selling the ribbons so a big thanks to them for that.

We also had Matsons Wines on hand on the day to brew up a little mulled wine for all the little helpers present & so kick off the festivities for everyone. Thanks as always to everyone for their support.



Movie stars Ballycotton style

In the build up to Christmas and in the absence of the annual School play the 5th and 6th class have been busy making their very own movies. Perhaps over the last few weeks you saw the movie sets in place at various locations throughout the village as the kids got a chance within their respective bubbles to write their own scripts, cast the roles, manage production, editing & filming. With many catchy titles such as *"Turkey with hint of murder"*, *"A crazy Christmas"*, *"Christmas from different realms"*, *"48 hours before Christmas"*, *"Stealing Santa"* & *"A Search for happiness"* these initiatives by the class and teaching staff have proved to be a welcome extra curricular activity coming up to Christmas. You can check these movies out at the School website <https://www.scoilrealnamara.ie/blog>.



Picture this

