



ST. PATRICK'S NATIONAL SCHOOL
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Co. Longford

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3rd May 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Congratulations to our mixed GAA team who beat Clondra last week to secure a place in the **Division 4 A final** on the week beginning 15th May. The exact date will be communicated to you as soon as we have the details to hand.

We must celebrate the achievements of our sporting stars who took to the field over the weekend. Congratulations to Philip Mullins, Dara McGahern, Cahal Tully (team captain) and Eoin McNally in winning the U-12 Plate for Fr.Manning Gaels. Congratulations to brothers James(team captain) and Ben Hilton on winning the U-12 Shield for Gaels Utd. by overcoming Newtown. An extended word of congratulations to James Hilton, Gaels Utd. on winning Leinster in the Community Games by overcoming teams from Dublin and Carlow respectively. James is now through to the All-Ireland Semi-Finals. Best of luck James.

Last week we had a thoroughly enjoyable **Active Schools Week**. A huge thank you to the following outside coaches/personnel; Davin Mimmagh, Ciarán Mac Eochaidh, Enda McGahern, Damien (School Fitness Ireland) and Ryan Francis (parent). Children were reminded of the benefits of physical activity in their everyday lives. Active homework and fundamental movement skills were encouraged throughout the week. Children who shared photos/videos of them engaging in physical activities were given raffle tickets and there was a draw held on Friday where active prizes were given out. Two new sports were introduced; gymnastics and table tennis. The school has identified gymnastics as an area of the curriculum where teachers with support have committed to delivering from the beginning of our next academic year. The school will run a 6 week block of gymnastics from 16th January 2024 at all class levels. All the action from the week will be up on the school website later this week <https://ballinamuckns.ie/asw23/>

Thanks to the **Parents Association** for donating €5 towards the cost of each 6th class hoodie.

This Saturday our Second Class children will be making their **First Holy Communion**. In keeping with tradition, the parents of last year's Communion class will be providing refreshments in the 98' hall after the 11am mass. Thank you to the children who put forward their names for the choir for next week's mass.

This year's Standardised tests (Literacy & Numeracy) will be administered on the 23rd and 25th of May. Please see the attached documents which may help to explain what these tests are about and other helpful information. https://ncca.ie/media/1429/understanding-standardscores_eng.pdf
https://ncca.ie/media/1424/standardised_testing_sten.pdf

Computer Classes with Paula (Cáit Roscommon), started back for 3rd-6th class children last Thursday week and will continue for a further 6 sessions. The children will learn how to operate Word, Powerpoint and will also learn Scratch.

TD Joe Flaherty will be visiting our school as part of European Day on Tuesday 9th May. Our school is working towards achieving our first Blue Flag Award through the Blue Star Programme.

Martina Butler will be engaging in a workshop on the theme of 'water' as part of our Green Schools initiative on Thursday 11th May.

Our Bake Sale has been rescheduled to Monday 29th May.

Beginning last Monday, Ciarán Mac Eochaidh, a county development officer for Longford GAA took children from 1st to 6th class for hurling coaching. The coaching will continue for a further five weeks.

Aideen McHugh, our Creative Schools Associate will engage with workshops with the children at all class levels on Tuesday 30th May. Aideen will teach the children about 'Land Art'. Further information will be communicated through our Aladdin Connect App in the lead up to the workshop.

The 'Stay Safe Programme' is in the process of or will be delivered at all class levels between now and the end of the school year. Information will be sent home accordingly. You can familiarise yourself with the content of the lessons at <https://www.staysafe.ie/parents.htm>

School tours this year will take place on Monday 12th June (3rd-6th Class - Lilliput, Mullingar) and Monday 19th June (Infants to 2nd class- Turoe Pet Farm and Indoor Inflatables).

We are anticipating plans for our proposed sensory area/garden in the coming days following some unexpected delays.

A google form document was sent out to parents yesterday morning through our Aladdin Connect App to look for your help to enable us compile information on the impact of COVID-19 on pupils'/students' educational experiences and outcomes, their wellbeing, their motivation to learn, and their engagement in learning. Your responses to this document will form an integral part of our School Self Evaluation Review.

Enrollment will be closing shortly for our 2023/2024 year so if you know of anyone wishing to send their child to our school please pass on our contact details. Our new calendar for our next academic year is attached to this newsletter for your attention.

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School Principal

Dates for Your Diary:

First Holy Communion - Saturday 6th May @ 11am

Bake Sale - Monday 29th May (further communication to follow in advance)

School Tours - Monday 12th June (middle-senior classes) & Monday 19th June (Junior classes)

School Closure -Tuesday 6th June - Teacher Training Day (New Curriculum & Primary Language Curriculum

Anti-Bullying Fun Day for 5th/6th class - Date TBC