



ST. PATRICK'S NATIONAL SCHOOL  
Ballinamuck  
Co. Longford

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30th January 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

A belated Happy New Year to you and your family. Best wishes for the year ahead.

Well done to all the boys and girls on all their recent achievements outside of school. Congratulations to Chad Gill, Peter McKenna, Alfie Budd and James Madine on qualifying for the under 10 Soccer Leinster Community Games following their success at the weekend. Likewise, well done to Ben Hilton who also qualified for Leinster in the under 13 category. Our school has registered two teams to compete in the FAI 5s' this March. Further details to follow. Best wishes to Rachel Sheeran and the Drumlish/Ballinamuck under 13 girls who play in the semi-final this Thursday.

We were very proud of four credit union teams from 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th class who did a great job representing our school. Congratulations to Molly Collum, MJ Dunne, Caitlyn Bohan and Mia McCormack who came in third place in the under 11 category.

There was a great buzz of excitement amongst the children and staff last Friday when Glen, Noel and Jimmy of the 'Little Heroes' rode through the gates of our school. Glen Campbell presented the school with a cheque for €3,000. On behalf of the school community, thank you Glen for organising and running the event. The monies will go towards the development of a sensory/outdoor space on our school grounds. Currently Creative Schools Ireland and Fás are working in collaboration with the school to map out a plan for the proposed area.

Our recent clothes collection raised €513. We are scheduling another collection for 11th April. We will send out a reminder closer to the time and also post on our facebook page. Thank you for your support.

Antonitte of Mcdonalds delivered thermal bottles to our school as part of the Ronald McDonald Children's Foundation. A set number of bottles were delivered based on the category of our school which were in turn raffled off to the children.

This term, the children have been enjoying GAA (David Mimmagh), Gymnastics (Damien, School Fitness Ireland) and Music Generation (David). It is lovely to see the children enjoying such a wide variety

of activities. We are hoping to do a WOW (Walk on Wednesday) in the coming weeks when we get a bit of settled weather. Our new PE policy has been devised and promotes the teaching of the six strands of the P.E curriculum in a whole school approach.

St.Patrick's N.S is now taking enrolments for September 2024. You can download the application form and Admission Policy on <https://ballinamuckns.ie> If you are aware of anyone interested in enrolling their child/children in our school, please let them know.

Thank you to Brendan Larkin (Larkin Windows) for approaching our school with the proposition of funding French lessons after school. This is a lovely gesture on Brendan's part. We have sourced a French tutor with the view to lessons beginning after the February mid-term break. A recent poll was posted on our Aladdin Connect App requesting parents from 3rd to 6th class to opt in or out. If you have not already done so could you please complete as we are trying to finalise numbers. We are open to suggestions around the timing of these lessons. I feel it would be a shame to pass up on this opportunity for our children. Please email [principalballinamuck@gmail.com](mailto:principalballinamuck@gmail.com)

At our last BOM meeting we were joined by Martina Donnelly who is hoping to set up an after school facility at our school. All going well, this will begin next September. Could you please complete the poll that will be posted on Aladdin in the coming days so we can have an idea of numbers. We are currently in the process of reviewing our Risk Assessment to update our Child Safeguarding Statement as part of our Child Protection Policy. We will be posting a google form in the coming weeks requesting your input. Staff will be taking part in a 2 hour Child Protection Training Seminar in a neighbouring school this Wednesday.

Following the tender process for the hot school meals which has been sanctioned for our school, local company - Dial a Chef will be taking up the contract for our school.

A recent emergency works application for the replacement of an oil boiler that serves the main building has been approved. The boiler will be replaced over the Easter Break. Further work scheduled for the Easter Break is for reflooring of the main corridor in the main building, a new fire alarm system and fire doors.

Is Mise le Meas,



Damien McIntyre

**Dates for your Diary:**

Monday 5th February	St.Brigid's Day (School Closure)
15th, 16th February	Mid-Term
25th March	Easter Hunt / Easter holidays
11th April	Clothes Collection
24th April	Confirmation
6th May	Bank Holiday
18th May	First Holy Communion

