



ST. PATRICK'S NATIONAL SCHOOL
Ballinamuck
Co. Longford

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6/12/24

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We're in full swing here in the lead up to the holidays. The children had a fantastic time at the recent panto in Ballymahon. Many thanks to all the staff in the Vocational School in Ballymahon for the welcome we received. Check out our facebook page for more information <https://www.facebook.com/share/171QrBlfxt/?mibextid=LQJ4d>. The switching on of the Christmas Lights in our village will take place this evening outside Dillons. For all the children who have consented to taking part in the choir, please arrive at 7:15pm and if possible wear christmas jumpers/outfits.

Well done to all the children who took part in the Credit Union Art Competition. Special plaudits go to Sophia Rose Prunty, Holly McEvoy and Shayna Kerley who picked up prizes in their respective categories.

We will be holding our annual Christmas Raffle on the final day of school before the Christmas break. Children will be handed out a raffle card (one per family) before they go home this evening. Thank you to all the local businesses for their continued support.

Swimming for children from 3rd to 6th classes will begin on the 8th January for six weeks. Please check Aladdin in the coming days for a payment link.

Longford Rugby Club are offering three taster sessions to our 3rd/4th Class on the 14th, 21st and 28th January. The rugby club will be subsidising the cost of the bus. The provisional time slot is 11am to 12:30pm. Further details will follow in the new year.

We are currently reviewing our Bí Cineálta (Anti-Bullying) policy. A google form survey was sent out on Monday. Could you please complete it if you've not already done so to assist us with our review process.

There was a Board of Management meeting on Wednesday evening last. The agreed report is as follows: Our Homework Policy could not yet be ratified. Feedback shared with the BOM inferred that the quantity of homework assigned at each class level is not commensurate to the time allocations as set out. The quantity of homework will be reviewed at the next staff meeting. The school authority is exhausting all options to secure extra funding for increased floorage space to increase the proposed extension currently granted and are awaiting further information. The school authority has also engaged with the council regarding a proposed crossing for the new Walkway to Monaduff. It was agreed at our board meeting that our school will close at 3pm on Thursday 19th December to enable staff to attend Mr.Beirne's wedding ceremony. We wish Conor and Sarah many years of health and happiness together.

We have a very special guest due to make an appearance on Thursday 19th December. Ho ho ho!! Thank you to the Parents Association for making this visit possible.

The enrolment process for our next academic year has commenced. 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. Enrolment forms can be downloaded from the school website www.ballinamuckns.ie or they can be requested by emailing the school directly at ballinamucknschool@gmail.com.

From myself and all the staff at St.Patrick's N.S, we wish you and your families a lovely Christmas and best wishes for the year ahead.

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Dates for your Diary:

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| Confirmation | Friday 7th March |
| First Holy Communion | Saturday 10th May |
| Christmas Holidays * | Thursday 19th December at 3pm |
| School Reopens | Monday 6th January |