



ST. PATRICK'S NATIONAL SCHOOL
BALLINAMUCK
Co. LONGFORD

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4/3/25

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Our Updated Homework Policy was ratified at the last Board of Management meeting on the 19th February and is visible on our school website. A completed draft of our Bí Cineálta (Anti-Bullying) policy was completed by our staff during the recent school half-day closure. The policy has been circulated to the Parents Association and will be communicated to the Board of Management for further considerations before ratification at the next Board meeting. Thank you for taking the time out to complete the surveys sent out.

A survey in relation to the Hot School Meals Programme was sent out through our Aladdin App. Please complete to help us with our review.

The Annual review of our Risk Assessment document as part of our Child Protection Policy will begin shortly. A google form document will be sent out through Aladdin. We are exploring different avenues to improve the current car parking arrangements. Tree damage caused by storm Éowyn has presented some safety concerns. We are working closely with the local community and our insurance company to remedy damage caused.

Colm Bannon of Oide (Teacher Professional Development Body) visited our school last Thursday to work with myself and Mrs.Kenny on our Digital Learning Plan. Colm also talked us through the setting up of new google workspace email accounts in keeping with best practice as regards GDPR. Our new school email is officeballinamuckns.ie. Please send all future emails to this address. Any emails sent to ballinamuckns@gmail.com will be forwarded to our new email for a period of time. Teachers' work email addresses will also be changed and communicated to you shortly.

Well done to all the children who are representing our school in Scór. Thank you to Ms.Mulligan for preparing the children so well and to all parents for lending their support.

The qualifiers for FAI Schools Primary 5s will take place on 5th March in Longford Rugby Club. Cumann na mBunscol Championship fixtures will commence on the week beginning 24th March. In conjunction with Cumann na Mbunscol, we will be taking part in a football mini-7s tournament in Newtownforbes on Tuesday 11th March. Children from 3rd to 6th class will be representing our school at the Longford Athletics Day in St.Mel's Athletic Centre on Wednesday 12th March.

As part of seachtain na gaeilge, children from 1st and 2nd class will be visiting Drumlish Library this Thursday, 6th March. Author, Sadhbh Devlin will be facilitating a workshop based on the book 'An Fia Sa Choill'. *An Fia sa Choill* is a retelling of a Fionn Mac Cumhaill myth. Sadhbh waves her magic wand and the children turn into animals. They draw themselves as their chosen animal but must include a secret clue so that we can recognise who they really are. Further information on the author can be found at <https://sadbhdevlin.ie/>

Best wishes to the children in 6th class who will be making their Confirmation this Friday. The ceremony will be held at 3pm in St.Mary's Church, Drumlish. A bus will be provided to bring children involved in choir to the church. We ask that you collect your child from outside the church at approximately 4:30pm.

Longford County Council has granted our school planning permission for the development of two SET classrooms and a universal access WC. The application has been submitted to the Department and we await the next steps.

Our school has been approved €7,000 to install solar panels to power 6kW of energy. Works will commence in the coming months.

We're hosting a lá glas/ Intergenerational Day in our hall on Thursday 13th March at 1:15pm. Grandparents and or parents are invited to attend. Each class will be performing one or two activities. It should be a fun afternoon.

Our School Calendar for the next academic year has been finalised. Please see the attached document.

Is mise le meas,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Aladdin', written over a horizontal line.

Dates for your Diary:

Intergenerational Day

March 13th

School Closure

March 14th, March 17th

Easter Break

School will close 12pm on Friday 11th April & Reopen on Monday 28th April

Confirmation

Friday 7th March at 3pm.

First Holy Communion

Saturday 10th May

School Tours

All classes on 13th June (Further information will be posted on Aladdin)