



ST. PATRICK'S NATIONAL SCHOOL
Ballinamuck
Co. Longford

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22/11/23

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Our new Board of Management has now been finalised. Mary McKenna will take up the role of Chairperson, Darren Cunningham and Sharon McKenna will take up the positions of Parent Representatives. Pauline Larkin and Tommie Leslie will remain on as community representatives. Mrs. Kenny will remain on our Board as the teacher representative. A word of sincere thanks to outgoing board members; Bríd Mímnagh, Pat O'Toole and Loraine McKenna. The new Board of Management will officially take up office on December 1st 2023.

We would like to welcome Laura Geelan to our staff. Laura has been appointed to our school on a permanent basis as our new Special Needs Assistant. You are very welcome Laura to our school.

On Sunday 12th December there was an enrolment ceremony in St. Patrick's Church, Ballinamuck for pupils receiving First Holy Communion and Confirmation this year.

Well done to all our children for taking part in the Credit Union Art Competition 2023 and congratulations to Florence Walshe (second prize under 7), Shayna Kerley (first prize under 10 category) and Molly Rose Collum (second prize 8-10 years).

A word of thanks to Fr. Manning Gaels for donating a cheque of €250 from the Marquee Committee. Also in the coming days, children can decide if they wish to purchase a half zip to be used during P.E days, sports outings etc. Fr. Manning Gaels have agreed to donate to the cost of these half-zips. They will be available for purchase for children in 3rd to 6th class at a cost of €10.

Thank you to all those families who put together a shoebox for the Hope Appeal (both physical boxes and those who carried out online). The Annual Christmas Jumper Appeal in aid of Crumlin Hospital will be taking place on Friday 8th December. Further information will be shared closer to the time. Our Cash for Clobber is tomorrow morning. Thank you to everyone for their drop offs. Our new Facebook page definitely helped spread the word!

Christmas Shows will take place in our school hall over two nights for all class levels - Tuesday 12th and Thursday 14th December. Doors will open at 6:30pm. To be respectful to all children, doors will close at 7pm sharp. Tickets will be sold in advance on our Aladdin app. Families, extended relatives and friends will need to book through a family in the school or contact our office. Tickets are €10 for an adult and €5 for a child. The Parents Association will be overseeing a raffle with spot prizes in the interval over both nights. Further information will be communicated on Aladdin.

Our School Christmas Draw will take place on Friday 22nd December. As in keeping with tradition, we will be approaching local businesses for their support in this important fundraiser for our school. If any other relatives or family friends wish to donate, please do so by contacting the school or by emailing the office at ballinamucknschool@gmail.com. Raffle tickets will be available for purchase on our Aladdin Connect App; for each €10 contribution, a raffle number will be assigned to the family. Children can also bring in cash to their class teacher for inclusion in the raffle.

School Fitness Ireland will be facilitating gymnastics for all classes for five weeks beginning, Wednesday 10th January. This is another strand of the P.E. Curriculum that we are looking to develop and promote within our school. We are asking for a contribution of €15 per child to cover the cost of the five weeks.

I am delighted to announce that our school has been granted free meals from April 2024. Every child in the school will be able to pick and choose their lunch meal each school day. This is in addition to the government's free books scheme. Further information will follow in the new year.

Our current Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was reviewed recently as per circular 0036/2023 on foot of revised publication of Child Protection Procedures for Primary Schools 2023. The amber lights at either end of the school are now operative again following consultation with the council. Road markings outside the school will be redone in the coming weeks. The next risk assessment to be carried out as part of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement will be in March 2024.

St.Patrick's N.S. will commence accepting applications for enrollment for 2024/25 academic year on Monday, 15th January 2024. The enrolment form along with our Admission notice will be available on our school website shortly.

Is Mise le Meas
Damien McIntyre



Dates for your Calendar:

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

First Holy Communion - Saturday, 18th May

Cash for Clobber - 23rd November

School Closure - 7th December to facility staff training day for the new Primary Maths Curriculum

Christmas Plays Tuesday 12th December (all classes) Doors 6:30pm, Thursday 14th December (all classes) Doors 6:30pm

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