



ST. PATRICK'S NATIONAL SCHOOL
Ballinamuck
Co. Longford

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23rd January 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are very grateful for the support we received for our Christmas Plays and end of term raffle. The school raised a total of €1685. This money will go towards the acquisition of a portable stage which will be a great addition to our school community. Please inform the school through our email ballinamucknschool@gmail.com before this Friday, 27th January if you would like a copy of the Christmas Plays USB. The cost will be €10 plus the price of the USB stick.

Aladdin Connect is now our main channel for communication. Please ensure you are logged in so as to receive school updates and relevant news feeds.

It is important the absence function of Aladdin Connect is used to record all current or future absences. The Education Welfare Act, 2000 promotes school attendance. **Section 17** of the legislation states that there is a statutory obligation on parents to ensure their child attends school once registered. When a child is absent from school, the parent is required to notify the school of the reason for absence. Absences can also be emailed directly to our classroom teachers or submitted on our website [Absence Note – St. Patrick's National School, Ballinamuck, Co. Longford \(ballinamuckns.ie\)](http://ballinamuckns.ie)

Enrollment forms for Junior Infants for the 2023/24 academic year are now open. Enrolment forms are downloadable on our website or alternatively, please contact the school directly.

A huge thank you to past pupils Paddy Collum and Emmet Noonan of empasportswear.ie for sponsoring new school football jerseys for our school. We have decided to source PE half zip tops off the lads which can be used on each classes P.E day. A prototype will be shown to the children in each class. The cost of the half-zips will be communicated to you in the next few weeks once we have an idea of demand. Thanks also to Enda McGahern who kindly volunteered to sponsor socks and shorts to compliment the jerseys. The boys and girls will be showing off their new kits once the Championship kicks off.

The popular Aldi Play Rugby Sticker Competition is back. From January 9th last, for every €25 spent in ALDI please request a sticker for your son/daughter to bring into school and stick on our poster. A completed poster of 300 stickers will earn the school an entry into the prize draw, with one school scooping the €50,000 prize, and another 10 schools winning €5,000 for their school facilities.

We are looking for your help! Please contact the school if you have any ideas around a vegetable garden or even if you have any unwanted topsoil! We're currently looking at ways of creating an outdoor space. Old wellies and tyres might be useful so please hoard for now!

St. Patrick's is committed to encouraging healthy eating and strives to make pupils more aware of the importance of eating healthily. Children are allowed to bring in one treat on Friday only.

Is mise le meas,



School Principal

Dates for Diary:

Catholic Schools Week - Monday 23rd January to Friday 27th January

Clothes Collection - This Friday, 27th January

Bank Holiday - Monday 6th February

Internet Safety Day - Tuesday 7th February

Mid-term Break - Thursday 16th and Friday 17th February

St. Patrick's Day - Friday 17th March

School Holiday - Monday 20th March

Food Dudes - 27th February to 3rd March

Easter Holidays - School closes at 12pm, Friday 31st March (reopened on Monday 17th April)

ASW (Active Schools Week) - 24th April - 28th April

Confirmation - 11th March

First Holy Communion 6th May