



**St Patrick's National School,**  
**Ballinamuck, Co Longford**

Email: [ballinamucknschool@gmail.com](mailto:ballinamucknschool@gmail.com)

Phone: 043 3324063

Newsletter

Dear Parents/Guardians

Alas, we've reached the end of our school year 20/21. It has been a very different year and COVID-19 is still having a huge impact on all of our lives. Unfortunately, the children and teachers had to resort to remote learning once again for a period and some of the school's traditions such as the Parent Association's organising of the Cake Sale and parents of 6th class children invited in on the last day could not take place. Also, there were pauses in areas of the Music curriculum and we had no school performances this year in the lead up to Christmas. The School Boys & Girls tournaments did not take place. We took some solace in welcoming past pupils over the last couple of weeks on their respective achievements; St Vincent's U-17 boys beating Shannon Gaels and our St Helen's U-14 girls team defeating Mullinalaghta on Monday evening last. These achievements act as motivation and encouragement for our current children to emulate the achievements of others in their local area. We had very successful Junior and Senior Sports Days and thankfully the weather held up. All classes availed of walking on the new footpath down to the playground/AstroTurf in the village over the last number of weeks. We are very grateful for our local amenities.

Some points to bring to your attention as we close our doors for the summer months.

**Appointments:**

A huge congratulations to Mrs. Marie Kenny on her successful appointment to the role of Deputy Principal. Mrs. Kenny replaces Mrs. Kathryn McGauran who retired last October.

Mr. Conor Beirne will be joining us as a permanent member of our teaching staff for the new academic year. You are very welcome to Ballinamuck Mr. Beirne.

**Departure:**

Unfortunately, MS. Yvonne Gavican has come to the end of her temporary post. Thanks to MS. Yvonne Gavican for her huge contribution to the development of our school and the positive influences she has left on all of our children over the past four years. Thank you, Ms. Gavican

**Retirement:**

Our bus driver John is retiring. Today is his last day on the 'school run'. Best of luck John on your retirement.

### **Class Allocation for 21/22**

Mr. Conor Beirne	5th/6th
Mrs. Orla McGuinness	3rd/4th
Ms. Mary Mulligan	1st/2nd
Mrs. Marie Kenny	Infants

Mr. Damien McIntyre	S.E.T
---------------------	-------

### **School Calendar:**

The school calendar was attached to our May Newsletter. Our website will be updated imminently. The Junior Infants will be invited for a 'Welcome Day' on Tuesday, August 24th. Mrs. Kenny, our Junior Infant teacher will be sending out an email with time slots for the new Junior Infants closer to the time. Check out the Junior Infants presentation already on our website. We are still accepting new enrolments and our enrolment form for the upcoming school year can be found on our school website. School reopens for all pupils on Thursday 26th August.

### **New Admin Costs:**

The school has invested heavily in a new computer system 'Aladdin' to help with administrative tasks such as taking attendance, updating pupil records, school reports, tracking pupil support/pupil progress etc. 'Aladdin' added a facility to enable texts to be communicated to parents during the lockdown. We will be cancelling our Way2Pay subscription for this reason as 'Aladdin' provides a more comprehensive package of what we need going forward. We will inform you when this happens. We have also invested in Dabbledoo - a music programme to aid the delivery of the Music curriculum from Junior Infants to Sixth Class. Our staff will have a training evening in early September as part of our Croke Park hours to help facilitate the teaching of the programme to the children. A list of percussion instruments will also need to be invested in to enable the children to get the most out of the programme.

As a result of these additional costs on the school we are requesting an additional €10 per annum family contribution to go towards funding these two new I.T platforms which will aid teaching and learning.

### **Literacy:**

We will be trialling a new spelling programme in 3rd and 4th class called [Spellings for me](#). This will replace Spellwell in 3rd and 4th. A tab will be added on Way2Pay or Aladdin and a fee of €8.50 per child will need to be paid to access the programme.

### **School Uniform & Crest:**

The school uniform is as follows: grey skirt/trousers, navy jumper and white shirt. Pupils are expected to be clean, neat and tidy in dress and appearance. (Children should have their names on uniforms, jumpers, coats and other personal property -such as school books, copies etc.)

We are in the process of ordering a batch of our new school crests to be sewn onto jumpers for September. Crests will be required and are important to instil a sense of pride in the heritage of the local area in the children that attend our school. These will cost a nominal amount and the school will provide more details when the order arrives.

**Best Wishes:**

Sincere best wishes to our departing Sixth Class - Lauren, Emma, Elischa, Chloe, Daire, Finbar, James, Donnacha and Rejus. Best wishes in your journey into post-primary. Thanks for all the memories and remember to cherish those of your own from your days in St. Patrick's.

**Confirmation:**

Confirmation will take place in St. Patrick's Church Ballinamuck on Friday 23 July at 12pm

**Graduation mass:**

We will be in touch with parents of sixth class children in the coming days to share a link to the Graduation Mass

**Acknowledgement:**

Firstly, thank you to the parents, the children, the teachers and staff of St. Patrick's for all your hard work this year.

To the parents and local businesses, thank you for your continued generosity in helping the school raise funds throughout the course of the year. Thank you to the Parents Association for working closely with the school, thanks to Fr. Hogan for his regular visits and to the Board of Management for their continued support.

Have a lovely enjoyable summer.

Warmest Regards,

Mr. Damien McIntyre

School Principal