



ST. PATRICK'S NATIONAL SCHOOL
Ballinamuck
Co. Longford

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Dear Parents/Guardians,,

I hope you are all enjoying the lovely sunshine and the good weather we're experiencing at the moment. A reminder that children are encouraged to wear plain navy or plain grey shorts without logos/designs. Also sun cream should be applied to your own child/children before they come to school. We've noticed a small number of children who have come to school without a drink. Please double check their bag before they leave in the morning.

A reminder that we promote healthy eating and our policy is one small treat on a Friday. We've noticed that some children particularly in the Junior end are bringing in too many treats.

Well done to all the boys and girls involved in the GAA mixed championship Division 4A final held in Pearse Park. Unfortunately it was not to be our day and our school came up against very tough opposition in Killasonna. Nevertheless, it was a huge achievement for our school to reach the A final. Well done to all the children and coaches involved. Thank you to Enda McGahern and Bobby Hilton for volunteering to take the children for training and for giving up their time. We are very appreciative.

Well done to James Hilton on his recent success as part of the Gaels Utd. U-13 team who were crowned Community Games All-Ireland champions a few weeks back. Congratulations to Sophie Rose Prunty on winning the Larne Ulster Championship in Dancing. Sophie came in 1st place in her under 7 reel. Further plaudits go to James Madine, Peter McKenna, Chad Gill, Alfie Budd and Oisín O'Sullivan in their recent under 9 success for Gaels Utd. in the under 9 blitz.

Thank you to Mr.Beirne and the children from 5th/6th class for their organising and running of our recent Bake Sale. Thank you to all the parents and children for donating lovely baked treats which were sold on the day. The total raised from the Bake sale was €1,028.15.

A huge thank you to Colm Harte, former principal of Killoe and Fermoy National Schools for bringing the children and teachers on a history walk around the sites in connection with the 1798 Battle of Ballinamuck. The walk will act as a stimulus for the children in designing their projects to be showcased as part of the 225th Anniversary of the Battle of Ballinamuck in early September (Please see attachment).

Our school recently applied for the Free School Meals Pilot scheme for the next academic year. We will keep you updated when we receive further details.

We are in the process of drawing up booklists for our next academic year and are asking for your help. Please crosscheck the list of books attached and get in touch with the school if you are willing to donate any of the titles for use as part of the free book rental scheme.

The Parents Association Raffle will be held on the Wednesday or Thursday of our final week of the school year ending 23rd June 2023. Information was circulated on Aladdin last week.

There are a number of trips and outings over the next few weeks. There is a GAA football blitz in Monaduff this Thursday. A bus will transport children in 3rd and 4th class to Monaduff for 10:30am to return to our school for 12:30 where children in the Senior classes will be collected and dropped off to Monaduff for their blitz. The 5th/6th class children will return to school before 3pm. This Friday, 9th June, Children in 5th and 6th class will travel to Aughnacliffe for a Water Sports Day Taster organised through Longford Sports Partnership. A bus will collect the children at 9:30 for an 10am start. Further details have been posted on Aladdin. As a follow on from TD Joe O'Flaherty's recent visit to the school, children from 3rd to 6th class will be traveling to Dáil Éireann on Friday 16th June. Please note a bus will be departing the school at the earlier time of 8am to ensure we arrive at our 10:30am slot. Further information will be posted on Aladdin. School Tours are on Monday 12 June (3rd to 6th - Lilliput) and Monday 19th June (Infants to 2nd class - Turoe Pet Farm)

Sports Days are provisionally booked for Tuesday 13th June (Junior Sports Day) and Thursday 15th June (Senior).

Graduation Mass for 6th class children and their parents and relatives will be held at 10am on Friday 23rd June.

Mrs. Kenny, our Junior Infants teacher, will be in touch with parents of our incoming Junior Infants in the next few days to arrange an appointment time for our open day. This is scheduled for the week beginning Monday 19th June. We look forward to welcoming our new students to the school.

Please see the attached link in relation to a pilot programme of counselling and mental health supports for schools across longford beginning next September.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/90147-minister-for-education-announces-establishment-of-5-million-pilot-programme-of-counselling-and-mental-health-supports-for-primary/>

As another school year draws to a close, I wish to thank you for your continued support and engagement in all aspects of school life. I wish you and your families a very happy and memorable Summer.

Is Mise le Meas,



School Principal

Dates For Your Diary:

Thursday 8th June	GAA football Blitz (3rd - 6th) Monaduff
Friday 9th June	Water Sports Day Taster (5th/6th) Aughnacliffe
Monday 12th June	Senior Tour (3rd - 6th) Lilliput, Mullingar
Tuesday 13th June	Junior Sports Day
Thursday 15th June	Senior Sports Day
Friday 16th June	Dáil Visit (3rd - 6th **8am bus leaving school**)
Monday 19th June	Junior Tour (Infants to 2nd) Turoe Pet Farm
Wednesday 21st June	PA Raffle
Friday 23rd June	Graduation Mass @ 10am 12pm - school finish

