BALLINABRANNA NATIONAL SCHOOL

Milford

Co. Carlow

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**6th November 2019**

**School Handwriting Competition –** Congratulations to the winners of our School Handwriting Competition. Throughout the school there was a very high standard, the winning entries are on display and we are delighted to see the care and attention that the children are taking with their penmanship. The winners were Pippa O’ Brien, Sam Keehan, Charlie Carter Finn Ryan, Hope Kelly, Cian Purcell, Romeo Sibethe, Kayla Carter, Isabelle Farrell, Charlotte Hutton, Hannah Moriarty, Conor Twomey, Ódhran Murphy and Amy Mc Donald.

**Parent Teacher Meetings** Our Parent Teacher meetings will take place on Thursday 14th of November 2019. In line with the Department of Education’s guidelines school will finish at 2.45 on the day of these meetings. Infant classes finish at the normal time. Further information will follow.

**Cumann na mBunscol Gaelic Football Matches –** We are very proud of our girls’ and boys’ football teams who represented the school with pride and skill at the County finals in Fenagh Netwatch Training Centre on Tuesday the 22nd of October. On the night the win went to Rathvilly in the girls’ competition and Borris in the boys’ after two intense closely fought matches. Well done to our players on an excellent season and a huge thank you to our coaches Mr Breen and Mr O’ Connor for their time and commitment and to the coaches from Ballinabranna GFC who have helped with GAA training at the school.

**PA Clothes Collection-** Thank you to all who supported the Parents Association Clothes Collection in October which raised €225 for the school.

**Safety Talk**-Thank you to Garda Essmay Mannix who visited our 5th and 6th class recently to talk to them about safety, particularly in relation to Fireworks and Halloween.

**Presentation Show –** Our 5th and 6th class enjoyed a trip to Carlow for the Presentation College Musical “Blood Brothers.” Congratulation to our winners from the colouring competition, Charlotte Hutton in 4th Class and Charlie Carter in 1st Class.

**Presentation de la Salle Show** – Our 4th Class enjoyed ‘High School Musical’ performed by the pupils of Pres de la Salle in Bagenalstown.

**Barrettstown Outreach Team** – Our Junior Infants, 4th & 5th Class enjoyed a visit from the Barrettstown Team and learned all about diabetes. Many thanks to the Barrettstown Team for an informative & enjoyable presentation.

**5 Star GAA programme –** Our staff will participate in training this week after school to help us to implement the GAA 5 Star initiative during this school year with the children.

We hope to become a “GAA 5 Star Centre”, this award is given to schools that undertake to deliver a programme of Gaelic Games activity that is age-appropriate and meets the developmental needs of children within the school over the school year.

**Split the Pot** – Our Split the Pot Draw continues each Friday. To enter just return the Split the Pot envelope with €2 inside it and your contact details on the front. The draw will be held live on Facebook, the winner takes home half of any money collected with the remainder going directly to support the school. Additional envelopes for other family members/neighbours who would like to take part are always available from the office. Many thanks for your support!

**Work Placement**

We welcome Michelle Hayes who will be undertaking work placement in the school office each Monday for the next 10 weeks.

**Parents Association** - the next meeting of our Parents’ Association will take place on Wednesday 13th November in the school PE hall. All are welcome to attend.

**Tag Rugby** – Gavin Whitney from Carlow RFC will be taking 3rd -6th Class pupils for a 6-week block of Tag Rubgy sessions. These sessions will begin this coming Monday.

**Witch Walk** – Unfortunately the awful rain on the day of our Witch Walk meant we couldn’t visit the children in the local creche; however the children thoroughly enjoyed showing off their wonderful costumes in our school hall. Many thanks to our Parents’ Association for providing the children with some lovely treats on the day.

**Mathemagician** – As part of Maths Weeks 2019 our 5th & 6th Class attended The Mathemagician workshop held in IT Carlow. The children learned about ‘magic maths’ and enjoyed their interactive workshop.

**Climate Change Project** – Following the success of last year’s recycling art competition, Ballinabranna/Milford/ Raheendoran Development Group are once again kindly supporting a Climate Change Project competition for our pupils. Climate Change is a huge challenge for our planet, and we are excited to see the ideas the children come up with to tackle this problem. Further details to come during the month.

**Team Hope** is an Irish, Christian development aid charity, working with children across Eastern Europe, former Soviet Union and Africa (Irish charity number CHY 14524). Information about the Team Hope Christmas Shoebox appeal was distributed to children before the Halloween midterm. If you wish to participate, please drop your shoebox to the school on or before Friday 8th of November. Please contact Brenda in the office if you need any additional leaflets or information.

**Bosca Nollaig** is a local campaign set up to provide gift boxes to children in need this Christmas. Fill a shoe box with treats, a small gift/book plus essential clothing items like hats, gloves, scarves and personal care items (toothpaste/toothbrush/hair bands/slides/ brush/comb).  Please indicate on the box whether for a boy/girl and the age range of the recipient.  **No cash to be enclosed.** Boxes can be dropped off at Ballinabranna National School from 2nd-6th December. Boxes will then be personally delivered to Barnardos and St. Vincent De Paul for distribution to children in need in time for Christmas.

**Every School Day Counts** – This year our school is taking part in the ‘Every School Day Counts’ campaign, supported by Tusla Education Welfare Services. This campaign aims to highlight the importance of school attendance with regard to achieving positive educational outcomes for children. Our school attendance is generally excellent and we thank families for their support in this regard. Please continue to send a note to the class teacher for all absences.

**PE/Tracksuit Days** are currently as follows:

Junior Infants Ms Hayden – Wednesday and Friday 3rd class Ms Amond – Wednesday and Friday

Sen Infants Ms Watchorn/Ms McDonald – Tuesday and Thurs 4th/5th class Mr O’ Connor – Wednesday and Friday

1st class Ms O’ Gorman – Thursday and Friday 5th/6th class Mr Breen – Wednesday and Friday

2nd class Ms Conway – Tuesday and Friday

**HSE MMR/4IN1 vaccination** for Junior Infants will take place on Wednesday the 27th of November. Consent forms have been issued to parents.

**After School Opportunities:**

**Art Classes:** With Jean Robertson on Tuesdays, contact Jean on 086 8686783 to book a place.

**Irish Dancing:** With Claudia Dargan on Wednesdays, contact Claudia on 085 7199026 to book a place.

**Creative Keyboards:** With Karen Egan on Thursdays, contact Krisha on 087 2022505 to book a place.

**Upcoming School Events**

Parent Teacher Meetings Thursday 14th of November 2019

School Closure for Teacher Inservice Monday 25th of November 2019

Christmas Carol Service Thursday 12th of December