



ST. PATRICK'S NATIONAL SCHOOL  
Ballinamuck  
Co. Longford

☎ 043 3324063

🌐 [www.ballinamuckns.ie](http://www.ballinamuckns.ie) ✉ [ballinamucknschool@gmail.com](mailto:ballinamucknschool@gmail.com)

12/10/22

Dear Parents/Guardians,

There has been a great buzz of excitement in the parish over the last number of weeks and the staff and children at St.Patrick's N.S. are very appreciative of the Fr.Manning Gaels players in creating this excitement amongst our children. The grass roots are in good hands! Heartfelt commiserations to all the players, mentors and backroom staff involved in their narrow loss in the intermediate county final on Sunday last. Thanks also to Emmet, David, Paddy and Paul and Cian for dropping off goodies to the children on Monday. I hope the children weren't too difficult to get to bed!

Yesterday, we had Fr Ber Hogan in school to celebrate with us a Mass for the new school year. This was organised by the pastoral committee in Drumlish. Next year, it is the school's intention to invite parents along and the mass will be either in the school hall or in St.Patrick's church in Ballinamuck.

A belated thank you to the Parents Association for their organising of the PA Raffle at the end of the last school year. It was a hugely successful event.

Thank you for your support for the recent Cash for Clobber drive. Many of you braved the harsh morning to drop off your bags. Because of the inclement weather, we will have a follow up Clothes Drop Off in the coming weeks.

Thanks to Enda McGahern for training the boys and girls for Cumann na mBunscol and also for giving up his time to speak to the children from 3rd to 6th class on the important topic of cyber-bullying. Bullying was taught at all class levels over the course of the month of September.

Thanks to all the parents for their support in our Cumann na mBunscol league games. Our boys and girls are performing really well on the football pitch and are a great credit to yourselves and their school in how they conduct themselves.

David Mimmagh, our GAA development officer, now visits our school every Wednesday to teach and build on the fundamental skills relating to GAA. David works with Infants right up to sixth class. He compliments the coaching that the children receive at their local GAA club.

We welcome back Music Generation to our school. We piloted the programme in the Infants and 1st/2nd classrooms last year and it was a huge success. With the help of the Parents Association, we are now extending the Programme to include 3rd and 4th class. David Crowe is our assigned music teacher this academic year and he visits our school each Wednesday.

Graham Kane from the FAI (Football Association of Ireland) visited the children in our 5th/6th classroom last Monday week. He briefed the children on the Futsal in the Yard programme and put the children through their paces in an indoor football skills coaching session. The programme will continue every Thursday over the next 6 weeks. Graham will be popping in to lend his support and guidance.

On 10th October, pupils from 4th-6th class took part in an in-class webinar entitled "World Mental Health: Mind your Mind" as part of World Mental Health Day 2022. The webinar explored the meaning and importance of mental health and provided the children with opportunities on how to nurture their own mental health.

We are looking for your continued support when it comes to our school uniform. 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. Leggings and shorts with logos are not permitted.

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 reason, 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.

**Our Aladdin Connect Payment Facility is now live.** This function will replace WAY2PAY. Our school uses the Aladdin software service for administrative purposes and the ePayment system will give you access from an internet browser on your computer, phone or tablet to make secure payments to the school using your credit or debit card. The purpose of the ePayment system is to facilitate the easier payment of school money collections for parent/guardians and to reduce the amount of cash and cheques being sent into our school in line with recent central bank directives.

Aladdin uses state of the art security to safeguard information entered by you and the school and data is stored and processed in strict compliance with Irish data protection laws.

**In the next few days,** if you have any outstanding bills you will receive an email message containing your payment access link. Please do not forward this email or share this access link as this link is unique for your family only. The link will bring you to a parent payment page which will contain all payments

requested for all siblings in a family. There is only one link per family ensuring you have the option to pay all amounts due for all your children in one transaction. Once you have completed your payment, you will be issued with a reference number. You will also receive an email receipt which will contain details of the transaction and reference number. Please quote this reference number in any queries you may have as regards this payment with the school.

Should it be the case that you do not wish your email address or phone number to be used to receive details relating to payment access links and new payment requests, please let us know.

We hope that you will find the Aladdin ePayments facility useful and that it is a very successful system for all. The secretary or myself will welcome any feedback or questions you may have.

**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.

- Notification will be sent out on the Aladdin Connect App to look for your preference on Parent/Teacher meetings which are scheduled for the week leading up to the mid-term break (week beginning 24/10/22). Please notify us of your preference before this **Friday - 14th October** so teachers have the opportunity to schedule meetings appropriately in advance.
- **Book Fair** begins next Monday, 17th October to Friday 21st October. For details please click on this <https://bookfairs.scholastic.ie/travelling-books/free-resources#before> Payment for your child's book or books can be made online - if you want to use this option **please ensure that you use this payment link only which is for our school account** - <https://bookfairs.scholastic.ie/pay/1235056>
- **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 permission note has been set up on Aladdin and if you have not responded yet please do so before this **Friday 14th October**. 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** will begin for all children from 3rd to 6th class on Wednesday November 9th and will run for 7 weeks. Again we need your consent for your child to take part. Therefore a permission note will be posted on Aladdin and once you give your permission you will be able to also process payment at the same time. Please note that while Coral Leisure have agreed to keep their cost per child the same, transport costs have increased. Deadline for your consent and payment Friday 28th October 2022
- **School Insurance** - deadline for purchasing the school insurance cover for your child is Friday 21st October 2022.

Maths week runs from 15th to 23rd October. Thank you to Ms.McGuinness for coordinating. The children will have opportunities at all class levels to get involved in active learning. Please see the attached link for more information [For Parents – MATHS WEEK IRELAND](#)

The children are invited to Dress up for Halloween on the day of the mid-term holidays. This is the last Friday in October. We are looking forward to the madness!

A provisional date of May 6th has been set for First Holy Communion. The date for Confirmation will be communicated in the coming weeks.

I'm very understanding that there is a lot on and this is a busy time of year. Please continue to work with us as we embrace change and strive towards giving our children greater exposure to as many opportunities for self-development and self-expression as possible.

Is Mise le Meas  
Damien McIntyre

---

Principal

**A few dates to note are as follows;**

Book Fair – week commencing Monday 17th October 2022 -see links above

Christmas Card permission slips on Aladdin - please confirm by Friday 14th October 2022

Moyne Community School Open Night for 6th class children and their parents - Thursday 27th October 5-7pm

Swimming lessons for 3rd to 6th class – start Wednesday 9th November 2022 -pay & confirm by Friday 28th October 2022

Maths week – Monday 17th October

School Mid Term Break - Monday 31st October to Friday 4th November 2022

Christmas Holidays - Wednesday 21st December 2022 at 12pm - to Wednesday 4th Jan 2022