



ST. PATRICK'S NATIONAL SCHOOL
Ballinamuck
Co. Longford

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27th September 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The children and teachers have made a very busy start to the new term. All children throughout the school completed artwork to mark the Battle of Ballinamuck in 1798. Our school was invited to an art exhibition in the '98 hall on Friday 8th September which preceded the official opening of the commemoration of the 225th Anniversary of the Battle of Ballinamuck. Schools in our locality were paired with local historians and artists commissioned by Longford County Council and Longford Library to celebrate the anniversary. Thanks to Colm Harte and Anna Wiercioch for their input into the body of work that our children produced. All the work carried out by the children from all schools involved was on display.

On September 12th we received fantastic news with the announcement that our school has been granted funding for two new SET rooms. The extension will provide much needed fit for purpose accommodation which will benefit all our children.

Please note that the school opens its doors at 9am. For insurance and child protection reasons, children cannot be dropped off in the car park or enter the school yard before 9am.

Teaching staff can be contacted through their work emails on the contact details below.

mkennyballinamuck@gmail.com

Mrs.Kenny - Infants

mmulliganballinamuck@gmail.com

Ms.Mulligan - First/Second

omcguinnessballinamuck@gmail.com

Mrs.McGuinness - Third/Fourth

cbeirneballinamuck@gmail.com

Mr.Beirne - Fifth/Sixth

Parent teacher meetings will be arranged via the Aladdin app next month prior to the mid-term break. There will be a hybrid option in place whereby meetings can be held over the phone or face to face.

Aimie Duignan(Peelo Dance School) will be taking the children from all classes for Hip Hop each Wednesday for five weeks beginning 27th September. The Dance strand of the P.E Curriculum along with Gymnastics (after Christmas) are being introduced this year. David Mimmagh, GAA coach will continue his work with the children each week for the duration of the year. Ciarán MacEochaidh, County Development Officer is currently taking children for Hurling from 1st to 4th class each Friday for Five Weeks. On Friday 29th September it is European Sports Day. Children from 3rd to 6th class will be taking part in the Active Schools Table Tennis Challenge. The school has invested in four table tennis tables following the success of the previous Table Tennis Challenge held during Active Schools Week

2023. The Cumann na Mbunscol GAA Mixed League will commence next week. Further details to follow through our Aladdin app.

County Photos are returning Monday next, 2nd October to take the photographs of children who were absent on 11th September.

Please note all school absences should be recorded. The easiest way to do this is through Aladdin. Absence notes can also be sent directly to class teachers email addresses above. There is also a facility on our website under our parents tab

At a staff meeting the topic of homework was highlighted recently. Homework guidelines are as follows; Infants - no formal homework (some drawing, preliminary reading, matching shapes, letter/word cards and pictures or listening to stories read by parents) First/Second (20-30 minutes), Third/Fourth class (30-40 minutes), Fifth/Sixth (no more than 1 hour. Homework should be carried out in a quiet space with no distractions. Homework Journals should be signed. See further how to support you child with there homework <https://www.npc.ie/images/uploads/downloads/Homework.PDF>

Green schools - Martina Butler from Heritage Schools is visiting the school on Thursday 28th September. Martina will teach children from all class levels about our natural habitat (local rivers, lakes, bogs, soils) in using practical hands-on materials for the children to engage with. **Walk to School Week is next week, October 2nd to October 6th.** We are looking forward to a week-long celebration of walking, and we hope you will help us encourage as many students as possible to get active and walk to school instead of being driven. We will decide on a day to walk to school in the coming days. Further information will be posted on the Aladdin app.

The Credit Union Savings Scheme is starting up this year from Wednesday next, 4th October and every Wednesday thereafter. If you want your child to start saving you can pick up an application form in the office. Money can be placed in an envelope with your child's name and class clearly marked on it and monies will be lodged into the Credit Union on their behalf.

We wish all our children and families the best of health for the year ahead.

Is mise le meas,

Mr.McIntyre



Dates for your Calendar:

First Holy Communion - Saturday 18th May

County Photos - Monday 2nd October

Cybersafe Talk (As part of Anti-Bullying Policy) - Thursday 12th October (3rd-6th class)

Swimming Lessons (3rd to 6th class) - Beginning Wednesday 8th November