



ST. PATRICK'S NATIONAL SCHOOL  
Ballinamuck  
Co. Longford

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12/11/24

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Congratulations to the Fr.Manning Gaels Intermediate team who defeated Seán Connolly's (Ballinalee) on Saturday 26th October. Thank you to the members of the winning team for calling into our school on Friday last with the Hennessy cup. The team got a rapturous welcome. Thanks for the treats lads!

Our new GAA coach Jack Macken will begin coaching the children from Wednesday 13th November. Gymnastics with our external instructor - Damien, will continue every Thursday for a further five weeks. Please wear tracksuit bottoms.

The Parents Association held their AGM on October 22nd. The committee remains in place, as follows; Chairperson: Aisling McLoughlin, Treasurer: Teresa McNally, Secretary: Aisling Donnelly. The Class reps are as follows; Junior & Senior infants: Yvonne Leslie. 1st & 2nd Class: Orla O' Hara. 3rd & 4th: Aisling McLoughlin. 5th & 6th: Olive Donnelly. New parents are always welcome and can contact any member if they wish to join at any time.

We've opened up Scór to children from 3rd to 6th class this year. A poll was sent out on Aladdin yesterday. If you've not done so already could you please confirm if your child/children would be interested in taking part.

Our shoebox appeal is up and running. Details have been posted on Aladdin. Please support this very worthy cause. The closing date is Monday 18th November. Christmas Annuals will be arriving shortly. Again, details have been posted on Aladdin.

Our Homework Policy has been reviewed by staff, Board of Management and sent to Class Representatives of the Parents Association for their considerations. The Homework Policy will be ratified at the next Board of Management meeting in early December.

Emergency works in relation to Fire Safety Improvements were completed over the mid-term break. In addition to fire doors, we now have emergency lighting, up to date signage and a new Fire Alarm System in place. Our new Health & Safety Policy will also be ratified at the next Board of Management meeting.

Staff are currently being trained up on the new Anti-Bullying Policy - Bí Cineálta. We are looking for your input. A google form survey will be sent out in the coming days to look at current preventative measures and to aid the review process. Our new Bí Cineálta policy must be in place for the beginning of the next academic year 2025/26.

On Wednesday 21st November, Drumlish Library will be visiting our school. Children will be encouraged to join, informed of events and resources that the library has to offer.

As there are no Christmas Plays this year, we've decided to book tickets for the whole school to Rapunzal, performed by the Vocational School in Ballymahon on Wednesday the 4th December. Thank you to local businessman Mark Cunningham for generously funding €500 towards the cost. Further details will be posted on Aladdin closer to the time.

French Lessons with Anna are scheduled for Wednesday 15th January (3pm to 4:30pm). It is intended that these lessons run up until the end of the school academic year. Please complete the recent poll or email the school if you've not already done so to book a place. All children from 3rd to 6th class are invited to attend. Thank you to Brendan Larkin for covering the cost of the lessons again this year.

The enrolment process for our next academic year will begin shortly. Please contact the school in advance to confirm a place for your child. We would be very appreciative if you could please circulate this newsletter to prospective parents.

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**Dates for your Diary:**

Confirmation	7th March
First Holy Communion	10th May
County Photos (return visit)	22nd November
General Election	29th November (School Closure)

