Old Schools

In 1954 a small plot of land was bought for five pounds from the Lyons family to build Killadoon National School. The School was built and opened in 1856. James Bourke was the first teacher. It was the only National School from Thallabawn to Killadoon. It was not until 1891 that children were legally obliged to attend School until the age of fourteen.

Before this the children were taught in hedge Schools and did not ever go to School. The children walked to School in their bare feet and they had to bring a sack of turf with them. This turf was used to keep the fire going at the School as there was no other way to heat the class rooms.

Younger children did not attend School because some of them had to walk long distances for their lunch; the children brought a bottle of milk which was milked from the cow earlier that morning and some bread and butter. Sometimes by lunchtime if it was a warm sunny day the milk would have gone sour. The children still had to drink the milk even if it was gone sour because they had no running water. Nowadays we have running water and lots of juice to drink.

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