BALLINABRANNA NATIONAL SCHOOL

Milford

Co. Carlow

Roll No. 17756D

Registered Charity No: 20109301

#### Phone: 059 9146253

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**3rd March 2020**

**Covid-19-** The DES has issued guidelines and advice to schools to reduce the spread of Covid-19. The recommended actions are the same as those we have implemented since the flu season. To protect yourself and your child

1. Wash hands often with soap and water. Teach children how to wash their hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol based hand rub.

2. If you are coughing or sneezing, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue. Throw the used tissue away into a closed bin, and wash your hands. If you don’t have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your flexed (bent) elbow. Have tissues available. Teach your children to do the same.

3. Avoid close contact with anyone who you know has cold or flu symptoms.

Attached to this email is the Advice for Schools sheet from the HSE.

**Credit Union Quiz 2020-** Well done to Ódhran Murphy, Daniel Dunne and Meabh Donnelly who represented Leighlin proudly in the Carlow/Kilkenny Credit Union Quiz on Sunday 1st of March in the Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny. Each child won a book token on the day!

**Fairtrade –** Well done to Liam Nolan (2nd class) who is a County Carlow winner in this year’s Fairtrade Colouring Competition. Well done to the Fairtrade Committee for all of their hard work in the run up to Fairtrade Fortnight. Thank you to the Leighlin Fairtrade group along with Transition Year students from Presentation De La Salle, Bagenalstown for their very informative presentation to the committee and 5th/6th class on Monday 2nd of March and for the Fairtrade chocolate they brought. Leighlin Fairtrade have generously donated a new Fairtrade soccer ball to the school.

**Eason’s Spelling Bee –** On the 26th of February, Ballinabranna NS hosted the Carlow County Final of the Eason’s Spelling Bee. The overall winner was Odhran Maxwell from Ballon. Hannah Moriarty from our 5th class won a book voucher, t-shirt and dictionary. Well done Hannah!

**Sacrament of Penance –** Children from Ms Conway’s 2nd class will receive the Sacrament of Penance at 7pm in St. Fintan’s Church, Ballinabranna on Thursday 5th March. They have been working hard to prepare for this celebration and we wish the children and their families a very special, prayerful evening.

**Thank you** to our Parents Association who have been very active this month. On the 14th of February they held a Childline Breakfast Morning raising €165.50 for charity. There was a delicious treat for all the children on Shrove Tuesday with pancakes brought to the classrooms. The new resources ordered from our Parents Associations fundraising have begun to arrive at the school including new graded readers, novels and Aistear equipment. These will be of direct benefit to the children’s education.

In conjunction with Carlow Sports Partnership our PA have been running 6 weeks of fitness classes for Ballinabranna Operation Transformation with all proceeds going to the school.

**Family Fun Run** - This Sunday the 8th of March the Family Fun Run takes place at 11am from the GAA Clubhouse. Registrations in Ballinabranna GFC clubhouse from 9:30am. Online registration is available on <https://www.justrunsevents.com/ballinabranna-5k.php> (scroll down and click register). Please spread the word amongst family and friends to ensure a good turn out on the day as this is the main fundraising event for our school this year.

**Crazy Hair Day-** Well done to our Student Council who raised €370 through their Crazy Hair Day for equipment to make yard more fun. They have ordered portable goals and basketball nets to begin with and are looking forward to their arrival!

**Food Dudes** We are delighted to be part of the new, improved Food Dudes programme. From Weds 26th Feb children will receive free fruit and veg at school for 8 school days for Senior classes and 16 days for Junior classes.

**I-Pads –** Thanks to the IT grant from the Department of Education the school will be purchasing a set of 16 I-Pads for use by children in the classes. An individual, portable router will be used to provide wifi when needed during IT classes. Staff training and support will be provided through Wriggle. Thank you to Mr O’ Connor who has been working hard to make this happen!

**Bookfair-** Thank you to all who purchased from the Celtic Travelling Book Fair. The school has been allocated just over €1000 to spend on books from this company for our classrooms because of your support!

World Book Day is the 5th of March this year. Each child will receive a World Book Day token.

**School Opening Hours** – Reminder - School classes start daily at 9.20am. The school will open to receive pupils from 9.10am. No responsibility is accepted for pupils arriving before that time.

**Staff Professional Development –** During February our staff engaged with training for the New Language Curriculum via webinar and attended First Aid refresher training with Early Year’s First Aid.

**Engineer’s Week** – This Tuesday 3rd of March, 3rd class will visit the IT Carlow for an Electric Magnetic Show. This fun filled interactive show focuses on forces with lots of innovative and interactive demonstrations showing what forces can do.

**Water Education** – On the 24th of March, thanks to Ballinabranna Water Co-Operative Society 5th and 6th class will have the opportunity to visit our local Group Water Scheme treatment plant to see how the water is pumped, treated and disinfected. This will be followed by an interactive presentation in class presented by Róisín from the National Federation of Group Water Schemes. To promote biodiversity and climate action each child will also receive a wildflower seed bomb on the day. Thank you to Ballinabranna Water!

**Martial Arts Display** - Brian and Katie from the Brian O' Donaghue Martial Arts Academy visited our school on the 27th of February and gave a fantastic kick boxing demonstration to children from 4th-6th class, emphasising that hard work and the right attitude pays off. Thank you Brian and Katie!

**Friends for Life Programme-** Children from 2nd and 3rd class will be taking part in the Friends for Life Programme over the next 10 weeks. “Friends for Life” is a social skills and resilience building program that is recognised by the World Health Organisation as an effective means to help prevent anxiety for children aged 8-11. It is proven to reduce anxiety and give participants the tools they need to cope in these stressful and challenging situations.

Mrs Agars, Mrs Corrigan and Ms Amond have attended training with the National Educational Psychological Service and are qualified to implement the “Friends for Life Programme” in our school.

**Aldi Play Rugby –** Thank you to all who are collecting Aldi Play Rugby stickers for our school. We have filled 4 posters with stickers this month!

**Gymnastics Day**- On the 31st of March, children in all classes will participate in a 30-minute gymnastics taster class with School Fitness Ireland. They have reduced their price for us from €3 to €1 per child and this will be directly funded by the proceeds from our Split the Pot Draw for the children.

**Text Messaging System for parents** – As you are aware Pin Point Alerts will no longer be providing our current messaging service for schools from the 4th of March. We will soon be moving to a new provider – Funky Frogs. Further details will follow shortly.

**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.

**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 6th of March .

The February winners were: Tricia Lowry €135, Hingie c/o Katie and Mike €100, “I see you” c/o Katie and Mike €130.

**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**

Sacrament of Penance Thursday 5th of March 7pm

Ballinabranna 5km Run Sunday 8th of March 11am

1st Communion Parents Bridge Meeting Wed 11th of March 7.30pm

St. Patrick’s Day School Closed Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th of March

Faith Friends (6th class) Wednesday 4th March, Wednesday 25th of March 7.30pm

Sacrament of Confirmation Friday 20th of March 11am

Easter Holidays School will finish on Friday 3rd of April, we reopen on Monday 20th of April.