



St Patrick's National School,
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May 2021 Newsletter

Dear Parents /Guardians

We are nearing the end of our school year with a few weeks remaining until our Summer break.

It's been a great few weeks since Easter with a sense of normality returning in the school and outside although still operating within the HSE COVID 19 Regulations & Protocols and very much aware that it is still a major concern for us all. (Please see information note at the end of this bulletin for more info from the Department of Education)

There are a few items to bring to your attention prior to our final newsletter which will issue in and around the 25th June 2021.

Parents Association - We want to sincerely thank the **Parents Association** for their assistance during the year - for coordinating the Christmas Card project, for supplying all the children with Easter Eggs at the Easter Break and organising the 6th class school Hoodies to mark the end of their primary school time. While the P.A has been very much restricted this year in how they can support us with events and fundraising we look forward to liaising and working with them more in the new school year.

Cash for Clobber – We will be receiving a cheque in the amount of €336 for our used clothes collection. Thanks to each of you who contributed to this by dropping off your used clothes and other items.

Christmas Raffle - The total amount collected from this fundraiser was €960 – thank you sincerely

National Active School Week (#ASW21) -took place from Monday 26 April to Friday 30th April with the objective of “encouraging schools and homes to work together to help more children and young people gain more active minutes every day”. To mark the start of the week we were delighted to have Longford Senior County Goalkeeper and local clubman Paddy Collum to raise the Active Flag. Paddy also spoke to the children of his own experience and the importance of staying active and participating in sport – no matter what the activity.

We were blessed with beautiful sunshine each day and had a different range of activities organised for each one. We had a special day on the Friday where Ryan Francis put all the children through their paces displaying his excellent talents as a Fitness Coach while at the same time creating a fun environment for the children to work out in.

Special thanks must go to Ms Yvonne Gavican who coordinated the whole weeks activities including uploading the activities on the website. We were thrilled then to be awarded one of the overall prizes (a speaker system) by the ASW21 based on our participation.

Longford GAA camp – Thanks to Eoin O’Grady, Games Development Administrator, for running the GAA camp which all children participated in and enjoyed for the last 6 weeks.

Computer Classes – there was a great uptake for the computer classes which are continuing each Tuesday up to Tuesday 22nd June 2021.

School Policy – Acceptable Use Policy – Addendum – One of the “Approved Content Guidelines” regarding our School website is that – “Parents will be given the opportunity to withhold permission to have photographs of their child/children uploaded on to the website”. In this regard, there is a separate addendum now up on the website (www.ballinamuckns.ie) – it can be found under the “Parents” tab and is titled – “Publishing of Work”. It is important that you, as a parent/guardian, review this document and confirm your consent or otherwise, by completing the form on the website and submitting it back to us. Please note this work may include projects, art work, digital photographs, audio and video clips and it may also be published on online learning platforms and external websites/media e.g. local newspaper.

School Sports Day - will be taking place on Monday 14th & Tuesday 15th June.

School Report Cards will be issued **by email** on the 17th June 2021.

Rented school books– are to be returned to the school on Monday 21st June

School Year 2021/2022 – Our new school year will commence on Thursday 26th August 2021. The **school calendar** for this school year is attached.

As noted in previous newsletters - Enrolment forms for the next academic year 2021/2022 are still available to download from the website and we welcome all applications. Also available on the site is an “**Absence Note**” and we urge you to download and submit this form for any days’/part days your child is absent.

Warmest Regards

Damien McIntyre
School Principal

A few dates to note are as follows –

- **Friday 4th June – School holiday**
- **Monday 7th June – June Bank Holiday**
- **Friday 25th June – School closes at 12pm for Summer holidays**

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – UPDATE ON COVID 19 INCIDENCES AND PROTOCOL

“Testing -the process for the identification and management of close contacts has returned to usual processes. Close contacts will be identified following the Public Health Risk Assessment, and appointments will be generated for close contacts and sent to parents and staff members directly. Please do not ask people to directly attend the walk-in centres; it is very important that results can be linked to schools’ facilities, this can only be done if they are managed through the appointments testing process. This enables us to identify earlier any clusters and manage outbreaks appropriately

We would appreciate your re-affirmation of this to families so we can best and most optimally manage incidents within your facilities.

Siblings of close contacts – there is no national recommendation that close contacts of close contacts should be excluded, i.e. siblings or family members. Occasionally, depending on the information available and the PHRA, Public Health might ask siblings to

be excluded, but these decisions will be made following PHRA and are not routinely required.

We are still frequently seeing cases who attended facilities symptomatic, sometimes for several days, and we ask that anyone with symptoms which could be consistent with Covid-19 are managed as per Department guidance, excluded from school and recommended to discuss their symptoms with their GP. "