



St Patrick's National School,
Ballinamuck, Co Longford

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Dear Parents /Guardians

We were pleased to welcome everyone back to school after the mid-term break while at the same time been a little emotional as we knew that within a short time of returning we would be bidding farewell to our Vice Principal **Ms. Kathryn McGauaran**. Her final day teaching was last Thursday 12th November and the children and teaching staff were delighted to make a presentation to her on the day recognizing her excellent service and total dedication to her teaching vocation. We want to take this opportunity to wish her the very best in her retirement and may she enjoy many years of good health and happiness with her family and friends.

We want to thank **The Clutterbug Shop in Arva, Co Cavan** for their generous donation to our school. We wish them continued success in their endeavors in supporting many local organisations and charities which in turn is down to donations of items from the local community. Likewise, the school also benefitted from the Clothes Collection in early September so thank you for your contribution to that too.

The Book Fair event was very successful again this year and similar to previous years has enabled us to update each classroom library.

The Shoe Box appeal this year is virtual and we would encourage you to participate and donate as you have done so generously in previous year. Full details are available on the Team Hope website at www.teamhope.ie.

The Christmas Annual details and monies are due in by this Thursday 19th November and as notified on Class Dojo, can be paid for online or by cash and cost €4 each. Please complete and return the order slips by this date.

The Christmas Draw cards will be issued shortly to each family. However, this year we would request that you upload the completed cards on to **Class Dojo** and we will coordinate the draw from there. We would appreciate your help in ensuring this draw is a success and we thank you for your continued support for our annual fundraising event. We will have 1st Prize Christmas Hamper, 2nd Prize Turkey, 3rd Prize Ham and many more prizes. The deadline for completion and upload of the cards to Class Dojo is Wednesday 16th December and the draw will take place in school on Friday 18th December.

The **Parent-teacher meetings** will be take place shortly and will be conducted by phone. Meeting times will be communicated and agreed on **Class Dojo** by each classroom teacher. The time allocated will be approximately 10 minutes per call. As **Class Dojo** is now our primary format for communications with yourselves we would encourage you to keep an eye on the **School News Board** within **Class Dojo** for regular updates on school events and happenings as opposed to receiving occasional texts or emails from the school.

Our **new School Website** is near completion and will be available to browse in the coming days. It will also display our new School Crest designed by Ms. McGauran prior to her departure with input from the 5th and 6th class. We are truly proud of it and you can read about the history and background to the Crest on the site as well as our School Motto.

School Enrollment for 2021/2022 is open and we welcome all applications. More information will follow in due course.

A few dates to note are as follows –

- **Tuesday 8th December – school is closed**
- **Tuesday 22nd December – school closes at 12 noon for Christmas Holidays***
- **Wednesday 6th January - school reopens after Christmas break**
- **Saturday 8th May 2021 – First Holy Communion in St Patrick's Church**
- **Saturday 22nd May 2021 – Confirmation in St Patrick's Church**

***We are awaiting confirmation from Bus Eiermann School Transport regarding pickup at 12pm on Tuesday 22nd and will confirm to you nearer the date.**

Best Regards

Damien McIntrye
School Principal