



ST. PATRICK'S NATIONAL SCHOOL
Ballinamuck
Co. Longford

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19/10/23

Dear Parents/Guardians,

A huge congratulations to Sophia-Rose Prunty on her recent All-Ireland success. Sophia Rose won her beginner Reel in the CRG (Cumann Rince Gaelach) All Irelands. We also wish to acknowledge representatives from our school in winning the GAA Granard Cup at under-12 level. Children from our school who were part of the winning team were Philip Mullins, Cahal Tully, Dara McGahern and Eoin McNally. Well done to all involved.

Following an Exceptional Review of our school's SNA allocation which took place at our school on 26th September last, we've been granted an additional SNA post. This is fantastic news for our school community and will be of huge benefit to all our children. The new permanent post will be filled in the coming weeks.

Please be advised that the current term of the Board of Management will expire on 30th November 2023. An information note along with consent forms for two parent nominees (one mother and one father must be elected by the general body of parents of children enrolled in the school) will be in your child's school bag over the coming days.

Music Generation is being rolled out to all our children this year following positive feedback in the younger classes in the pilot phase two years ago and indeed, when extended to 3rd and 4th class last year. David Crowe is our assigned music teacher this academic year and he visits our school each Tuesday.

Mrs.Mulligan is coordinating the formation of a new school choir. Children from 3rd to 6th class are encouraged to become part of the school choir. A note on our Aladdin app will go out to look for your consent to permit your child to take part in our choir. This year, the sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated with St.Mary's N.S, Drumlish. Confirmation will be held on Wednesday, 24th April in St.Mary's Church, Drumlish.

Mrs.McGuinness is coordinating Maths Week 2023 (14th - 22nd October). Children at all classes have ample opportunities to explore Maths in our environment in a fun and practical way. This September marked the rolling out of the new Primary Maths Curriculum. Already staff members have taken part in a training session. This is to be followed by a cluster day where schools will group together for off site training. See link below. Further information will be communicated in due course.

<https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/269651/2c1fe0b3-c52b-47e6-b68a-ad1259c69ff6.pdf#page=null>

Parent Teacher meetings are officially scheduled for the week beginning 23rd October. Parents have been given an option of a phone call or face-to-face meeting and teachers have/are scheduling meetings.

Gary Brady, Longford County Council will be visiting our school on Friday 27th October as part of our Green Schools initiative. Gary will talk to our children on litter picking and recycling.

Swimming Lessons will begin on Wednesday, 8th November for all children from 3rd to 6th class. Please see notes on Aladdin regarding payment and if you could please make payment by Friday 26th October it would be much appreciated. 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 is Friday 26th October 2023

Book Fair has arrived in our school. For details please click on <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 27th 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.

Enrollment mass for First Holy Communion and Confirmation will take place on Sunday, 12th November at 9:30am in St.Patrick's Church, Ballinamuck.

Cash for Clothes collection will take place 23rd November. If you're having a clear out over the mid-term please keep all bags for our collection.

We ask parents to work with us to promote healthy eating habits in our children. A small treat is only encouraged on a Friday. Treats should not form part of daily lunches.

Please sign up to our new facebook page to view our school stories, achievements, events activities and reminders <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100095211915647>

Parents Association AGM was held on Tuesday 10th October. Special thanks to all parents that attended. The Parents Association plays a pivotal role in our school providing support/organisational

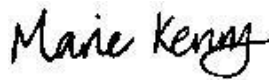
input to major school events, e.g. Communion, Confirmation, graduation etc and organising Fundraising events for the school throughout the year.

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!

On behalf of all the staff, I want to send our heartiest congratulations to our Principal, Mr. McIntyre and his family on the recent birth of baby Ella. We wish them many years of good health and happiness.

Finally, on behalf of all the teachers and staff at St.Patrick's N.S, I wish you and your families a very enjoyable Halloween break.

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Dates for your Calendar:

Enrollment Mass for Sacraments - Sunday, 12th November St.Patrick's Church, Ballinamuck @ 9:30am

Confirmation Day - Wednesday 24th April at 3pm (St.Mary's Church, Drumlish)

First Holy Communion - Saturday, 18th May

Book Fair – week commencing Monday 16th October 2022

Christmas Card permission slips on Aladdin - please confirm by Friday 27th October 2022

Swimming lessons for 3rd to 6th class – start Wednesday 8th November 2022 -pay & confirm by Friday 27th October 2022

Maths Week – Monday 16th October

School Mid Term Break - Monday 30th October to Friday 3rd November 2023

Cash for Clobber - 23rd November

Christmas Holidays - Monday 25th December to Friday 5th January inclusive