



ST. PATRICK'S NATIONAL SCHOOL
Ballinamuck
Co. Longford

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22nd April 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

A huge thank you to Fran Mc Nerney, Dromard Development CE scheme and Nigel O'Neil from HCT Training and Consultancy for putting in place the initial phase for our new School Outdoor Learning Space over the Easter Break. Children will get the opportunity to plant/sow in the coming weeks and hopefully we will see our Garden spring to life. This is a fantastic addition to our school community.

A new boiler was installed over the Easter Break from funding received by the Department of Education under the Emergency Works Scheme. Also there was new flooring put down in the corridor of the main building under Minor Works funding which has brought a new facelift to our school. Further Emergency Works have been rescheduled for July to install compliant fire lighting/signage and a new alarm system.

Our Cumann na Mbunscol mixed team had a second outing last Tuesday against Aughnagarron. Unfortunately, Aughnagarron took the spoils in very difficult playing conditions. Our next football match is against Granard and is scheduled for this Friday at 12pm in Monaduff.

Cáit computer classes for children from 3rd to 6th class are in progress and will continue each Thursday for 7 weeks. Brendan and Madeline Doyle have begun Safe Cycle classes with 5th and 6th class in conjunction with Longford Sports Partnership.

Confirmation will take place this Wednesday at 3pm in St.Mary's Church, Drumlish. We have six children who will be confirmed this year. This year will see Paul Connell, the new Bishop of our diocese preside over the ceremony. School will open as normal on Wednesday. There will be a bus bringing children involved in choir to St.Mary's Church on Wednesday. A parent/guardian is asked to collect children at 4:20pm. A teacher will stay with children in the church until parents arrive.

An information evening surrounding options for an after school facility was held in the school hall last Wednesday. Four people have put themselves forward to form part of a committee to oversee the running of the service. We still require at least two more volunteers to form a committee. Please contact the school if you are interested in becoming part of the committee.

Thank you for supporting our recent Clothes Collection on 11th April. It was a great success. We raised €312

Hot School Meals began last week. The school entered into a contract with local catering company - Dial A Chef. The Hot School Meals is a new government initiative.

We are asking parents to ensure all children have a water bottle each day and that fruit is cut/prepared for eating in the younger classes.

As part of our School Self Evaluation and discussion around Well-Being we have decided to hold a Wellness Week on the week beginning 4th June. We are scheduling our annual Bake Sale for Tuesday 4th June.

Ciarán Maceochaidh, development officer of Longford GAA is teaching hurling skills to the children in the Infants room and the 5th and 6th class room for six weeks.

Standardised testing in Literacy is scheduled for the week beginning 20th May with Numeracy penciled in for the following week. Please click on the attached link for information on standardised testing https://ncca.ie/media/1400/english_tip_sheet_sten.pdf

Active Schools Week this year will run from June 10th to June 14th. There are a lot of fun events planned and updates will be communicated in the coming weeks through our Aladdin App. A walk to school is scheduled for Wednesday 12th June. We will gather at the 98' Hall and walk to school.

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 or indeed if you are aware of any families moving to the area please let them know.

The school calendar for the new academic year is attached.

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School Principal

Dates for your Diary:

3rd May	Cavan Trip (5th/6th Class)
6th May	Bank Holiday
18th May	First Holy Communion
4th June	Bake Sale
4th - 6th June	Wellness Week
7th June	School Closure - Local Elections
10th-14th June	Active Schools Week
14th June	3rd-6th Class Tour
17th June	Infants - 2nd Class Tour
20th June	Half Day (Summer Holidays)