



*St. Patrick's National School
Ballinamuck
Co. Longford*

*Eircode N39 P276
Tel: 0433324063*

Email: office@ballinamuckns.ie

28/8/26

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you all had a lovely enjoyable summer. Welcome back to all our children and a special welcome to our new Junior Infants.

Firstly, congratulations to our wonderful afterschool, who've had a very successful summer, filled with fun activities for the children. Well done to Angela, the committee and all involved - wishing you every continued success in the year ahead.

We are delighted with the works that have been completed in the school over the summer. Three new floors have been laid under the Climate Action Summer Works Scheme.

We thank you for your patience with regard to the car park. Council Works are still ongoing. Wheel stop parking blocks will be added, existing line marking will be burned off to be replaced by fresh makings. Fifteen Pencil Cones have been granted by the Active Travel section of the Department of Transport. Three ramps will also be put in place. One at the entry and exit point and one will act as a crossing onto the walkway.

Our GAA coach, Aaron who was with us last year will return on Fridays beginning September 4th. Aaron will teach fundamental movement skills and GAA ball skills to the children in all classes. Music Generation will return on Wednesday 15th September. Our children will learn the Ukelele

Hip Hop Dance with Chloe Brady will begin on Wednesday 24th September and each successive Wednesday until our Halloween' Break.

Following our successful application for the 'Say Yes to Languages Programme', I will again be facilitating the teaching of French lessons to children in 5th and 6th class for a 10 week block on the week beginning 28th September.

Children will begin to receive homework next week. Please refer to our homework policy on our school website (<https://ballinamuckns.ie/about-us/school-policies/>). We ask that you observe your child and time taken to complete suitably assigned work. Please use the homework journal to communicate to your child's class teacher any difficulties that your child encounters.

All parents should have the option of hot school meals through our provider - Dial a chef. In

the past, any child who did not order food, received a generic meal for that particular day/days. New guidelines only permit our provider to supply the quantity of food ordered in any given week. Also, the ordering window is now on a weekly basis with Midnight each Monday being the cut off point for the following week i.e Monday 31st August will be the cut off for pupils food order for week beginning 7th September. Dial a Chef do not want any child not to go without a meal so if the deadline is missed you can still make the order by contacting Dial-a-Chef (admin@lunches4schools.ie) or on 086 3427338

We highly encourage uptake of pupil 24 hour insurance as it runs for the year. Details have been posted on Aladdin. A copy of policy cover is available upon request in the office. County photos are scheduled to call to the school on Wednesday 9th September. Reminders will be posted on Aladdin.

I am mindful that there may be some teething issues with our Aladdin School Communication App. Please contact the office if you cannot log on or are not receiving communication alerts.

We are closed on Wednesday 16th of January for a whole staff training day in Carrick On-Shannon. This is mandatory child protection training for all schools in the country.

Contact details for our staff are as follows;
Damien McIntyre - SET principal@ballinamuckns.ie,
DP Marie Kenny Infants/1st mkenny@ballinamuckns.ie
5th&6th class teacher Conor Beirne cbeirne@ballinamuckns.ie,
2/3/4th class teacher Mrs.McGuinness - omcguinness@ballinamuckns.ie

Please refer to school policies on the link below. Other policies can be requested from the office.
<https://ballinamuckns.ie/about-us/school-policies/>

I hope that you all have a happy and fantastic 2026/27 school year filled with fun, friendship, learning and lots of special moments.

Mise le meas,


Damien McIntyre

Dates For Your Diary:

County Photos:	Wednesday 9th September
School Closure:	Wednesday 16th September
Mid-Term Break:	School closes at 3pm on Friday 23rd October and reopens on Monday 2nd November (<u>Afterschool running from Tuesday to Friday, 8:30am to 6pm</u>)
	Contact Angela