

BALLINABRANNA NATIONAL SCHOOL

Milford

Co. Carlow

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4th of November 2020

We are delighted to congratulate Ms Watchorn on the arrival of baby Óisín in October. We wish Róisín Mangan SNA every happiness as she begins her maternity leave this month. Brigid Keating will join us as maternity leave SNA, we hope that she will be very happy in her time working with us at Ballinabranna NS.

Halloween Dress Up Day - We had great fun on the 23rd of October with children (of all ages) dressing up in their Halloween Costumes and making donations to Trick or Treat for Temple Street. €250 in total was donated to this worthy cause, thank you to all who contributed.

School Time Capsule – As we are living in historic times, we decided to create a Time Capsule for our school this year. Every child in the school has placed some items, drawing or writing into the capsule which will be opened in the year 2070. Some of the children chose to write to their future selves imagining what their lives might be like fifty years from now. The capsule will be stored safely in the school attic, with directions left for the reopening. We hope that the children will enjoy coming together in 2070 to meet their school friends again and share the wonderful memories they have created.

John Tyndall Mural Design Competition – On March 13th, the first day of our school closures this year, we were prepared to host our prizegiving for our pupil's John Tyndall Mural Design Competition. We eagerly awaited a future occasion when we could make this special day happen. We were delighted to welcome Jennifer Murnane O' Connor TD to the school on the 9th of October for a very special, socially distant, outdoor prizegiving. Jennifer both sponsored and presented the children's prizes.

The winners were:	Junior Infants	Ruby McDonald	Senior Infants	Mia Carter
	1 st class	Charlie Carter	2 nd class	Cathal Stedman
	3 rd class	Dara Tunstead	4 th class	Grace McDonald
	5 th class	Kayla Brown	6 th class	Katie Geraghty Glynn
	Special Achievement	Abby McDonald	Overall Winner	Tamzyn Tucker

Congratulations to the winners and to all who entered. The standard was extremely high!

Our thanks again to Randal Dempsey, Cllr Ken Murnane, Siobhan Amond, Sheila Murray, Paul Walsh, Barry O' Neill, Carlow County Council and to Jennifer Murnane O' Connor TD who have helped to make this wonderful project happen.

Split the Pot – Our Split the Pot Draw resumed on Friday 10th of October. To enter just return the Split the Pot envelope with €2 inside it and your contact details on the front. The draw is 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!

Our October winners were Brian Darcy €180 Adam Walsh €130 Karen Ayres €120

Team Hope – This year the Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal is going to be run differently. Due to the effects of Covid-19 restrictions, it is not possible to send gift-filled shoeboxes from Ireland this year, so Team Hope are asking schools, families, friends, communities and businesses to #TeamUpForTeamHope by donating gift-filled shoeboxes online. These donations will allow our network of local partners in Africa and Eastern Europe to purchase items for shoeboxes, which will then be delivered straight into the hands of children affected by poverty. Often these shoeboxes are the only gift that a child will receive at Christmas and the joy that they deliver is incredible.

You can complete your shoebox any time up until 23rd December but from 9th – 15th November, Team Hope are running the Christmas Shoebox Appeal Week. Although this year may be different, the need for shoebox gifts is more important than ever. Each gift-filled shoebox is €20. To donate or for more information see <https://www.teamhope.ie/christmas-shoebox-appeal/>

Seesaw – Well done to all the children, parents and teachers for all of your engagement with Seesaw. We are delighted with the positive response and feedback.

Beechwood Nursing Home Our 6th class children wrote letters to the residents of Beechwood Nursing home before the mid-term break to let them know that we are thinking of them and all the older people who are putting a particularly strong shoulder to the wheel regarding the restrictions around Covid-19. They were thrilled to receive lovely letters back from several of the residents!

Secondary School Enrolment – The local secondary schools have contacted us regarding enrolment for children in 6th class. All children in 6th class are encouraged to complete and return enrolment forms for secondary school now if they have not already done so.

Due to the new School Admissions Bill, Secondary Schools cannot accept any enrolment forms from children in 5th class at this time (for September 2022). Secondary School Enrolment for these children will take place during the 2021-2022 school year.

Ballinabranna NS Enrolment for 2021- Enrolment for Junior Infants September 2021 will take place in January 2021 for all Catholic Primary Schools in our Diocese, as we all follow the guidelines from the new Admissions Bill. We will publish details of our school's Admissions Process in January and we are happy to answer any questions parents or guardians have regarding enrolment, you can contact us by email or by phone.

Student Council – Following the successful start to our school's Student Council last year, each class has nominated student representatives for our council this year.

While representing the students on key issues, our Student Council made several effective suggestions for making lunchtime more fun for everyone last year. They held a very successful Crazy Hair Fundraiser and used the money raised to purchase additional play equipment for lunchbreaks for all classes.

Green Schools and Climate Action Week – All of our classes participated in Climate Action Week in October. Each class made a climate action pledge and has selected an in-class representative for the school's Green School's Committee. One of their first projects for this year is to encourage everyone to have a re-usable drinks bottle for school to reduce our school waste and reduce consumption of single use plastics.

Cycling to School – We are delighted to see the increase in children who are cycling to school this year. Well done to all involved.

Fairtrade Our new Fairtrade Committee has been elected with every class being represented to help promote Fairtrade produce throughout the school and for the children in turn to carry the message of Fairtrade home. In the run up to Christmas, try to shop local and shop Fairtrade where possible!

Christmas Cards Children are busy working on designing their own Christmas Cards. Each family will receive a sample card in the next fortnight and if you wish to, you can purchase additional packs of the cards to send to your families and friends. This year you will also have the option of purchasing a mug or gift tags created with your child's own design. Further details to follow shortly.

Christmas Annuals Folens Christmas Annuals will be available from the school later this month if you would like to buy one. The annuals cost €4 each and have lots of valuable educational material, puzzles, jokes and stories inside for children to enjoy.

Incredible Edibles Our 6th class students have signed up for Incredible Edibles this year. Incredible Edibles is a curriculum linked healthy and growing initiative for Primary School students. It encourages schools across the country to get busy sowing, growing, cooking and eating fruit, vegetables, and herbs through a hands on and engaging learning experience.

The project aims to:

- Educate students about growing fruit and vegetables.
- Increase awareness of food origin, identifying and supporting Irish grown produce, while looking after the environment.
- Highlight the importance of consuming 5-7 fruit and vegetables daily for a healthy balanced diet.

Best of luck to 6th class in partaking in this project this year!

Upcoming School Events

Christmas Raffle Friday 18th of December 2020

Christmas Holidays School will close on Tuesday 22nd of December (Half Day) for Christmas