

Green Schools 2018-2019

2018 Green School Flag for Ballinspittle N.S.

There was great excitement and a feeling of achievement in April 2018 in Ballinspittle N.S. when a letter was received congratulating the school and informing them that their application for their first Green Flag under the theme of Litter, waste reduction and recycling, had been successful. The school as a community under the guidance of the Green School Committee had been working towards this goal for a number of years. The 2017-18 Committee members of Emma O Leary, Oscar Hurley, Tomás O Riordan, Aoife Martin, Aisling Healy, Alanna Harrington, Martin Hickey, Óisín Martin and Sinéad Fitzpatrick had organised Bin surveys, School Black Spot reviews, art competitions and helped inform classes all that was discussed and planned at Green School meetings under the guidance of Mrs Kathleen O Donovan. A very catchy code:” **Plastic, cardboard, bottles and cans, Please pick up as much as you. Waste in the red bin, recycling in the green. We all work together to keep our school clean.**” composed by former pupil Anna O Mahony(when she was in Fifth Class) was learned and adopted by all classes. Committee Members Alanna Harrington and Martin Hickey accompanied The Principal Mr. Thomas Gunning and Mrs Kathleen O Donovan attended the award ceremony which was held in the Radisson Blu, Little Island, Cork. Alanna and Martin were the first students to receive their flag among the very many students from all over Munster who were in attendance to receive flags for their schools. The flag was brought back to the school and raised for the first time in June in a lovely ceremony by Mrs Eileen O Regan who happily returned with her little grandson to do the honours. Now the school must start work towards the next flag which is awarded under the theme of Energy which looks at the steps that can be taken at school to reduce energy consumption and raise awareness of climate change.

On coming back to school after the summer holidays a new committee was elected in Oct. 2018
The committee for the school year 2018-19:



Anawin Hurley, Conor Burke, Erin Griffin, Rosie O Donovan, Sarah Moloney, Ross Collins, Niamh Griffin and Sarah Barry.

Work done by this group:

1. The committee helped plant spring bulbs in the green flower pots at the front of the school.
2. The Junior and Senior Infants planted a snowball tree on 10th Oct which was given to the school by The Tree Council of Ireland.
3. All children were taken in the autumn months on the new tree trail on the school grounds.

4. The infant classes planted hyacinth bulbs in recycled pots (plastic yogurt pots) in class to give as presents to parents for Christmas.
5. The children entered a green school poster on “Water Conservation “ in the Spring 2019.
6. The committee decided at one of the spring meetings that all children in the school should be given the challenge to rid their lunchboxes of all tinfoil and plastic and only to use re-usable containers.
7. Also it was decided to give each child in the school a pinch of summer flowers to start growing in a pot made from the schools plastic milk bottles. Some classes took their seeds home when they hhad germinated but Miss Lyne’s class planted theirs in the school garden and the infants planted theirs in the top flower bed and pots around school.



8. Sunflowers and peas,carrots , potatoes, lettuce and loads of tomatoes were grown in pots and cardboard milk cartons and some taken home and others planted in school garden.





The garden looked really well for the summer and attracted loads of bees and butterflies. The Senior infants had great fun when they came back to school this autumn studying the caterpillars who loved the nasturtium plants. There was a caterpillar for everyone in the class and many, many more.

Children have just volunteered for the new committee.

The Committee for the school year 2019-20 :

First Class: Donnchadh

Second Class: Fionn McLaughlin

Third Class: Emma O Leary

Fourth Class : Cathal White

Fifth Class: Emma O Sullivan

Sixth Class: Aoife Moloney.

Events held this year to date:

We have had two events this year to date.

1. The Senior and Junior Infant classes planted two trees as part of Tetrapak Tree week Oct 1st-4th 2019. We received, on applying, two spindle trees from the Tree Council of Ireland . Mrs Hurley and Mrs. O Donovan had a tree planting ceremony on Wed. Oct 2nd .



2. The second event was held in conjunction with “Climate Action Week Oct 14th-20th” where a poster competition was held for class 1st-6th on the theme “What can I do to stop Climate Change?”. There was a huge response to the competition with well over a hundred entries and the prizes were awarded on Wed. Oct. 23rd after lunch-break in the school yard where all the school were assembled.

Here are the winners (Who received a book token) and the runners up who received a kit for planting containing, 3 scented daffodil bulbs for planting this autumn and 10 sunflower seeds for planting in the spring. The sunflower seeds were from the sun flowers that were grown in the flower beds and pots in the school grounds this summer that made quite a display all summer and were enjoyed by all the village community. Those sunflowers themselves were grown by the Senior Infant class 2018-19 from seeds saved from sunflowers grown in 2018 in our school garden.



Our next theme for a green school flag is under the theme of Energy which looks at the steps that can be taken at school to reduce energy consumption and raise awareness of climate change.