



ST. PATRICK'S NATIONAL SCHOOL
Ballinamuck
Co. Longford

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3rd May 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Congratulations to our 6th class children who made their **Confirmation** on Saturday. A huge thank you to Fr. Hogan, Mr. Beirne, Ms. Mulligan, her sister Aideen and of course the children for all the preparation which resulted in a very memorable ceremony. It was fantastic to hear the children play a piece of traditional Irish music to conclude the celebration. Thanks to Ms. Mulligan for all her hard work during the year promoting music in our school - helping some children further their love for music, whilst encouraging others to take up an instrument for the first time.

Next Saturday is the turn of our 2nd class who will be making their **First Holy Communion**. The Parents Association will recommence the lovely tradition of providing light refreshments for the children and parents/visitors/guests in the 98 Hall after the ceremony. The next PA meeting will take place this evening at 8pm in the school

On the 29th April, our school was informed that our application for the renewal of our **Green Flag** status was successful. A huge congratulations to Mrs. Kenny, coordinator, the girls and boys on the green flag committee and to all the children in the school on their combined contribution to the achievement of the award. Well done.

Well done also to the children and their parents who travelled to Clonguish on Friday evening last to represent our school in the **Longford AC Primary Schools Relay event**. By all accounts the children did very well and enjoyed the event immensely. Thanks to Mary Murphy for attending the event with the children.

Our school mixed **GAA** football team had a good win against Lanesborough last Tuesday evening and are through to the semi-final stage of the Cumann na mbunscol competition. The semi-

final against Granard will take place in Granard next Thursday afternoon at 2:30pm. All support is welcome if you are free to attend. Longford GAA has made appointments to promote Gaelic Football in schools throughout the county. David Mimmagh is our GPO and he has commenced working with children at all class levels over the past number of weeks.

This week is **Active Schools Week**. Please be reminded that children can wear tracksuits / non-uniform for the entire week. Some fun events have been planned as well as some guests and outside coaches who will be lending their support. See the attached schedule of events for your attention. Check out the daily challenges on our school website. Brendan Doyle will be our local hero this year. He has sent on a video with his own challenge for the boys and girls which will be uploaded on Friday.

This year's **Standardised tests (Literacy & Numeracy)** are due to begin next week, the week beginning 9th May. Please see the attached document which may help to explain what these tests are about and other helpful information.

Buddy Reading, a further initiative aimed at promoting literacy amongst different age groups commenced last week. Children in 3rd/4th classes listened to and questioned children in the infant classes, which was enjoyed by all. This initiative will continue each Friday and will alternate between infants and 3rd/4th one week and 1st/2nd and 5th/6th the next week. Please use the Engage Literacy Online facility accessible on our website. Please email or message class teachers on seesaw if you've forgotten the username and password.

Computer Classes with Paula (Cáit Roscommon), started back for 3rd-6th class children last Thursday and will continue for a further 6 sessions. The children will learn how to operate Word, Powerpoint and will also learn Scratch. The cost of the programme was communicated via email and through Seesaw during the week. Should you have any difficulty with payment, please contact the office.

Relationship, Sexual Education (RSE) will be taught as a mandatory element of the Social, Political and Health Education (S.P.H.E) curricular subject over the last two weeks of May in classes Infants to 4th class. Please keep an eye on our online learning platform - Seesaw for updates. An outside educator will facilitate the teaching of this element of the SPHE curriculum on Tuesday 31st May in the 5th/6th classroom. An email to inform parents accompanied by a consent note has been sent out to parents in the 5th/6th classroom.

Thankfully, **school tours** are back after two years. On Wednesday, 8th June Infants to 2nd class will be taking part in the 'Just 4 Fun' tour arranged in conjunction with Longford Coral Sport & Leisure Centre. Thursday, 9th June, 3rd class to 6th class will be going to the Lets Go Camp which takes place in AIT in Athlone. Further details will be communicated to the children and yourselves in the coming weeks. Please note, an option to pay in instalments will be set up on Way2Pay system

soon.

Finally, as a follow on from our March newsletter and following our recent communication, we are looking for you to return the completed questionnaire in relation to anti-bullying to help inform our annual review of our Anti-Bullying Policy. Please, complete and return to us by this Friday 6th May.

Is Mise le Meas

Damien McIntyre

Dates for your Diary

First Holy Communion - Saturday 7th May 2022

Cake sale - Friday 13th May

Drumcondra Testing- week commencing Monday 9th May

School Tours – Junior to 2nd class – Wednesday 8th June 2022 – Longford Coral Leisure Centre

School Tour – 3rd to 6th class – Thursday 9th June 2022 – AIT Athlone

Summer holidays/School close – Tuesday 21st June 2022 – 12 noon

Provisional school reopening date for 2022/2023 school year -FRIDAY 26th August 2022