BALLINABRANNA NATIONAL SCHOOL

Milford

Co. Carlow

Roll No. 17756D

Registered Charity No: 20109301

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**7th January 2020**

Welcome back to all, we hope you have a had a lovely relaxing Christmas and wish you every blessing and success in the year ahead.

A special thank you to Brigid Keating, Brigid worked with us in December as an SNA. Our very best wishes to Brigid for future success in her new role.

Congratulations to Sinéad Smyth who successfully completed her third-year school placement in Ballinabranna NS this December with 2nd class. Well done Sinéad!

**Credit Union Art Competition-** Our congratulations to four pupils from our school who were winners in ths year’s Credit Union Art Competition. In 1st class Tamyznn Tucker and Finn Ryan were winners in the under 7’s category.

Maebh Donnelly and Amy Farrell were winners in the Under 13’s category.

Henry Roberts Manager of Leighlin Credit Union visited the school to present prizes to Conor and Amy. Well done to all who participated. Henry also left some lovely spot prizes to be raffled amongst the children. Thank you Henry.

**Climate Change Competition Prize Winners** – Well done to all who participated in our recent Climate Change Competition in conjunction with Ballinabranna, Milford, Raheendoran Development Group. The winners were Alex Brealey, Pádraig Agars, Isabella O’ Meara, Rhys O’ Toole, Joe McDermott, Cillian Fitzgerald, Hannah Moriarty and Lilymay Hosey. The overall Junior Winner was Amber McDonald and the overall Senior Winner was Laura Ayres.

**Every School Day Counts -**Well done to all pupils who took part in our recent art competition. The children designed posters to help promote good attendance in school. The winners were Josh Keating, Kate Purcell, Tamzynn Tucker, Sarah Walsh, Conor Dooley, Sophie Byrne & Katie Geraghty Glynn. Well done everyone! Keep up the good work on our excellent attendance.

**Raffle** –Thank you to all who supported our Christmas Raffle which raised an amazing €3005 for the school. We are extremely grateful to all who helped in any way, selling tickets, buying tickets or sponsoring a prize, with a big thank you to Brenda in the office for all her hard work!

The prizes winners and sponsors were:

**Winner Seller Prize Sponsor**

Kathleen Murphy Mollie Curran Television Clogrennane Lime

Maureen Agars Tommy Agars €200 One4All Voucher Ronan Byrne & Co

Tom&Catherine Farrell Alisha Molloy Hamper Tullys Bar

Deirdre Sheehan Amber McDonald €75 Detail Voucher Detail

Catherine Ayres Rachel Ayres €50 Jones Business Voucher Jones

Ciarán Byrne Mike Byrne Silver pendant&chain Douglas Jewellers

Maia Tunstead Dara Tunstead €50 One for All Voucher Delmec

Hennessy Family Alex Brealey €50 Mac's Menswear Voucher Mac’s Menswear

Rhiannon Byrne Brendan Byrne Hamper Mags Bolton

Brian Darcy Sarah Darcy €20 Bosco’s Voucher Bosco’s Butcher

Hannah McGrath Caitlin McEvoy €100 Lord Bagenal Voucher Grass Tech

Josh Flanagan Amelia Flanagan €30 Lord Bagenal Voucher Lord Bagenal

John Comerford Freddie Comerford €50 O’ Reilly Oil Voucher O’ Reilly Oil

Arda Destire Michael Byrne €25 Ray Whelan Voucher Ray Whelan

Dwayne Doyle Mike & Katie €100 Aboretum Voucher Aboretum Carlow

Cathal Moriarty Hannah Moriarty €30 Fairgreen Voucher Woods Contract Cleaners

Fenella Amond Jamie McDonald €30 Sports Voucher Brian Callinan

Tadgh French Emily French 2 bottles of wine

Ciara Murphy Mollie Curran Kettle - Connollys Hardware + Delta Centre Voucher

Kyle Rea Fionn McNally €50 One for All Voucher Delmec

Olivia Flanagan Amelia Flanagan €25 Ray Whelan Voucher Ray Whelan

Patrick Agars Tommy Agars Earrings- Bramleys + Hair Straightener Mags Bolton

Johnny Glynn Amber Bolton Clarke Bottle of Whiskey Annie Geraghty

Willow Doyle Sellers Prize Hamper Catherine Ayres

**Swimming –** Swimming begins on Monday 6th of January. Children from 2nd -5th class will have eight sessions this year from Monday 6th of January to Monday 24th of February.

The children benefit from excellent tuition by fully qualified swim coaches and have the opportunity to earn a SWIM award, a nationally recognised certificate, at the end of the eight weeks. A letter with further information went out to children in these classes in December. Please contact the school if you did not receive a copy.

**Santa’s Visit-** We were delighted to have Santa and Mrs Claus visit the school on the day of the Christmas holidays, with thanks to members of our Parent's Association who helped Santa deliver selection boxes to all the children.

**Christmas Carol Singing**- Well done to the children who sang so beautifully at our Christmas Carol Service on the 12th of December in Ballinabranna Church. The children from 4th class received a warm welcome when they went to sing at the Parish Christmas Party in Leighlinbridge on the 17th and 4th -6th class raised €330 singing in the Aboretum Home and Garden Centre on the 19th of December with thanks to the Aboretum for hosting us. Thank you to all our staff who helped prepare the children with a special thanks to Ms Agars who led the choir and singing rehearsals.

**Collection for St. Clare’s Hospitality Kitchen –** Thank you to all who generously donated non-perishable food items to the collection for St. Clare’s Hospitality Kitchen. Your kindness will be of great help to those in need.

**Split the Pot** Thank you to all who are supporting our Split the Pot fundraiser which is a great opportunity to raise funds for the school and perhaps win a few for yourself too. Our final draw in December was a double draw meaning that two names were drawn, and the entire pot was split between the two winners. Our next draw is on Friday 10th of January.

The December winners were: Peppy c/o Katie and Mike €100 Tinkerbell c/o Katie and Mike €110

Double Draw Cathy O’ Keefe €175 Jas, Kian and Caoimhe €175

**Snooker league –** The girls from 5th and 6th class participated in a lunchtime snooker league during November and December. Amy McDonald and Katie Sweeney played in the final with Katie taking the title. Well done Katie!

**New Primary Language Curriculum –** As part of the introduction of the new primary language curriculum’s introduction schools have been advised that they must close for one half day per term in 2020. During this time staff will engage with a webinar from the Professional Development Support Service for Teachers (PDST). We understand that half days can be inconvenient and will endeavour to give as much notice as possible to parents in advance of these closures.

**Primary Care & Child Psychology Services** – **Free Workshops 2020** – Shamrock Plaza, Green Lane, Carlow. These evidence based programmes are available free to parents or carers in the Carlow area. To register contact 076-1082018 and leave a message with name of workshop you are interested in and your contact details.

Parenting Positively – Thurs 16th January & Thurs 30th January 10am-1pm

Managing Strong Emotions – Thurs 23rd January 10am-1pm

Ready Steady Relax: Anxiety Management - Weds 15th January 10am-1pm

Managing Mood Difficulties in Children and Adolescents - Weds 22nd January 10am-1pm

Understanding and Supporting Children and Young People who Self-Harm- Thurs 6th February 10am-1pm

Supporting Children and Adolescents who have experienced Trauma -Weds 5th February 10am-1pm

Sleep Hygiene for Children and Teens – Thurs 13th Feb 10am-12pm

Parenting in the Digital Age – Weds 12th of Feb 10am-12pm

Coping with Chronic Illness – for parents of children with a chronic illness – Mon 7th Feb 10am-1pm

**After School Opportunities:** These after school activities are privately run, for any queries regarding dates/times or payment please contact the after-school tutor on their mobile phone.

Art Classes: With Jean Robertson on Tuesdays, contact Jean on 086 8686783.

Irish Dancing: With Claudia Dargan on Wednesdays, contact Claudia on 085 7199026.

Creative Keyboards: With Lelde Pujate on Thursdays, contact Krisha on 087 2022505.

**Upcoming School Events/Closures**

First Holy Communion Parents Bridge Session Weds 15th January 7.30pm

Grandparent’s Day Thursday 30th of January

Book Fair Wednesday 12th of February

February Mid Term School closed Thursday 20th and Friday 21st of February.