



ST. PATRICK'S NATIONAL SCHOOL
Ballinamuck
Co. Longford

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15/11/22

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Last Thursday our GAA mixed team put in a tremendous effort against a strong Aughnagarron team in the division 4 mixed Cumann na mBunscol league final. There was exciting end to end action and the end result could have gone either way. We are immensely proud of all the children who took part in helping us reach the final. We hope to build on this achievement and look to further develop the fundamental skills in the younger classes in the coming months and years. Thanks to all the children, parents and locals for your support.

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

On Friday, 28th October, there was an enrolment ceremony in St.Patrick's Church for pupils receiving Communion and Confirmation this year. A date of Saturday, 11th March has now been confirmed for Confirmation.

3rd to 6th class children had the opportunity of trying out tag rugby over the last number of weeks. Aoghan Clarke of Leinster Rugby put the children through their paces and was very impressed with the enthusiasm shown by all.

Thanks to all those families who put together a shoebox for the Hope Appeal. Any boxes that missed the deadline were delivered to the drop off point in Toy Town, Longford.

The Annual Christmas Jumper Appeal in aid of Crumlin Hospital will be taking place on Friday 9th December. Further information will be shared closer to the time.

Christmas plays make a welcome return this year. There may even be a surprise visit from Santa himself! Children are eagerly practicing songs in preparation for their performances. Junior Infants to Second class pupils will perform their plays on the afternoon of Thursday, 15th December. The senior

classes will perform their plays on the following day, Friday 16th December. Times for both afternoons will be confirmed in the coming weeks.

The Christmas Raffle will also take place on Friday 16th December. As in keeping with tradition, we will be approaching local businesses for their support in this important fundraiser for our school. If any other relatives or family friends wish to donate please do so by contacting the school or emailing the office at ballinamucknschool@gmail.com. Raffle tickets are available for purchase through our Aladdin Connect App, for each €10 contribution, a raffle number will be assigned to the family.

On Friday last, I met our Creative School Associate, Aileen McHugh who will work closely with the staff and the children as we begin our Creative Schools Programme. Aileen will visit each class on Thursday 2nd December to initiate the process. The children at all class levels will have the opportunity to work through different mediums of art.

Our school has been awarded BLAST Arts in Education funding for the second consecutive year. In term two, the resident artist working with our children will be Carmel Balfe. This is a wonderful opportunity for our school to engage in a fully funded Artist. In addition, Ms. Mulligan has been awarded a fully funded 20-hour Artist in residency opportunity via the Teacher Artist Partnership Residency Programme (TAP) 2022/2023. Ms.Mulligan will be partnered with Siobhan Cox Carlos. Likewise, the programme of work will begin in term two.

St Patrick's N.S. will commence accepting applications for enrolment for the 2023/2024 school year on Wednesday, 23rd November. The enrolment form along with our Admission notice is now available on our School website – www.ballinamuckns.ie.

Is Mise le Meas
Damien McIntyre

Principal

A few dates to note are as follows;

Christmas Plays: 15th and 16th December (see above)

Christmas Raffle - 16th December

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

Confirmation - 11th March

First Holy Communion 6th May

