

## Scoil Bhaile Nóra

**Roll Number 184280**

**Roll number 8707**

**Roll number 3722**

**A fabulous school, over 170 years in the making, with a bright future ahead!**

Our dustiest *leabhar rolla*, informs us that the school officially open its doors on 1 October 1<sup>st</sup>, 1861. The world and our community have changed in this time, and many wonderful staff have had the privilege of working with fabulous children and caring families. The school building, name and roll number may have changed over time, but the passion for highly effective catholic education, rooted and supported in a strong community remains. Our current motto, *Neart Trí Iarriacht* – Strength Through Effort underscores that we remain a place where the joy of effort, and learning at one’s best is affirmed and celebrated.

Baile Nóna National School												
No. of school days attended during last year	Date of pupil's admission to this school	Pupil's age in years and months at date of admission	Register Number	PUPIL'S NAME	No. of attendances per week	Class Roll No.	Religious Denomination	Annual Examination				
C	D	E	F	G	L	M	H	Quarter Commencing	Week ending Saturday	Week ending Saturday	Week ending Saturday	Week ending Saturday
-	8/5/22	28 7/2	0 976	Tomas O'Munada	94	82 R6		De Maist 1	12	17	24	24

REGISTER OF INFANTS IN Ballinora Mo. NATIONAL SCHOOL.												
Date of Entrance	Register Number	PUPIL'S NAMES	Ago of Pupil last Birth Day	Religious Denomination	RESIDENCE	Occupation or Means of Living of Parents	Annual Examination					
1870							First	Second	Third			
							No. of Days Present	Result	No. of Days Present	Result	No. of Days Present	Result
August 29 1870	57	Murphy Daniel	4	R.C.	Ballyman	Farmer	-	-	-	-	224 X	12

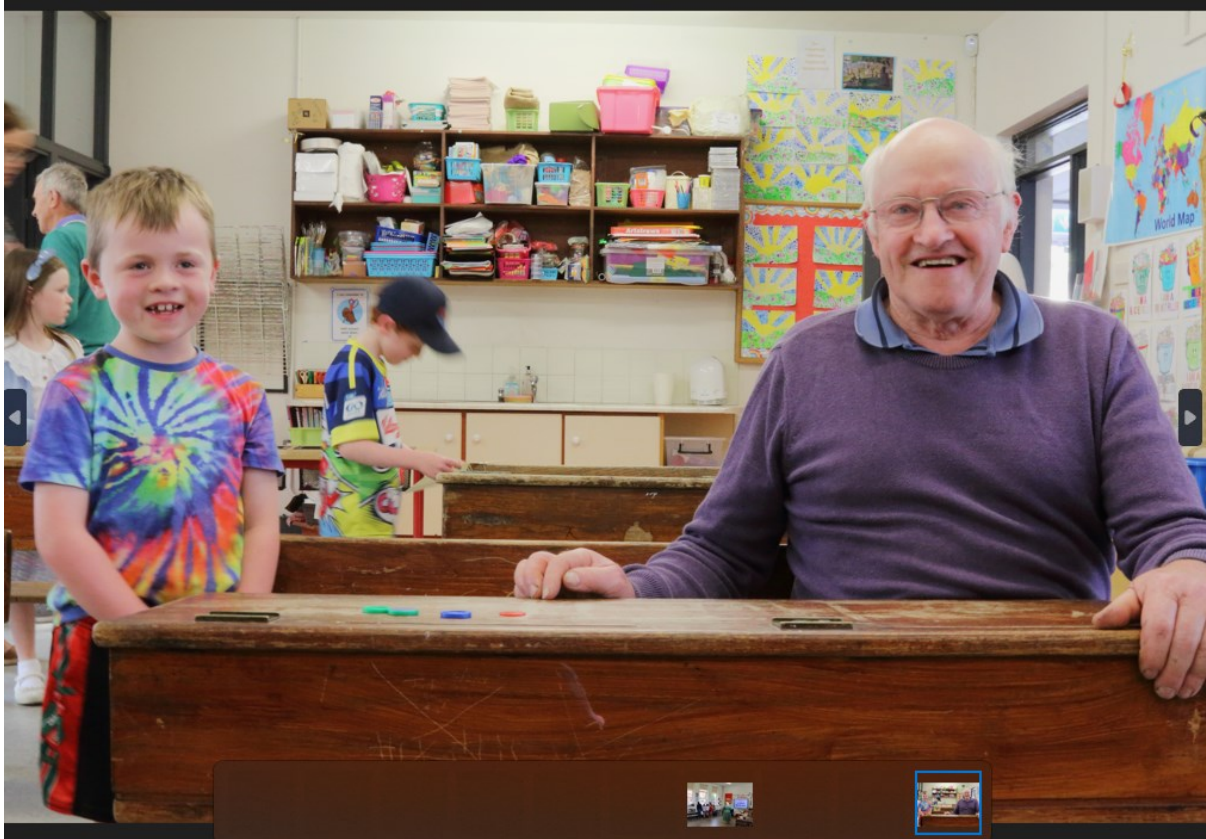
SCOIL NAISIUNTA Baile Nóna												
Ainm agus sloinne na dalta.	Creideamh.	Uimhir sa Rangollá.	Túil Lá									
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
An dáta ar cuireadh isteach sa rang seo roimhe sin	An dáta ar cuireadh isteach sa rang seo	Dáta breithe na dalta.	Claireamh.	Uimhir sa Rangollá.	Ainm agus sloinne na dalta.	Creideamh.	Uimhir sa Rangollá.	An tseachtain dár chrioch an Satharn,	An tseachtain dár chrioch an Satharn,	An tseachtain dár chrioch an Satharn,	An tseachtain dár chrioch an Satharn,	An tseachtain dár chrioch an Satharn,
1-7-72	17-8-63	378	1	1	Diarmuid Ó Cearúil		1	8	15	22	29	35

Neart  
Tré larracht

# Scoil Bhailenóra

A recent Reeling in the Years Event, invited families in the parish, long established and just letting their roots take hold, to come to the school and share old stories and memories. It was an awesome opportunity to celebrate our past, acknowledge our present, and look to a bright future!

Click on the picture below to see more from the night.



For over 170 years Ballinora has been served by a primary school. For generations the school has been in the community and very much of the community. We are privileged with the children and families we work with, but also of the generous support offered by the GAA, the church, the scouts, the retired gentlemen's club, the ICA, the Tidy Towns, and numerous families and individuals.

Our extended closure due to Covid in 2019, highlighted that it is not the building or the uniform that makes us a part of Scoil Bhailenóra, but amongst other things, the sense of belonging, caring for one-another, using & celebrating our skills and talents and enjoying our leaning.



1. Ballinora Girls' NATIONAL SCHOOL, Roll No. 8707  
Townland, Ballinora Parish, Kilnaglorry 22A  
Barony, Cork County, Cork  
Poor Law Union, Cork Electoral Division of Poor Law Union, Ballincollig

2. Nearest Post Town Waterfall Distance and direction from the School, (Statute Miles);  $\frac{1}{2}$  S.E.

3. Area of Site - Acres, - Roods, 3 Perches.

4. Whether is School Vested or Non-Vested? Non-vested

5. If Vested, whether in the Commissioners or in Local Trustees? \_\_\_\_\_

6. From what Funds built? Parochial Funds.

7. In what year? 1861

8. If only Rented as a School-house, amount of Rent? No Rent

And by whom paid? \_\_\_\_\_

9. Precise date of its opening as a School, 1-10-1861

10. Ditto, as a National School, 1-10-1861

There are currently 300 children enrolled in our school. Each with their own personality, skills and talents. It is the privilege of our dedicated staff to work with these children and their families to explore, develop and support the unbelievable potential of these children.

Pupils engage in the full national curriculum, Gaeilge, English, Mathematics, history geography, science, music, art, drama, PE, and SPHE as well as the Patron's Programme.

The joy of attending or working in Scoil Bhailenóra is rooted the high standards we set together and in the sense of belonging and community fostered by everyone working together. We aim to develop an understanding and appreciation of the local area's rich history to nurture in our pupils the desire and ability to be actively involved in developing their community, locally, nationally and internationally, now and long into the future.

To expose children to the full majesty of human creativity, we constantly reflect on the delicate balance we offer pupils, everything from myths, legends, folklore and poetry to art, sport, chess, drama, to science, experimentation, STEM challenges, coding. The interest and endeavour of the children, coupled with the active support of the parents, and dedicated & skilled staff, enable wonderful joyous educational experiences to occur in our school.





*Presentation of an Encouragement Award for achievement in An Post National Savers Awards, 1992  
Mr Ahane presents the award to Celine O'Reilly.*





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*The history below was predominantly compiled by  
An t-Usual Micheal O'Drighnan – Principal from 2006 to 2019.*

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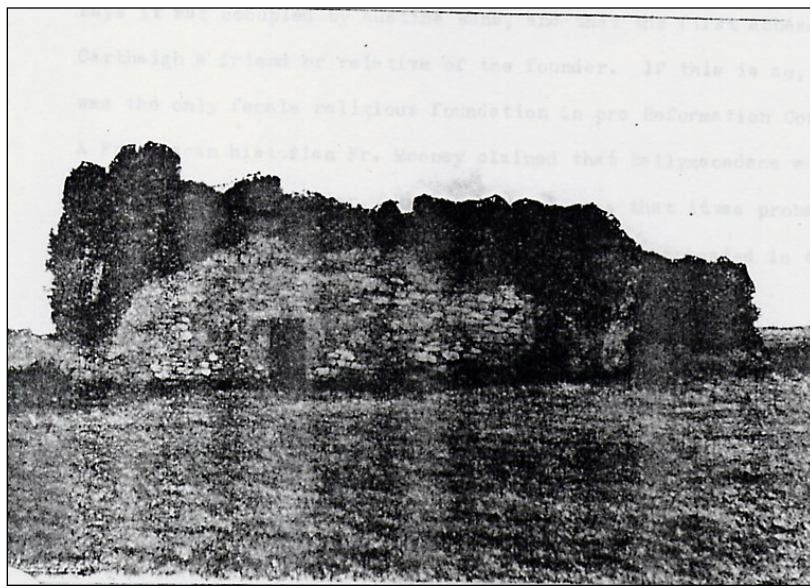
## Early Beginnings

It is difficult to determine the exact year that Ballinora National School came into existence. As the first purpose built structure was constructed in the church grounds in 1848, we know that it is at least 160 years old. However, the accounts of local historians tell us that education was available elsewhere in the area before this time. Thus, it is clear that our school was not the first to operate in the vicinity.



These accounts refer to the teaching of Catholic children in three private schools in Ballinora, prior to the building of our school. A Timothy Murphy rented a room in Ballymah where he taught classes, while an old barn in Windsor was the location of Jeremiah Mc Carthy's classes. We also know that a third school, accommodating approximately 45 pupils, existed somewhere in Ballinora in 1837. It appears that these were not the first schools in Ballinora either, however!

The writers of a book entitled *Ballinora Parish – Past & Present* tell us that this distinction is probably held by Ballymacadane Abbey. This Abbey was run by Franciscan Friars who were reported to have run “schools for the education of boys”.



Ballymacadane Abbey

The publication also refers to two schools for pupils of the Protestant faith, located in Inniskenny and Kilnaglory. It is recorded that in 1837, the school in Inniskenny accommodated 20 pupils, taught by a school master who was paid 15 shillings per annum by the diocese.

Thus, it is clear that while Ballinora National School is now the only surviving school in the parish, the seeds of educational provision in the area were planted long before its own early beginnings.

The conditions experienced by the pupils and teachers of our school in times past differed greatly from those enjoyed by current generations. The accounts below, provided in the main by past-pupils and their families, attempt to paint a picture of life in the school as it was, during their time here. The accounts are not an attempt to detail a chronological history of Ballinora NS, but rather an effort to make the fascinating snapshots of life and of some of the school's personalities available to the current school community.

The earliest recollections were sourced from a Mrs. Kenneally, who attended the school circa. 1889 and from a Margaret O' Sullivan of Ballinora Cross, who first arrived as fresh faced five year old, in 1926. Other valuable reminiscences were provided by past-pupils who attended during the 1930-1960 period. Records retained by the school also provided much valuable information. Tá an scoil fíor-bhuíoch do ghach duine a chabhraigh linn an cúntas seo a chur le chéile.

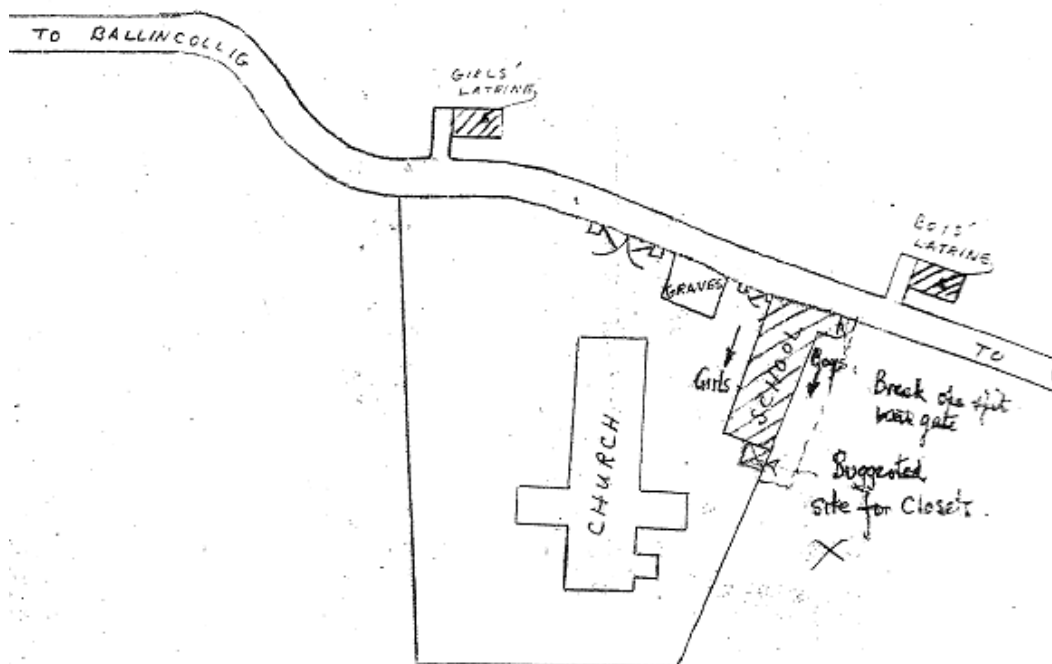
### **The Location of the Old School Building**

The first purpose built school building (the predecessor of the current structure) was situated closer to the church than the present one, on the green grassy area between the prefab on the western side of the school and the church. In contrast to the present building, which faces the road, the old building faced the church with its gable end backing onto the road, where the modern-day wall next to the side-gate now exists. The front door of the school was located at this roadside gable end. The road outside was nothing more than a stony dirt-track and was much narrower than at present.



BALLINORA NATIONAL SCHOOL CO. CORK.

SITE PLAN - NOT TO SCALE



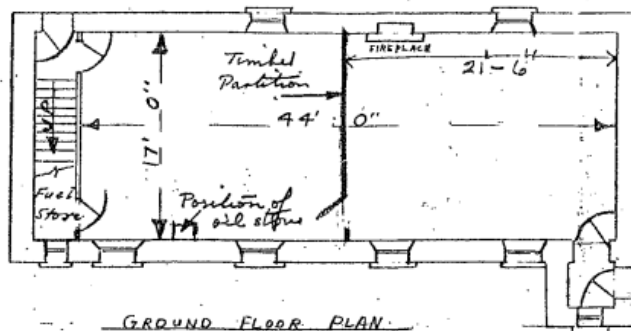
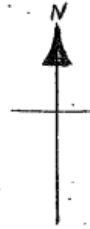
BALLINORA NATIONAL SCHOOL CO CORK 1938  
SOUTH ELEVATION.



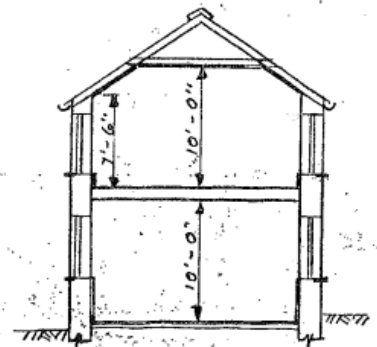


# BALLINORA NATIONAL SCHOOL CO. CORK.

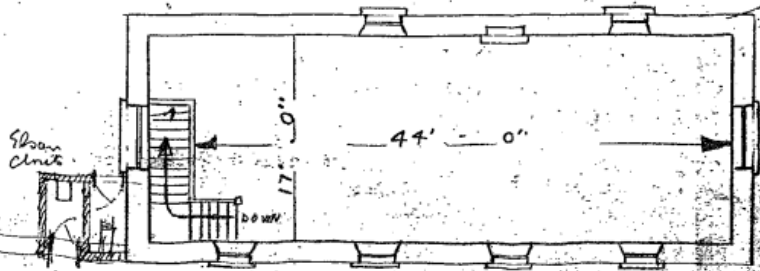
SCALE 1/2" = 1 FOOT



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



CROSS SECTION



1st FLOOR PLAN

## **Ballinora National School in 1938**

(This photo is of the side which faced the current school building.)



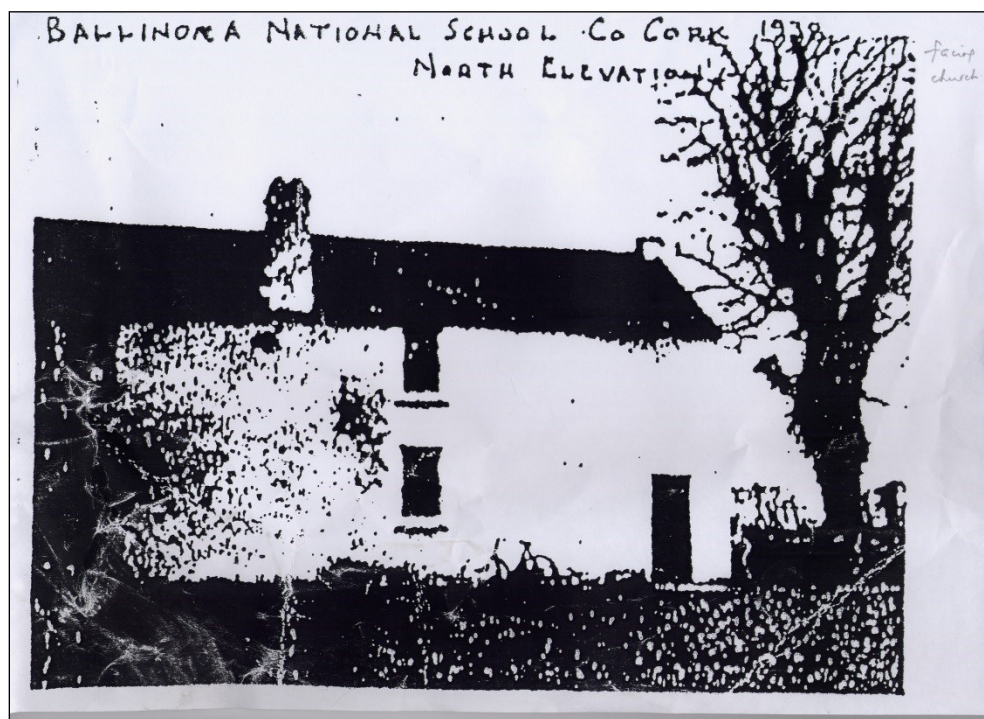
Ballinora N.S. Pupils pictured with teacher, Ms. Agnes Horgan in 1920

The photograph of pupils taken in 1920, above, shows the wall of part of the old school, and a line of trees which appear to have been situated behind it, where the current sports shed and open shed are now situated, with the windows of the church also visible in the background.

The site of the present school building was farmland, as was the current GAA pitch, car-park, house and hall. Similarly, the modern-day *Woodlands* housing development was also farmland, reported to belong to a Mrs. Ahern. The two-roomed school, church and graveyard therefore, stood alone, surrounded by fields.

### **The Building**

The old school building was a two-storey stone structure with slated roof, which included just two classrooms, one upstairs and one downstairs. The downstairs room was later divided into two rooms when numbers increased. Four deep narrow windows were set in the side facing the site of the current school with less on the side facing the church, as seen in the photo below. The building had two doors, one opening onto the road and another at the other end of the building, on the church side.



The building featured wooden floors and its stone walls were covered in timber panelling, approx. 1.5 metres high. When it was first built, the school had no running water, toilets, electricity, or heating.

A large fireplace was a feature of both rooms and the school was heated by fires, which had to be lit by the pupils. Fuel consisted of coal and turf, which was brought by the pupils from home during periods of the school's history and sometimes wood which, during Master Scannell's tenure, was often cut from trees in the surrounding area by the Principal and pupils. This fuel was kept under the stairs in a little area known as the "coal-hole".



BALLINORA NATIONAL SCHOOL CO CORK 1938  
SOUTH ELEVATION.



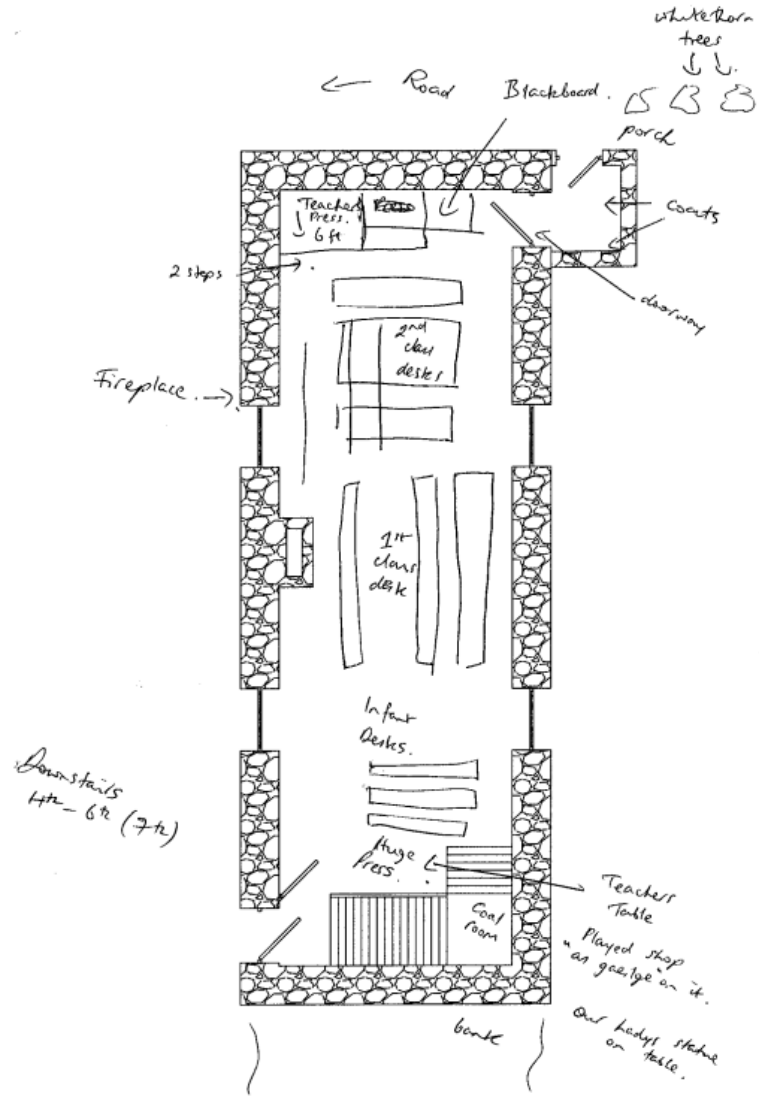
BALLINORA NATIONAL SCHOOL CO CORK 1938



BALLINORA NATIONAL SCHOOL CO CORK 1938  
NORTH ELEVATION.



BALLINORA NAT SCHOOL CO CORK 1938  
ELEVATION ON ROAD



During the 1950s, pupils from infant to second standard were taught together in the room downstairs, while third to sixth classes were accommodated in the large room upstairs. The numbers attending the school were much smaller at that time, with approx. 72 pupils enrolled in 1952. One past-pupil recalls being the only sixth class boy in the group.

Another remembers a huge press in each of the two rooms, which ran the length of the end wall and which housed all sorts of school equipment.

Most pupils came to school on foot, or by bicycle when older, though some who attended around 1952 recall the then Principal, Master Scannell collecting children who lived a great distance from the school, in his car. The majority walked, however, which for some involved a 6 mile round-trip! This was quite a distance for young children.

### **Sanitation**

Toilets were housed outside. The boys' facility was located directly across the road while the girls' toilet was to be found on the same side but located further down, facing the central gates of the church. Each consisted of a stone shed with a slated roof. As neither structure had a window, the doors were always open! The floor was usually covered with leaves, which in autumn, would be piled very high.

The teachers used the toilet in the sacristy of the church. The school had no access to fresh water until a pump was installed across the road from the Church circa.1955. Up to that point, water was carried in a bucket from a well in the field behind where Cronin's house is today, if pupils needed a drink on a warm day.

### **Play Area**

Children played in the common area between church and school and on the road outside. Past-pupils remind us that a passing car was an extremely rare occurrence at the time, with as little as one a day to be seen prior to the 1960's. Horse drawn carriages and traps were far more common during this time. This scarcity of traffic benefitted the pupils, however, as it allowed for playing on the road, which normally amounted to the staging of hurling matches during the Principalships of Masters Long and Scannell, who were known to be a great enthusiasts of the game. Children also played with marbles, more commonly known as "glassy allies" at the time.





## **Ballinora National School Pupils in 1932.**

*(This photo was taken in the common area shared between church and school. The gates behind mark the entrance to the road outside.)*

The enjoyment of playtime is evident in the recollections of a past-pupil below:

*"This was the best part of every day. Pupils played in the yard, in the disused graveyard, on the road and occasionally in the adjoining fields, especially in the stream in the field where the Priest's house is now. The only rule I can remember about playtime was that pupils had to stay between the two bridges, the bridge at the bottom of the Hall Hill and the bridge near Cronin's house. In summertime we even went down the glen for adventurous play. On one memorable day we enjoyed our games so much that we lost all track of the time and only returned to school from the 12 o'clock play at 3 o'clock when it was time to go home. To our surprise we were not even reprimanded.*

*Boys and girls played hurling on the road. The goals would be made using large stones. One goal was near where the upper church gate is now. Two teams would be selected, with the Master on one. Great matches were played where no quarter was given. The Master's team usually won. There were many casualties. When I was about seven I had my head split open (and my plastic hairband broken) by an older boy.*

*We played many other games depending on the season – skipping, hopscotch, a chasing game which we called "tig", marbles, catching hands, 'The Ghost in the Wall', 'Queenie, Queenie Who has the Ball?', and 'May I?' We also played games based on songs like 'Here we go Gathering Nuts in May', 'There came a Prince A-Riding', 'The farmer Wants a Wife', 'London bridge is Falling Down', 'Wallflowers', 'We came to see Dinny Joe', 'The Big Ship goes through the Alley-Alley-O' and 'I Wrote a Letter to my Love'.*

*'Catching Hands' was a favourite chasing game played up and down the road by most pupils, big and small. To begin, the two people who were "on it" would catch hands and try and catch another person. This child would then have to join the chasing group catching hands between the two others and the three would catch another pupil. This would continue until all pupils were caught. The two who were "on it" would always remain at the edge of the line and control the game.*

*The disused graveyard was a wonderland with old gnarled trees with many roots over the ground, broken headstones and lots of holes. This environment led to many adventurous and imaginative games.*

*On sunny days pupils would play in the stream by the priest's house. We paddled, splashed each other and made constructs with stones.*

*When snow fell in winter we made snowmen and had great snow fights. I remember one very heavy snowfall at least one foot deep, in the mid-fifties. The snow stayed for many days. We pupils divided into two armies under the leadership of two seventh class boys, built two solid snow forts in Mrs Ahern's field and had the time of our lives fighting snow battles".*

## Clothes

Old photographs of our pupils, some of which are almost one hundred years old, indicate the type of clothes which were worn at the time. As no school uniform existed until the mid-seventies, children wore whatever clothes were provided for them by their parents.



Many of the girls wore pinafores or dresses made by their mothers or by a local dressmaker, over a long sleeved undergarment, complete with socks or tights over shoes. Some girls also appear to have worn boots, though one past-pupil recalls a girl coming to school barefoot on many an occasion, before being given a pair of shoes. Evidence, if it were needed, that times were hard for some.





Boys wore knitted jumpers over shirts and short pants over long hand-knitted socks, which would have been made at home. Hob-nailed boots or shoes were also worn. Most boys graduated to wearing trousers after their Confirmation ceremony.



### Writing Material

Before the advent of fountain pens, past-pupils recall writing with “nibs”. These nibs were made up of three parts – a wooden handle, a holder to house the nib, and the nib itself. Pupils wrote by dipping the tip into ink-wells, that is, little pots filled with ink. The ink was made by mixing water with a powder. A regular duty for some children involved filling the inkwells in the desks with ink. Pupils also recall using blotting-paper to soak the ink, in order to stop it smudging the paper. Work which was smudged drew disapproval from the teachers!

Ballinora, barrigrohane  
21st Dec. 1903

Dear John,

I write to tell you  
about Christmas time. At that <sup>time</sup> people  
working in Cork or scholars get a few  
days <sup>of</sup> holidays. I myself <sup>am</sup> ~~is~~ expecting some  
after a few days more. Generally every  
person <sup>that is in</sup> ~~that is in~~ situation gets a couple  
of days <sup>leave</sup> ~~leaf~~. It is a very holy  
time.

I am, dear John  
yours truly  
J. Ballaghan

Mr. John Murphy.

### **Absences from School**

At certain times of the year, many of the pupils (especially the older boys) were absent for days and sometimes weeks at a time, as they were required to help on the family farm. The work usually involved potato picking and thinning and was most important, as the money earned from the sale of such crops was vital for survival.

### **Sacraments**

Pupils made their First Communion and Confirmation in Primary School, similar to today. However, none of the trappings associated with the modern day ceremonies were evident at the time. The day was quite simple. Pupils turned up at the church in Ballincollig, for the ceremony (Ballinora formed part of Ballincollig parish at that time) and returned home afterwards to resume a normal day.





## Lunches

Children's lunches were not unlike those enjoyed today, in that the majority of pupils brought bread and butter with a topping of some description. This was usually homemade jam made from blackberries and apples picked locally, but some pupils would occasionally have meat.

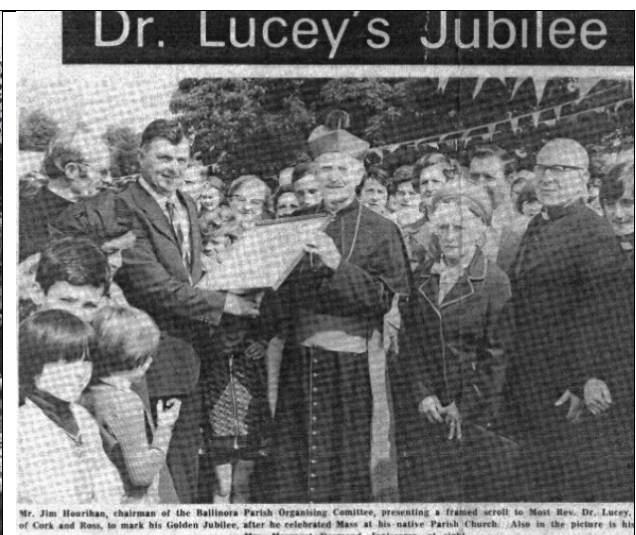
Pupils also brought milk or water to drink. In wintertime, some pupils brought tea, cocoa or milk in glass bottles, which they were allowed to heat by the open fire, before lunchtime. The practice was to put the glass bottle on the hearth and to remove the stopper. However, pupils neglected to do this from time to time, resulting in the bottle shattering as it heated. The unfortunate child was then left without his/her much anticipated hot milk.

Pupils who attended in the 1950s also recall two men (a Mr. Hosford and another gentleman named Bobby), who called to the school on alternate days selling bread buns to those who could afford them.

Others fondly recall a period during a farmer's strike, when a local farmer elected to bring his milk to the school and distribute it among the pupils rather than dumping it, as was the practice at the time. "I remember that we had a feast of delicious creamy, cool, unpasteurised milk".

## A Most Notable Past-Pupil

A notable entry to the clár-leabhar was made on the 17<sup>th</sup> April 1907 when one Cornelius Lucey, aged 4, the son of a farmer from Windsor was enrolled in the school. This boy later went on to become Bishop of the Diocese of Cork and Ross. A pupil of the school in the 1950's recalls the pride that the locals took in the return of the Ballinora boy made good, as newly ordained Bishop of Cork. "His first Mass was in Ballinora. I remember seeing bunting and flags for the first time in Ballinora. That was a huge occasion".



## Visitors to The School / Cuairteoirí Scoile

As far as teachers and pupils were concerned, the most important visitors to the school were the Dept. of Education "cigiri" (inspectors) and the Religious Examiners.

The cigiri, of whom there were four, called unannounced to observe the progress of pupils in general instruction, singing, sewing and infant instruction and their arrival was a cause of anxiety for any teacher. The page below is taken from the *Inspectors Observation Book*, which listed the names and details of teachers who taught in the school and recorded the impressions of the various inspectors who visited the school, in relation to the work of the teachers. As can be seen from the comments, the typical cigire of the time was quite forthright in pointing out perceived shortcomings in the instruction received by pupils.

9 <sup>th</sup> April Visited 1.30 - 3.0.	
School is on the whole doing well. Std. III group seems to be rather slow.	
In Drawing do not give too much help - Use + don't put Copies of these on B.B. Board.	
Composition work is good - spelling is in some cases	
Sts. I & II do not appear to have recd much of their History	
	M. Frouthlin
1 <sup>st</sup> Dec. 1920 Visited 11.45 - 1.0	56 pres
Reading - Sts. I & II shd be able to talk more freely about the subj. matter of the lessons read. When the lesson narrative in form, they shd be able to re-capitulate story.	
Drawing - Objs. set for III & IV shd be of the simplest. Teacher shd use B.B. Board to draw attention to corrections	

However, the most feared visitors to the school were the religious examiners, usually priests, whose visits determined whether or not the sixth class children would be permitted to receive the sacrament of confirmation. If a child answered a question from the catechism incorrectly or not at all, he/she could be "failed", and forbidden from receiving the sacrament. Bishop Cornelius Lucey, a past pupil of the school, visited in the role of examiner every two years and is remembered as being very kind to the children, however.





*Bishop Cornelius Lucey*

Other visitors to the school generated no such anxiety among staff or children however, and were probably seen as welcome interruptions to the daily work ritual by the children. Some of these included:

- Local clergy – It was common for the local priest to visit the school on a regular basis. One priest in particular, Fr. Cronin, visited once a week and told the children stories from the bible, which were enjoyed by all.
- Dinny Joe Murphy – the jovial local postman passed on local news to the then Principal, Master Scannell during the 1950's and shared jokes with the children.
- Travelling shows - these family groups visited perhaps every two/three years and staged entertainment for the children, at a cost of about 3 pence per child. *"One show I remember consisted of a father and his two daughters who sang, did some Irish dancing and ended with a Punch & Judy show"*.
- A photographer visited the school occasionally and took photos of the children. For some, this would be the only photograph they would have of their childhood years.
- Similar to today, the doctor and dentist visited the school and examined all pupils. The dentist extracted any decayed teeth on the premises. *"As a small child, I remember seeing older pupils spitting out what seemed like buckets of blood onto the school yard"*.
- The mobile county library service also visited the school once a fortnight, just like today. At that time, however, pupils were allowed to bring books home for parents and neighbours to enjoy.

### **Summer Holiday Closures**

Schools were free to organise holidays independently and in Ballinora these were never announced in advance. Pupils who attended during Master Scannell's term recall delighted surprise from time to time, when he would unexpectedly declare that holidays were to begin! It was taught that these coincided with the start of the hunting and salmon fishing season and the farming tasks which demanded pupil involvement.

## Changes During the Fifties

- The area around the school underwent some changes around this time. The road was tarred and widened, the old coach-house was demolished, the old gravestones and trees were removed from the cemetery and a surrounding wall was built.
- A fire in 1956/1957 caused serious damage to the school, necessitating its closure for repairs for almost two months. It is thought that the fire started upstairs as a result of the igniting of a timber beam over an open fire.
- Pupil numbers increased at this time, resulting in the school gaining the right to appoint an additional teacher. Thus, Michael Barry-Murphy arrived in Ballinora in 1958 and took up duties in the upstairs classroom, while Mrs. Callanan and Master Scannell worked in the newly partitioned downstairs rooms.
- Fountain pens also appeared at this time, replacing the wooden handled pens and steel replaceable nibs
- No trips or school tours, as we would know them, took place until the late fifties when what may have been the first outing from Ballinora took place to a beach somewhere in West Cork. Other trips followed in subsequent years to Youghal and Dublin.

## The Train

Pupils travelling to Cork enjoyed access to a train service which current generations can no longer avail of. Passengers boarded the train at Waterfall Station, which was located close to O' Shea's pub. The service ran to Anglesea Street Station, in Cork City.



Excursion trains also ran through Waterfall Station to places in West Cork such as Courtmacsherry, for the regatta which was held there. Such outings were popular with people at the time.





*Train at Waterfall Station, 1954*

[Click here](#) for more information on the Cork, Bandon and South Coast Railway as completed by Ballinora & District Community Association / Waterfall Tidy Towns

## Teachers

Past pupils recall many of the teachers who worked in our school in the past, including a number profiled below.

### Séamas Ó Longaigh

Séamas Ó Longaigh taught in Ballinora from 1913-1951 and also served as Principal. Máistir Ó Longaigh came from the local townland of Kilnaglory, where he was born in 1884. He married Esther O' Regan from Ballincollig in 1913, the year in which he began his career in Ballinora NS. The Ó Longaigh family lived in what is now Calnan's house in Ballinora at the time, then owned by the parish as a teachers' residence. Neighbours recall Séamus cycling to school every day.

Many remember Séamus' passion for all things Irish – in particular, language, culture and sport. Hurling was foremost among these, so much so that past pupils recall his bad humour on Mondays, if Ballinora or Cork teams were beaten in matches on the previous Sunday!

Séamus founded Ballinora GAA Club in 1924 with Danny Forde and DJ Horgan, despite much opposition from the lay and clerical establishment, who wished to maintain Ballincollig GAA's traditional first call on the youth of Ballinora. Séamus and his friends persevered, however and succeeded in their efforts to form the fledgling club, even though his brother Denny Long, was also involved with Ballincollig GAA.

His involvement in GAA circles also extended to county board level, where he served as County Treasurer from 1947-1953. His service is recalled by none other than former Taoiseach and Cork GAA great, Jack Lynch, who described him as a "genial and devoted official of Ballinora GAA and Cork County Board... he gave great service to Cork hurling".



Séamus was also associated with the great Christy Ring and claimed to be the first to select him for a Cork hurling side, when a selector with the minor team. He recalled having to fight hard to persuade his fellow selectors to take a chance on the untested youngster from Cloyne, at the time.



Maistir Ó Longaigh's passion for Gaelge saw him spend many summers training aspiring young teachers in the Irish College in Ballingear. He was also a member of Conradh na Gaelge and opted to use the Irish form of his name from approximately 1924 onwards.

Séamus' most famous past pupil is probably Connie Lucey of Windsor, later to become Bishop of Cork and Ross, who presided at his funeral in 1953. A number of years later, the Cork County Board dedicated the Intermediate Hurling Championship Cup (Corn Shéamais Uí Longagigh) to him, in honour of his contribution to the GAA.

A number of the local musical compositions were penned by Séamus, who was something of a poet/songwriter, in commemoration of local sporting activities. These include "The Boys of Ballinora", "The Juvenile Hurlers of Sweet Ballinora" and "Ballinora".



*Séamus Ó Longaigh lena ndaltaí i 1920.*



*Séamus Ó Longaigh*

### **Dónal Ó Scanail**

Dónal Ó Scanail succeeded Séamus Ó Longaigh as Principal after the latter's retirement in 1951. Dónal taught in Bartlemy NS prior to his appointment, but was a native of Béal Átha an Ghaorthaidh, on the Cork/Kerry border.

Dónal lived on the Wilton Road and was married to Úna Crosse, with whom he had four children. In common with his predecessor, he is remembered for his passionate interest in Gaelic games.

Master Scannell taught all the usual subjects including Irish, English, Sums, History, Geography and Singing. He also taught algebra and geometry to a "seventh class" for older children.

"The Master" made much use of competitions among his pupils as a means of encouraging them to attain high standards. These included contests in spelling, tables (speed) and story writing. The latter was particularly enjoyed by the children. *"The competition I enjoyed most was the story writing competition. The older pupils put great effort into it and every day for a few weeks read us very entertaining stories"*.

Master Scannell also coached the older males for their roles as altar boys. Much time was spent by them learning the Latin responses for the Mass. The school also provided the choir for the church on all special religious feasts such as Christmas and Easter etc, and this choir was prepared by Master Scannell. His wife Úna accompanied the choir on the organ.

He also made a number of pilgrimages to Lourdes and returned with gifts for all the pupils - medals for the girls and rosary beads for the boys. Very generous gifts were also provided for those who received the sacrament of Confirmation, with the boys usually receiving hurleys.

Maistir Ó Scanail owned a car and was known to provide lifts for children who lived a long distance from the school. The sight of his car arriving in Ballinora with numbers of children



packed into it was a familiar one at the time. A past pupil also remembers him packing a full hurling team into his big "Hillman" car for a match in Cloughduv!

Physical punishment was the norm in Irish schools at this time and Ballinora was no different. For this reason, school was a miserable place for some pupils, especially those who were weaker. Children in all classes were slapped for various reasons, including misbehaviour and mistakes made in spellings and tables etc. However, mistakes made in catechism were punished more severely than others.

Dónal Ó Scanail followed in the footsteps of an earlier predecessor, James Cunningham, and became the second Principal from Ballinora N.S. to rise to the position of President of the Irish National Teachers' Organisation in 1963.

Dónal retired as Principal in 1971 and died in 1987. However, his family link with the school was extended when his second cousin Noel Scannell, began teaching in the school in 1975.



*Dónal Ó Scanail with 1966 Confirmation Class & Uinsionn Ó Cróinín*

### **Mrs. Eileen Healy**

Eileen Healy taught in Ballinora for a number of years up to 1958. Subjects covered in her classes included Gaeilge, Béarla, "Sums", Catechism, Singing and "Activities". She is remembered in particular for her extensive library of books, which were regularly borrowed by pupils in addition to her various "toys" which were used to great effect with infants. These included match boxes and cigarette boxes, which were used with great imagination to create all manner of trains and lorries etc. Tobacco tins filled with marla (plasticine) were also kept, as was "watery" paint which was applied to newsprint. "Froebel's gifts" consisted of oblong tin boxes which contained wooden bricks of various colours and sizes. A past-pupil remembers the task of replacing all the bricks correctly in their boxes as being the most challenging aspect of the work, but which was great fun, none the less. Small individual blackboards for each child called "cláiríní" were also kept.

Mrs. Healy placed great emphasis on good manners and was not slow to admonish those who failed to live up to her expectations. *"I remember her giving some boys a telling off because they did not stand and doff their hats as she passed them in her car on the road".*

The children in Mrs. Healy's class had a excellent "lookout" system in place whereby those who were in the building before she arrived to school played and ran around the room whilst always keeping an eye out for her arrival in her car, which the children knew, would be parked by her in the nearby coach house. "By the time she reached the top of the stairs, all were sitting in their seats reciting their tables from a chart hanging near the fire".

Mrs. Healy was greatly devoted to Our Lady and a large statue in her room took pride of place. The children were encouraged to bring flowers to place around the statue and a night light was lit in front of the statue every day by pupils. A pupil of Mrs. Healy's also remembers the lovely fragrance which filled the room for the remainder of every day after she had eaten her orange at lunch time!

Mrs. Healy tragically became ill at a young age, which caused her to be absent regularly, and passed away circa. 1958. She was replaced by Mrs. Nóra Calnan.

### **School Records**

The school records provide valuable information about the life in olden days and about the pupils and teachers who worked in our school. These records include the **Leabhair Rolla (attendance record book)**, the **Clár-Leabhar (register of pupils' names and family details)**, and the **Inspectors Observation Book**.

The Clár-Leabhar is perhaps the most interesting source of information. This book recorded the personal details of all pupils who attended the school. Such details included each pupil's name, address, date of birth, religion, parents' names, and father's occupation. It also provided for the recording of pupil progress in the various subjects.

The clár-leabhar listed boys' and girls' details in separate books and started in 1861. A girl named Margaret Cleary, who was 6 years of age, and living in Kilnaglory, Waterfall, has the distinction of being the first recorded pupil enrolled in the school. Her date of entry on the register is 13<sup>th</sup> May 1861. Margaret's father is listed as a "labourer".

The earliest record of a male registered in the school dates to 1864, when a boy named John D. Horgan was entered on February 1st. John is listed as coming from Ballinora and was the son of a Catholic farmer.

### **Occupations**

The clár-leabhar provides us with much information regarding the lives of people at that time. A browse through some of the listed occupations reminds us that times were different back then.

Some of the occupations listed include:

- watchmaker
- coachman
- blacksmith
- lamplighter
- tailor
- watchman
- railway porter



Not all occupations were different at that time however, and the list below reminds us that just as some elements of life change, others remain.

- Labourer
- Farmer
- Carpenter
- Soldier
- Mason
- Publican
- Teacher

August 29 <sup>th</sup> 623	Murphy Daniel	4	RB	Old Abbey	Farmer
September 1 <sup>st</sup> 624	Flynn Denis	5	RB	Windsor	Farmer
" " 625	Mahony Jeremiah	5	RB	Ballymau	Labourer
October 9 <sup>th</sup> 626	Kearney Daniel	6	RB	Viaduct	Labourer
1894 May 29 <sup>th</sup> 633	Riordan Denis	5	RB	Ballyhank	Farmer
" 28 <sup>th</sup> 634	Bradley Daniel	3	RB	Ballinora	Farmer
" 27 <sup>th</sup> 635	Dwyer Patrick	5	RB	Castlewhite	Labourer
June 5 <sup>th</sup> 636	Twomey Michael	5	RB	Ardarostig	Farmer
" 19 <sup>th</sup> 637	Forde John	34	RB	Inaligh	Farmer
" 26 <sup>th</sup> 638	Callaghan Daniel	5	RB	Windsor	Farmer
July 24 <sup>th</sup> 639	McSwiney John	5	RB	Ardarostig	Shoemaker
" 30 <sup>th</sup> 640	Halloran Michael	5	RB	Waterfall	Labourer
Sept. 17 <sup>th</sup> 641	Sullivan John	6	RB	Castlewhite	Labourer
1895 March 4 <sup>th</sup> 642	Murphy John	5	RB	Bishopston	Labourer
May 13 <sup>th</sup> 644	Newbarn Alfred	4	RB	Castlewhite	Caretaker
" 15 <sup>th</sup> 645	Murphy John	4	RB	Ballymau	Labourer
" 24 <sup>th</sup> 646	Curtin Michael	4	RB	Ballinora	Orphan
" 28 <sup>th</sup> 647	Crowley James	5	RB	Ballinvarney	Farmer
June 30 <sup>th</sup> 648	Flynn Timothy	5	RB	Windsor	Labourer
Sept. 10 <sup>th</sup> 649	Twomey Jeremiah	5	RB	Ardarostig	Farmer
Oct 7 <sup>th</sup> 650	Delany Timothy	5	RB	Ballinvaeltig	Lampglass
1896 January 26 <sup>th</sup> 653	Fin Timothy	4	RB	Old Abbey	Labourer
February 17 <sup>th</sup> 654	Crowley John	6	RB	Guinadarragh	Labourer
" " 655	Crowley Patrick	4	RB	"	"
March 6 <sup>th</sup> 656	Lane Patrick	6	RB	Inaligh	Labourer
" " 657	Stewart Michael	6	RB	Ardarostig	Labourer
" " 658	Murphy John	4	RB	Old Abbey	Farmer
" 14 <sup>th</sup> 665	Crowley John	5	RB	Waterfall	Labourer
May 18 <sup>th</sup> 667	Riordan John	5	RB	Ballyhank	Farmer
" 28 <sup>th</sup> 669	Coleman Patrick	5	RB	Ballygromula	Farmer
June 8 <sup>th</sup> 671	Donovan Daniel	5	RB	Ballymah	Labourer

## Names

A browse through the records also provides us with a fascinating insight into names which were popular in olden times but which in turn became less fashionable.

Girls' names recorded on the register which continue to be popular today include:

Ellen	Mary	Juliette
Kate	Bridget	Catherine
Alice	Anne-Marie	Molly
Maggie	Hannah	

However, a glance through the list below provides enough evidence to suggest that some girls' names have become much less popular nowadays.

<i>Abina</i>	<i>Hanora</i>	<i>Beatrice</i>
<i>Nora</i>	<i>Anastasia</i>	<i>Lizzy</i>
<i>Gertrude</i>	<i>Winnie</i>	<i>Peggy</i>
<i>Nano</i>	<i>Agnes</i>	<i>Minnie</i>
<i>Violet</i>	<i>Kitty</i>	

According to the register, popular boys' names at the time included:

<i>John</i>	<i>Morris</i>	<i>Philip</i>
<i>Patrick</i>	<i>Denis</i>	<i>Daniel</i>
<i>William</i>	<i>Bart.</i>	<i>James</i>
<i>Michael</i>	<i>Rodger</i>	<i>Edward</i>
<i>Peter</i>	<i>Wilfred</i>	<i>Cornelius (Con)</i>
<i>Thomas</i>	<i>Anthony</i>	<i>James</i>
<i>Richard</i>	<i>Henry</i>	

In contrast to the girls' names, which appear to be subject to periods of popularity and otherwise, the popularity of a smaller number of boys' names seem to remain rather more constant over time.

A glance at the surnames of children enrolled tells us that many are still to be found in the area today. Indeed it is certain that many present day families can trace roots back to their namesakes in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century.

<i>Ahern</i>	<i>Desmond</i>	<i>Forde</i>
<i>Buckley</i>	<i>Delaney</i>	<i>Flynn</i>
<i>Buttimer</i>	<i>Dineen</i>	<i>Finn</i>
<i>Barry</i>	<i>Downey</i>	<i>Fogarty</i>
<i>Bradley</i>	<i>Foley</i>	<i>Goulding</i>
<i>Bohane</i>	<i>Fitton</i>	<i>Gett</i>
<i>Callaghan</i>	<i>Fenton</i>	<i>Horgan</i>
<i>Collins</i>	<i>Walsh</i>	<i>McSweeney</i>
<i>Halloran</i>	<i>Hartnet</i>	<i>Mc Givern</i>
<i>Harrington</i>	<i>Hallahan</i>	<i>Murphy</i>
<i>Hickey</i>	<i>Holland</i>	<i>Mahony</i>
<i>Harrington</i>	<i>Lane</i>	<i>Magnier</i>
<i>Herlihy</i>	<i>Leary</i>	<i>O'Connor</i>
<i>Hallissey</i>	<i>Lynch</i>	<i>O'Shea</i>
<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Looney</i>	<i>O'Sullivan</i>
<i>Kelly</i>	<i>Lambe</i>	<i>O'Callaghan</i>
<i>Keating</i>	<i>Ní Longaigh</i>	<i>Seward</i>
<i>Kelleher</i>	<i>Lucey</i>	<i>Sexton</i>
<i>Kenneally</i>	<i>McCarthy</i>	<i>Sheehan</i>
<i>McAuliffe</i>	<i>Riordan</i>	<i>Smith</i>
<i>Regan</i>	<i>Reilly</i>	<i>Spillane</i>
<i>Ryan</i>	<i>Robin</i>	<i>Shea</i>



It is interesting to note that all the entries in the Register and the Roll Books are in the English Language up to circa 1922. However, after 1922 all entries and titles on books are recorded *as Gaeilge*. This change reflects Ireland's Independence from Britain around that time.

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*Appendix 1 - Interviews with Past Pupils*

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Click on the picture to view video



1.  
Cora speaks with Michael



2.  
Cora Speaks with Tom



3.  
Cora Speaks with Mary



4.  
Peter speaks with Tim



5.  
Cora speaks with Jim

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*Appendix 2 – Reeling in the Years - History Night Video*

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Click on image above for video





# CORK, BANDON & SOUTH COAST RAILWAY



## OVERVIEW

In 1804, the first self-propelled railway steam engine was built by Richard Trevithick in Wales. It revolutionised transportation and industry in the 19th century and the subsequent development of rail networks meant that goods could be transported over long distances faster and cheaper. People could now travel in safety and comfort leading to changes in lifestyles.

## WEST CORK RAILWAYS

Construction of the rail line commenced in 1845 using mainly English labour. The first section between Ballinhassig and Bandon opened in 1849 and the entire railway from Albert Quay to Bantry, with extensions to Kinsale, Courtmacsherry and Baltimore completed by 1893 - almost 50 years later. The work was complex - many embankments had to be built, tunnels excavated, pillars and bridges constructed, tracks laid and stations built along the route.

The Waterfall area proved particularly challenging. The Chetwynd viaduct had to be constructed to span a 450-foot valley with 90 foot tall pillars each supporting 1,000 tons of metal. A road bridge (the 8th bridge from Albert Quay) had to be built over the rail line in Ballymah, the station itself was built and opened in 1851 and 2 stone railway bridges were constructed (Waterfall and Abbey Bridges) as well as a 900 yard long tunnel at Goggins hill.

## ECONOMIC IMPACT

Goods could now be transported to and from Cork City and beyond speedily. Local agriculture produce, industrial

## ECONOMIC IMPACT

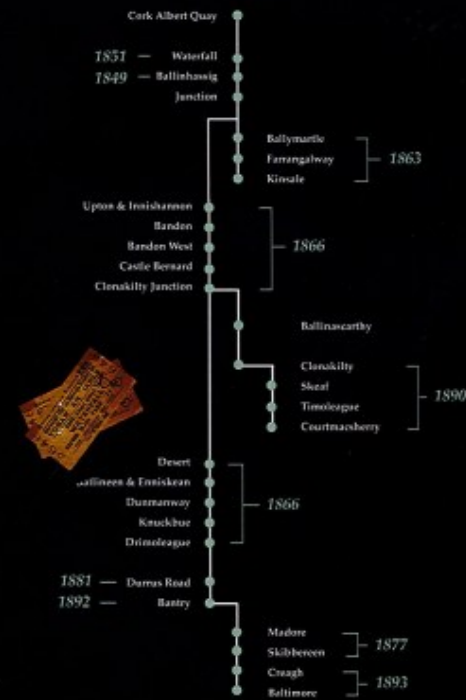
products and seafood could be brought to the city and towns along the route expanding opportunities for local producers. Farmers could bring their cattle to local fairs. Merchants could order goods for their stores, thus expanding the range of products offered for sale. Beet could be transported to Mallow sugar factory and turf could be transported economically. Ships arriving in Bantry and Timoleague could unload their cargo straight to the waiting freight wagons

## SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

The railway changed the lifestyle of many in West Cork. Country shows attracted large attendances. Visits to Cork City for shopping or visiting exhibitions became possible and sports fans could travel to big games in Cork and Dublin. People from the city could go on holiday to West Cork and many used the trains for day trips to the seaside. Lifetime friendships were made, people could travel to funerals, plays, dances and patterns and many a marriage followed! Parents could now send their children to secondary schools in nearby towns, many could travel to colleges or work in Cork City and return the same day - which would not have been possible before the railway.

## CLOSURE

The entire railway line was closed on March 31st 1961 amid controversy, with the rail lines and sleepers shipped to Nigeria and the railway land was sold to adjoining land owners.



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