



**St Patrick's National School,
Ballinamuck, Co Longford**
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Phone: 043 3324063

Dear Parents/Guardians

It was great to welcome all the children back after the school break and a special welcome to the Junior Infant class as they embark on their journey through primary school life. At the other end of the scale we trust the Sixth class will enjoy their final year with us as they prepare for their next phase of school life under the guidance of our new teaching staff member Mr Conor Beirne.

We would like to welcome Aileen Hayes who will be covering the Principal's release day each week. Roisin Gray is also back with us as part our Special Education Needs Team and is a shared SET.

Over the summer months, emergency works were fully completed in the 5th/6th Classroom, Resource Room and Storage. Thanks to Ciaran Hourican and his team who made a huge effort to ensure works were completed to allow the children to return to school in a safe environment.

This Saturday, 25th September both the First Holy Communion and Confirmation ceremonies will take place in St Patrick's Church Ballinamuck. I want to wish all participants and their parents and families an enjoyable day.

On the academic, cultural and sporting front and with the lessening of COVID19 restrictions it is our plan for this school year to resume and introduce some new activities during class time to contribute to the all-round developmental learning and growth of our children.

Next week we will be piloting a new programme under the guidance of **Music Generation Longford**. Initially the programme will be rolled out in the lower classes and our intention is include all classes from the next academic year. This programme will be hosted by an external tutor - Laura O'Gara. All the children from **Junior Infants to 2nd Class** can participate. The cost of this programme per child will be **€10** and it will be set up as an activity on Way2Pay to facilitate payments. Lessons will last 20 minutes per week in the Infant classroom and 40 minutes in First & Second Class. The programme will run for the remainder of the school year.

Music Dabledoo will also commence next week. It is being run by the teaching staff and incorporated into the school timetable planning for Infants to Sixth class. This will be coordinated by Ms. Mulligan.

Gaelic Football coaching has recommenced with Eoin Devine O'Grady Longford GAA coaching and will continue for a number of weeks this term and later in the school year.

Our school will be participating in **European Sports Day** this Friday, 23rd September. We are proud of our Active Flag status and are striving to continuously encourage our children of the importance of being active. All classes will be active for 120 minutes divided into two morning and two afternoon sessions. The theme of European Sports Day is the benefits that sport/exercise has on our mental health.

County Photos return to us on **Wednesday 29th September** and full details are attached for your information.

On **Monday 4th of October** Enda McGahern will be having a talk with the 3rd to 6th class children on the important topic of **Cyber Bullying**.

The Book Fair will take place in late October – before mid-term and further details around this and related attachments will be issued closer to the time.

Longford Athletic Club are hosting their Primary Schools Cross Country event on **Saturday 7th Oct** at the **Moyne Community School Grounds**. Registration takes place on the day at 3pm with races commencing at 4pm. It would be great to have our school represented on the day and I would ask you to work with us to encourage your child/children to go along.

In Term 2 from the 7/02/2022 to 1/04/2022 our school has been selected to participate in the **Primary Languages Sampler Module** where an external Tutor will teach basic French to the children in 3rd to 6th class.

An important part of our whole school team is the role played by **The Parents Association**. *“The Parent Association works with the principal, staff and the board of management to build effective partnership of home and school”* The current PA committee have reached the end of their term and/or are looking for new committee members to join them. Further details will follow in our October Newsletter.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of our Healthy Eating policy and that treats are allowed only on Fridays.

*NOTE – please refer to our policy on ALLERGIES/ NUTS ALLERGY. Birthday cakes/treats are not permitted. Also, we will not be accommodating the distribution of invitations in school.

Thanks to all of you who have processed your payments so swiftly on the Way2Pay system. Any outstanding payments need to be paid by the 30th September 2021 please.

Please note that should you wish to avail of the Brennans Insurance cover for you child this also needs to be done by end of September for cover to be effective for the school year.

Sports equipment including footballs should not be brought into the school. The school will provide footballs/equipment to each class level provided children are respectful of property.

Finally, I would ask that if you do need to contact the school at any time please either call during the school hours (043 -3324063) or email to the school email address of ballinamucknschool@gmail.com. For any emergencies or urgent family matters outside of school hours please contact me through the school email address above or my principal email address only of principalballinamuck@gmail.com. Class teachers will monitor their school email addresses during the working week and will endeavour to reply to any school related matters during their working hours.

Thank you

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Damien McIntyre

School Principal

A few dates to note are as follows;

- First Holy Communion Ceremony – Saturday 25th September 2021 11am in St Patrick’s Church
- Confirmation Ceremony – 6th Class of 2020/2021 – Saturday 25th September 2021 at 1pm in St Patricks Church

- School Holiday – *Monday 27th September 2021*
- County Photos – *Wednesday 29th September 2021*

- School Midterm Break - *Monday 25th October to Friday 29th October 2021*

- Christmas Holidays - *Thursday 23rd December 2021 at 12pm - to Wednesday 5th Jan 2022*