



ST. PATRICK'S NATIONAL SCHOOL  
Ballinamuck  
Co. Longford

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1st September 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On behalf of myself and the school staff at St.Patrick's N.S., we hope you all had a lovely summer and we would like to welcome all the children back for the beginning of a new school year. A special welcome to our new Junior Infant children and to our Ukrainian families who have recently moved to our village ( Laskavo prosymo!).

As it is the beginning of the school year we would like to make you aware of a number of key points

- Our school's Restorative (anti-bullying)Policy and our Child Protection Policy were reviewed last spring and the updated policies are now available on our school website for your attention ([www.ballinamuckns.ie](http://www.ballinamuckns.ie) ).
- All school absences need to be notified to the school in advance or on the first day of absence. Please use the Aladdin Connect App to enter the details and an explanation for your child's absence on any particular day or time. Similarly, if you require to take your son or daughter out of school early for an appointment or for any other family reasons, this also needs to be communicated to us through the Aladdin Connect App. The same process will apply for any child arriving late/having an early morning appointment.
- The theme of Bullying will be taught at all class levels in September.
- Please be advised that our school uniform is a navy jumper, white polo shirt and grey trousers/skirt. The school crest should be worn on the school jumper and can be purchased through Mary in our office.
- Invitation cards for birthdays or cakes/treats are not permitted in school.
- We operate a healthy school policy but the children are allowed one small treat on a Friday. Our school is also a nut free zone. Please check all food ingredients so as food does not contain traces of nuts.

- In the coming days the school bills applicable to the start of the school year ( photocopying charge, aladdin admin charge, etc) will be set up on the WAY2PAY system in the same way as last year. We will continue with this payment system for the next number of weeks and gradually transition over to the epayments on the Aladdin system. Payment links for the Way2Pay system will be issued to all parents in the next few days. If you encounter any issues with either system please call or email the office for assistance.
- This year we are reverting to the old system of assigning homework. Homework Journals have been given out to children and we would ask parents to oversee that work is completed and that the journal is signed each evening. Seesaw will still be used for listening/monitoring reading and also for project work, in particular, in the older classes.
- Meetings can be arranged with school staff but on an appointment only basis. If you want to request a meeting please email the school on [ballinamucknschool@gmail.com](mailto:ballinamucknschool@gmail.com) in advance and wait for the principal or school staff member to revert to you with confirmation of your meeting date and time.

Our school has been successful in our application for funding as part of the Creative Schools Ireland Programme. Beginning this September, the school will be working with a Creative Schools Associate to promote the Arts in our school. The school will receive funding capped at €4,000 in total over the course of the next two school years with 90% made available to us during the course of the current academic year.

The Primary Languages Modular will run again this year with the programme taking place in Term 1. The programme will be taught to children from 3rd to 6th class for an eight week block. The aim of the programme is for children to get a taste for new culture. Children will be taught French again this year.

Music Generation was rolled out from Junior Infants to Second Class last year and I am delighted to inform you that this programme will continue this year. We have extended the programme to include children in 3rd and 4th class (Ukulele), whilst Ms.Mary Mulligan, our resident musician will be teaching traditional Irish music to the children in 5th and 6th class. In addition, our school will continue to use the ‘Dabbledoo’ music programme at a whole school level to promote the teaching of Music.

European Schools Sports Day takes place on Friday, 30th September. As an Active School we are looking forward to organising and participating in the event. We encourage active breaks, walk a mile, active homework and the rolling out of new sports to give children opportunities to benefit from the positive effects exercise and movement can have on a child’s life.

COVID is still very much with us. We will continue to teach hygiene etiquette. Sanitising stations are located throughout the school. Ventilation best practice will be adhered to and we continue to be led by public health advice and DES guidance. Please continue to follow HSE guidelines and check your child for symptoms (<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/> )

A number of non-labelled school jumpers/apparel has been uncovered following a summer clean out. These have been washed and will be left hanging on the front wall of the school this Thursday and Friday morning for parents to go through and take whatever they feel might fit their child. Please ensure all school jumpers are initialed with a permanent marker on the back label.

Cash for Clobber schools clothes collection will take place before the end of September and the exact date will be confirmed on the Aladdin noticeboard in the next few days. Your support, as always, is much appreciated.

I wish yourselves and your families good health and happiness for the year ahead.

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Damien McIntyre

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Principal

#### **Dates for your Diary**

Tuesday 13th September – County Photos are visiting our school

Monday 26th September - School Closed

Date TBC - Cash For Clobber