BALLINABRANNA NATIONAL SCHOOL

Milford

Co. Carlow

Roll No. 17756D

Registered Charity No: 20109301

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**4th February 2020**

**Credit Union Quiz 2020-** Three teams from the school represented Ballinabranna NS in the Leighlinbridge Credit Union Quiz on Sunday 2nd of February. On our U13 teams were Ódhran Murphy, Amy McDonald, Daniel Dunne, Meabh Donnelly, Conor Twomey, Lilymay Hosey, Abbie McDonald and Alisha McDonald and on our U11 team were Sean Mathews, Cillian Fitzgerald, Karen Ayres and Naomi Picovici. Each team represented the school proudly. One of our U13 teams came 1st in their competition, they now progress to the Carlow/Kilkenny Credit Union Quiz which takes place on the 1st of March in Kilkenny. The winning team received €30 each and a Credit Union goodie bag. Congratulations Ódhran, Amy, Daniel and Meabh!

**Spelling Bee –**Congratulations to Hannah Moriarty on winning our school Spelling Bee. Hannah has been invited to represent Ballinabranna NS at the Carlow County Finals of the Eason’s Spelling Bee. We are delighted that this year’s county final will be held in our school on Wednesday the 26th of February from 11am. Best wishes to Hannah!

**Grandparents Day-** Thank you to all who helped to make Thursday 30th of January’s celebration of Grandparents Day such a special occasion, to all the children who worked so hard preparing artwork, songs and prayers and the staff who helped them prepare, to the parents who provided delicious refreshments for all in the hall, to Fr Hennessy and to all the special visitors who joined us today! Thank you!

Catholic Schools Week 2020 "Kind words, kind thoughts, kind actions."

**Book Ninja Challenge** - Carlow County Library have started a Book Ninja Challenge, participants get a special bookmark and collect a sticker (belt) to add to it every time they visit and borrow from their library. When they reach their black belt and complete the challenge, they receive a “Certified Book Ninja” medal.

**Bookfair-** We welcome the Celtic Travelling Book Fair to the school on Wednesday the 12th of February. Fliers will go out this week to families. Please remember there is no obligation to buy any books from the fair, the school will receive a percentage of the book fairs takings back in books for the school.

**Swimming –** Swimming continues for 4 more weeks for the children in 2nd-5th class until February 24th.

The children will have the opportunity to earn a SWIM award, a nationally recognised certificate, at the end of the eight weeks.

**Work Experience** – We welcome Jasmine O’ Shea, Elvie Morris and Michelle Hayes to the school on work experience.

**St. Fintan’s Day** There will be a rededication of St. Fintan’s Church, Ballinabranna on Sunday 16th February with Mass at 2pm. Our school choir will sing on the day. We look forward to being part of this special celebration.

**Faith Friends** –The Confirmation Preparation Programme for 6th class will be held from 7.30-8.30pm sharp in the school on Weds - 12th Feb, 19th Feb, 26th Feb, 4th of March & 25th of March. Children should bring their pencil case with them.

**Fairtrade Fortnight** takes place from Monday 24th February until Sunday 8th March 2020.

So What is Fairtrade Fortnight? For two weeks each year thousands of individuals, companies and groups across Ireland come together to share the stories of the people who grow our food and drinks and who grow the cotton in our clothes, people who are often exploited and underpaid.

The focus this year is Fairtrade chocolate! In 2020 we will continue our mission to ensure that all farmers are paid fairly for their work and are able to earn a living income, starting with the cocoa farmers of West Africa. We will look in particular at the role women farmers play in the journey to living incomes.

Each class has completed their entries in the Fairtrade Art competition to help raise awareness of the importance of buying Fairtrade. The Fairtrade committee will be busy in the coming weeks, promoting Fairtrade in school and we will be doing some Fairtrade activities during Fairtrade Fortnight! Look out for the Fairtrade symbol!

**Student Council –** Our Student Council have organised a Crazy Hair Day for Friday 7th of February. They are fundraising for yard equipment to help make lunchtimes more fun. €2 is the suggested donation, but you can contribute as much or as little as you like. Children can wear their own clothes to school on Crazy Hair Day.

**Basketball training-** Thank you to Mr Breen and Ms O’ Gorman who are taking 5th and 6th class children for free basketball training sessions this term.

**Snooker league –** The boys from 5th and 6th class are taking part in a lunchtime snooker league on Wednesdays and Fridays this term.

**Change of details** – Please let the school know if you have changed any of your contact details recently (phone number or address). Thank you.

**25th Festival of Youth Orchestras –** Best wishes to Naomi & Liliane Picovici. They will perform in the National Concert Hall on Saturday 8th of February at 3pm as a member of Carlow Youth Orchestra. Well done to both of you!

**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 next draw is on Friday 7th of February.

The January winners were: Vicky Brown €111 Mr Breen €108

Katie and Mike €110 Peppy c/o Katie and Mike €105

**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**

Book Fair Wednesday 12th of February

Staff Training for New Primary Language Curriculum School closes at 12.30pm on Wednesday 19th of February.

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

Rededication of St. Fintan’s Church Sunday 16th of February at 2pm.

Confirmation Retreat Wednesday 26th of February.