BALLINABRANNA NATIONAL SCHOOL

Milford

Co. Carlow

#### Phone: 059 9146253

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**2nd October 2019**

**Éist4Kids-** Thank you to all who helped to raise €330 for Éist Carlow through our Jersey Day on Friday 27th of September.

The money raised will help to support local families affected by cancer.

**Enrolment -** Our Enrolment for the 2020 school year is now starting with the 31st of October as the closing date for applications for Junior Infant 2020. Application forms are available by calling in to the school, phoning the school on 0599146253 or by emailing ballinabrannans@gmail.com. Enrolment places will be confirmed in early December 2019.

**Medical & Contact Information –** A reminder to parents that if your contact details have changed or your child’s medical information has changed to please update the school immediately.

If there has been a change in family circumstances, for example separation, please speak to the class teacher or principal in confidence.

**Road Safety -** A huge thank you to Clogrennane Lime and to Alan, Brian, Mark and Paddy who visited our school on Thursday 26th of September to give all of the classes a lorry safety demonstration.

Thursday was European Day Without A Road Death. The children learned about a lorry driver's blind spots, how to keep a safe distance from a lorry and a particular highlight was the opportunity to visit the driver's cab! Clogrennane also left in spot prizes for each class to raffle as a souvenir of the visit. Thank you Clogrennane Lime!

**Athletics-Cross Country** -Thirty children from 4th-6th class represented Ballinabranna NS on Monday 30th of September at the 2019 Primary Schools Cross Country event held at Carlow Town Hurling Club. Well done to all of the children, every one completed the long -distance race, with Rachel Ayres (6th) winning overall first place in the 6th class girls’ category!

**St Abbans Athletics –** St Abban’s Athletics Club held a Cross Country event on Wednesday 11th of September for 4th - 6th class. Several children from our school participated, with thanks to their accompanying parents. The children had a fantastic day with Hannah Moriarty, Conor Twomey and Luke Condell’s team coming 3rd, Rachel Ayres, Michael Geraghty Glynn and Daniel Dunne’s team finishing in 1st place and with great runs from Katie Geraghty Glynn, Amy Farrell and David Kennedy.

**Cumann na mBunscol Gaelic Football Matches -** The 2019 Cumann ns mBunscol 2019 football league is well underway. The teams have played away to Rathvilly and have had home games against Tinryland and Borris to date. Our girls’ team have won all three of their matches and the boys have had a draw, a loss and a win so far. Our next match is an away game against Grange with all to play for!

A big thank you to our teacher’s Mr Breen and Mr O’ Connor who voluntarily coach the teams on Mondays from 3-4 and during school lunch time!

**Student Council-** In September a Ballinabranna NS Student Council was formed. Our first meeting was held in September where members discussed ideas that would help to make lunchtime more fun. Members of our Student Council include – Alannah Hennigan, Cathal Barry, Amy Farrell, Conor Twomey, Erin Daly, Michael Kinsella, Fiach Donnelly, Seán Foley, Liliane Picovici, Oliver McDonald, Ava Comerford, Freddie Comerford and Lucas McGee. Our Student Council looks forward to representing the views of all children to help improve our school.

**PA AGM** – Our Parents Association’s AGM will take place on Wednesday the 9th of October at 8pm in the school. All parents are welcome.

**Clothes Collection** Our Parents Association have organised a Clothes Collection for Fri Oct 11th with libertyrecycling.ie.

Clothes can be dropped into the storage area under the school (access beside front gate) each morning from Monday September 30th to Friday 4th. Bags can also be dropped into The Meeting Place beside the church before and after 9.30 mass on Sunday September 6th. Just to remind you that:

**We welcome:** **We cannot accept**:

Men’s/ Women’s/ Children’s clean Clothing Dirty or Wet clothing

Hats/ Handbags/ Belts Single shoes

Curtains/ Bed Linen Off cuts of material

Paired Shoes/ Socks Duvets or pillows

**Fairtrade –** A Fairtrade Committee has been set up in school with the aim of keeping the children and families aware of all things Fairtrade in the parish. There will be one or two meetings per term. We look forward to promoting Fairtrade in our community. Here are the representatives, elected by each class, on the Fairtrade Committee- Áibhín O’ Sullivan, Josh Keating, Alexandra Walker, Tom Ó Cathasaigh, Ruth Tunstead, Dara Foley, Cara Ní Chathasaigh, Conor Ryan, Treasa Dermody, Ódhran Noctor, Dara Tunstead, Grace McDonald, Oliver Walsh, Sarah Tunstead, Ben Kehoe, Katie Sweeney, Jack O’ Donaghue, Mrs Corrigan and Mrs Agars.

**Nut allergy -** A reminder that the school is **a nut-free zone** as there are children with life threatening allergies to nuts and nut products attending the school.

**HSE Hearing and Vision Screening** for Junior Infants will take place on the 7th October. The HSE team will also see children who are due a follow up hearing or vision test.

**Barretstown Outreach Team** will visit the school on the 10th of October to work with children in Junior Infants and 4th/5th class. The team aims to create a fun, interactive and child-friendly approach to explaining what diabetes is whilst dispelling myths associated with it. It is a free programme and we are very grateful to them for giving us their time and expertise.

**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 resumes this Friday 4th of October. 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!

**Droichead -** Our school is now a Droichead School, this means that when newly qualified teachers begin working here, they will have the support of a trained team from our school throughout their induction. Staff members Mr O’ Connor, Ms Agars and Ms Hayden have attended two days out of four days of Droichead training available to schools. We are grateful to all our staff who take such a great interest in supporting their colleagues.

**Teaching Placements -** Sinéad Smyth and Nadine Gormalley will undertake their school placement in our school over the next few months. Sinéad will be working with Mr Breen in 5th/6th class initially and Nadine will work with 1st class.

We wish them every success.

**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

**Post-Primary Open Nights**

St. Leo’s College, Thurs 27th September 6.30-8.30pm Coláiste Aindriú, Bagenalstown, Tues 8th Oct 7-9pm

Gaelcholáiste, Ceatharlach, Tues, 8th October 7-9pm Knockbeg College, Fri, 18th October 4-7pm

St. Mary’s Academy, Thurs 7th November 6.30-8.30pm Borris Vocational School, Thurs, 24th October 7-9pm

Tyndall College, Thurs, 3rd October 7-9pm Presentation College, Mon, 11th November 7-9.30pm

Presentation De La Salle, Thurs 10th Oct 6.30-8.30pm

**After School Opportunities:**

**Gaelic Football Training:** Mondayfrom 3-4pm, for 3rd-6th class (weather permitting) with Mr O’ Connor and Mr Breen.

**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**

Witch Walk Friday 25th of October

October Midterm Closed Monday 28th - Fri 1st November

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