



**St Patrick's National School,
Ballinamuck, Co Longford**
Email: ballinamucknschool@gmail.com
Phone: 043 3324063

Dear Parents/Guardians

It's hard to believe we are approaching our Autumn mid-term break in a week's time!

As referred to in our September newsletter this term has seen the return to many of our school and extra-curricular activities. This week we completed our 6-week block of coaching with Longford GAA under the guidance of Eoin Devaney O'Grady. We also had a very enjoyable European School Sports Day on Friday 24th September - evidence of some of the fun and games the children had are up on the school website – www.ballinamuckns.ie

Our thanks to Enda McGahern who kindly gave of his time to speak with children in 3rd to 6th class on the important topic of Cyber Bullying.

Longford Athletics Club held their Primary Schools Cross Country competition last Sunday and our sole representatives were Cathal & Clodagh Tully who both performed really well on the day.

Our Music programmes - Dabledoo and Music Generation Longford have commenced and a gentle reminder if you have not processed the payment for Music Generation Longford on the Way2Pay system to please do so – as we would like to be in position to continue and build on programmes such as these and can only do so with your assistance.

The First Holy Communion and Confirmation ceremonies both took place on Saturday 25th September. We want to thank sincerely Ms Orla Mc Guinness who ensured the First Communicants were ready and to the Mulligan sisters – Mary & Aideen – who performed beautifully at both ceremonies and of course to Fr Ber Hogan for officiating and his kind words of welcome & encouragement to both groups of children.

Please note – each of the following items/activities which are happening in the next few weeks/into November **some of which require a response/payment on behalf of your child**

- **County Photos** – photos have been given out to the children and it is important to note that orders need to be returned by Wednesday morning 20th October at the latest. Payment can be made online or by returning cash in the envelopes provided.
- **The Book Fair** returns next week from Monday 18th for one week. Some details have already been posted on the website/seesaw and attached below is the link to the website where you can get full details of how to select your children's books and to make payments. Please ensure if paying online that you select our school – either by using our *unique code* – 90002073 or searching for St Patrick's Mxd NS or select on a county basis
- **Christmas Cards** – this year again our Parents Association in conjunction with Christmas Cards for Schools, are offering the children, with your consent, an opportunity to design their own Christmas card. A consent note is attached and needs to be returned immediately to allow the orders to be placed prior to mid-term. Please complete the details, scan and email back to the school email address - ballinamucknschool@gmail.com This is a fundraising event by the PA which in turn allows them to run activities in the school such as the Easter Egg Hunt etc.

- **Swimming lessons** - resume on the Wednesday 3rd November 2021 at 11.30am to 12.15pm (subject to any re-introduction of restrictions at this point), for children in **3rd to 6th** class only and will run for a period of 6 weeks. Two buses have been organised to keep children in their classroom groups while travelling. A consent note, which requires your signature to allow your child to take part is attached. Please complete the details, sign, and return to the school email address, already included above. The cost per child will be **€40 and for two children €75** and this will be set up on the Way2Pay system shortly. Please confirm consent and pay the required monies by **Friday 29th October 2021**.
- **Healthy Eating Week** – On Monday 8th November, in conjunction with **Food Dudes**, we will be running a healthy eating week. Like in previous years Food Dudes will provide each child with 5 days complementary fresh fruit and vegetables and exciting optional activities for each class to celebrate our healthy eating week. The objective of this week is to reinforce our Healthy Eating Policy and we ask all parents/guardians to be cognisance/ mindful of this when preparing school lunches/snacks. (One treat is allowed on Fridays)
- **Maths Week** – commences on Monday 18th October with the objective of encouraging the children to engage more in maths activities at home and at school in a fun and active way.
- **Christmas Annuals** - While we may not like to think about it just yet we already have the Christmas Annuals in. The deadline for ordering will be mid-November and the cost will be roughly the same as last year. More details post mid- term break.

In our September Newsletter we noted the important role played by our Parents Association and in that regard, we want to inform you on their behalf that their **AGM** takes place at the school next **Wednesday October 20th, at 8pm**. All parents are invited to attend and refreshments will be served.

Please note, after mid-term break, on Thursdays - Mary will be in the office from **11am to 2.30pm** until further notice.

I hope you and your families have an enjoyable Halloween break.

Thank you

Is mise le meas

Damien McIntyre
School Principal

Please note - if you have any problems downloading the consent notes or sending back to us by email - please contact the office to make a different arrangement.

A few dates to note are as follows;

- Book Fair – week commencing Monday 18th October 2021
- Christmas Card permission slips - please confirm by Tuesday 19th October 2021
- Parents Association AGM - Wednesday 20th October 2021 -8pm
- County Photos – order and monies to be returned by Wednesday 20th Oct 2021
- Swimming lessons for 3rd to 6th class – start Wednesday 3rd November 2021 -pay & confirm by Friday 29th October 2021
- Maths week – Monday 18th October
- Food Dudes – Healthy Eating week focus – Monday 8th November to Friday 12th 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**

