



St Patrick's National School,
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Dear Parents/Guardians

As we near the end of what has been a lovely month of November, our focus, thoughts and actions are already centred around the Christmas season and the end of the first term of this school year.

It's been another trying and challenging term living with COVID 19 for ourselves and for your own families. We are striving to make your child's lived experiences in school as enjoyable as possible but are bound by Public Health and must be responsible in what we can and cannot do. Thankfully with your cooperation and consideration we have been able to remain open and continue classroom-based learning. Thank you on behalf of all our staff in this regard.

Parent teacher meetings will be held remotely using the medium of telephone as was the case last year. Class teachers will be making contact to schedule phone calls to provide feedback on pupil performance in school beginning next week.

Enrolment is now open for the next academic year and an application form along with our Admission notice is now available on our School website – www.ballinamuckns.ie. As we are a small rural school we welcome all children from the area and surrounding areas. We would hope that you as parents and guardians would assist us in this regard by spreading the word. We trust that your experience of our school would encourage other families to place their children with us.

We will shortly be contacting our local businesses and suppliers asking for spot prizes for our annual **Christmas Raffle**. We will also have an activity "Christmas Raffle" set up on the Way2Pay system for each family to purchase tickets. As our opportunities to fund raise continue to be restricted, your support and that of the local businesses will be greatly appreciated. (Details of ticket cost will be posted on the Seesaw App shortly)

The PA **Christmas Card** fundraiser is another important fundraiser for the school and at this point your child has been given their sample card. Orders and payment need to be returned by tomorrow please **Friday 26th November 2021**

We held a very successful Book Fair and are heartened to see the children's enthusiasm for reading books and would encourage all children to continue to read on a regular basis.

Our Shoe Box appeal for the Hope Foundation was equally successful and thanks to all the children and parents who donated boxes.

Our **Christmas Jumper Day** supporting CHI hospitals at Crumlin, Temple Street and Connolly will be happening on **Friday 10th December** and we look forward to seeing plenty of colourful and creative Christmas jumpers on that day.

We are delighted to have received news that our application for **Arts-in-Education BLAST Residency Programme** in 2021/2022 was successful. This programme will be rolled out to children from 3rd to

6th class and will occur in Term 2. We will provide more information as soon as we have dates finalised. The aim of this scheme is to give pupils in schools the opportunity to work with a professional artist on unique projects, to be originated and planned between the artist, the teacher and the school, under the coordination of a local education centre. The resident artist who will be working with our school is Sarah Ellen Lundy through Carrick Education Centre.

Following on from the PA 's AGM, the new Committee and Class Reps are as follows:-

Chairperson: Fiona McNally

Secretary: Lorraine McKenna

Finance: Teresa McNally

Class reps: 5th and 6th Olive Donnelly, Mary McKenna, Sinead Donnelly
3rd and 4th Emma Clancy and Teresa McNally
1st and 2nd Holly Dempsey and Jessica O'Sullivan
Junior & Senior - Aisling McLoughlin

The following note is regarding proposed changes to the **Primary School Curriculum** and advises that you as parents have the opportunity to have your input on change. "[Consultation with primary schools and special schools by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment \(NCCA\) on the *Draft Primary Curriculum Framework* has now reopened](#)

Parents! Do you know that the Primary Curriculum is changing? What children learn and how children learn in primary school is changing. The proposed changes aim to enhance children's learning in school and provide for even more relevant and meaningful learning.

You can find the proposals [HERE](#). As a parent, it is important that you have a say in shaping your child's future learning. Consultation will close by the end of February 2022. Please take 8-10 minutes to tell us what you think [HERE](#). Want to know more? Visit our website www.ncca.ie/primary"

Food Allergies - Please see the attached pdf which has a short video link to managing a child's allergic reaction which may be useful for us all to know.

In conclusion I hope you and your families remain safe and well and we get through the coming months and the impact of COVID-19 on all our lives is lessened substantially.

Is mise le meas,

Damien McIntyre
School Principal

A few dates to note are as follows;

- Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 11th December 2021
- **Christmas Holidays – Wednesday 22nd December 2021 at 12pm - to Wednesday 5th Jan 2022**
- Term 2 – School reopens – Thursday 6th January 2022