St.Patrick's National School
Ballinamuck
Co. Longford

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6th November 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Please note that the school will be closed to all pupils on Thursday, 12th November, due to ongoing public service industrial action.

Under the current INTO directive, formal parent-teacher meetings cannot take place outside school hours. This directive affects all teaching staff in our school. Some schools are facilitating these meetings through additional half-day or full-day closures. However, having considered this option, we feel that further school closures, particularly alongside the planned Curriculum Enactment Days, would be excessive. At present, we cannot confirm alternative arrangements, as these will depend on the outcome of ongoing pay talks and industrial action.

As always, parents who have concerns about their child's learning, progress or wellbeing are welcome to contact the school. Meetings relating to individual concerns and School Support Plans have been taking place since the beginning of the school year and will continue during school hours as normal. However, we kindly ask parents not to request formal parent-teacher meetings, or meetings intended to replace them, while the INTO directive remains in place. We appreciate your understanding and respect for the position in which this places our staff.

A huge thank you to Sharon and Damien McKenna for sponsoring our lovely filtered water fountain for our children and staff.

Our school has won an outdoor table tennis table valued at over €750 for taking part in the ***#Run Around the EU Participation Draw***. The table tennis table will be delivered next week and will be a fantastic resource for our school.

Information leaflets have been sent home in homework folders for anyone who would like to take part in this year's Christmas Shoebox Appeal. Shoeboxes can be returned to the school by **Tuesday, 10th November**. This is entirely voluntary, with no obligation to

participate. Every shoebox donated is greatly appreciated! Please visit https://www.teamhope.ie/christmas-shoebox-appeal/ for more information.

Christmas Jumper Day will be taking place on Friday 11th December

We will be holding an in-house Christmas Fun day for the children on Friday 18th December.

Our Christmas Raffle will be taking place at 11am on Tuesday 22nd December. We will be approaching local businesses to sponsor prizes. Raffle tickets will be distributed to each family in the coming weeks. Your support as always is greatly appreciated.

The enrollment process for the academic year 2027/28 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.

Is mise le meas,
Damien McIntyre

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Dates for your Diary:

First Holy Communion:	Saturday 17th April at 11am
Confirmation:	Friday 12th March at 3pm (St.Mary's Church, Drumlish)
Enrollment Ceremony:	Date and time to be finalised (subject to INTO directive)
Strike Day:	Thursday 12th November
New Curriculum Closure:	Tuesday, 8th December (Wellbeing on-site training day)
Christmas Closure:	12pm on Tuesday 22nd December
	School reopens on Wednesday 6th January