

BALLINABRANNA NATIONAL SCHOOL

Milford

Co. Carlow

Roll No. 17756D

Registered Charity No: 20109301

Phone: 059 9146253

e-mail: ballinabrannans@gmail.com

14th of April 2021

Orienteering – Since our school reopened in March, we have been taking every opportunity that we can to be outdoors in the fresh air. 4th, 5th and 6th class thoroughly enjoyed several orienteering sessions which made the most of our extensive school grounds. A big thank you to Mr. Breen who prepared the orienteering activities including the clue cards and trails for the children in 4th, 5th and 6th class. Our Junior and Senior Infants have also thoroughly enjoyed participating in scavenger hunts for Halloween, Christmas and Easter this year.

Sacrament of Penance – Well done to our 2nd class children who participated in the Diocesan Penitential Preparation Service on Thursday 18th of March at 7.30pm. The children and their teachers Ms Fitzharris and Ms Kehoe worked very hard to prepare, learning to understand the meaning of the sacrament, to know the prayers, stories and be familiar with the songs for the service with the help and support of Fr. Hennessy. Each family joined the webcam link to the Cathedral in Carlow from their homes to celebrate with Bishop Denis.

Sacrament of Confirmation Preparation – Our 6th class children who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation took part in a Diocesan Celebration, *Confirmation; The Journey Begins in Hope* on Thursday the 25th of March at 12 noon. Bishop Denis Nulty led the service which can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/528859056> The children and their teacher Mrs Agars are working away to ensure that they will be fully prepared to receive the sacrament once the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted. In May they will participate in a virtual retreat with the De La Salle Pastoral Centre, Castletown with thanks to our parish and Fr Hennessy for supporting this and for their continued help and guidance.

Seachtain na Gaeilge – Tráth na gCeist ar líne. Comhghairdeas le gach duine a bhí páirteach sa Tráth na gCeist ar Kahoot le linn Seachtain na Gaeilge 2021. Fuair Rhys O' Toole as rang a trí 100%! Tá súil againn gur bhain sibh taitneamh as.

No Uniform Celebration Day – There was great excitement in the school on Friday 19th of March as we celebrated St. Patrick's Day, Seachtain na Gaeilge and the return to school with a very special no uniform day. With the current restrictions on clothes and shoe shopping we understand that parents are doing their very best to keep children in as much of the school uniform and tracksuit as possible on a daily basis. The most important thing is that the children are back in school now, not what they are wearing. Hopefully it will be possible for these shopping restrictions to ease shortly.

Gardening – All around the school flowers are blooming and new life is growing. Well done to all of our classes and their teachers who have created lovely flower beds teeming with new life and growth around the school. 2nd class even added some wonderful painted stones to decorate their beautiful flower bed. Inside in the classrooms little seedlings are beginning to emerge as classes participating in the Incredible Edibles Project and the Innocent Big Grow start to see the first signs of life from their planting. Our Junior Infants were also delighted to bring home their cress plants at Easter which they had carefully grown! Incredible Edibles is a healthy eating initiative for Primary School pupils. It encourages schools across the country to get busy growing carrots, lettuce, potatoes, strawberries, turnips and herbs. Schools are supplied with grow packs containing everything they need to grow a veritable feast of healthy foods! Children from 2nd and 6th class in Ballinabranna NS are participating this year. The Innocent Big Grow 2021 marks 10 years of GIY and Innocent working together to give children across Ireland & the UK everything they need to get growing. Their growing kits contain seeds, compost discs and cups and a teacher's resource pack. Children from 1st and 3rd class have gotten stuck into this project since their return. Well done to everyone involved for their lovely work.

Aldi Play Rugby- Thank you to all who helped to collect Aldi Play Rugby stickers for the school before the school closures last year. We were delighted to receive 6 boxes of sports equipment from Aldi in the post, including tag rugby belts, rugby balls, ball pumps, bibs, sports bags, agility ladders, hurdles and spot markers. All of the children will benefit greatly from this new equipment. Many thanks for supporting this!

Easter Egg Hunt – Before Easter each class was able to enjoy their very own Easter Egg hunt on the school grounds, with a small chocolate treat for all taking part. Thank you to the class teachers and SNAs for organising this for the children.

The SPAR FAI School Zone is fun, interactive learning material aimed at children in 4th, 5th and 6th class bringing some football fun to subjects like English, Irish, History, Geography, Maths and much more. Specially designed worksheets are shared with our teachers for use with their class each week. By registering for the SPAR FAI School Zone our school is automatically entered into a competition with the chance to win a set of kit.

GAA – Carlow GAA Coaching and Games have continued to encourage our children's sporting development and fitness this year, even throughout the school closures with their fantastic online coaching initiative. We are extremely grateful to them for the wonderful opportunities they have given our pupils this year.

We are delighted to welcome back coach Robert Samson to the school to work with our children from Junior Infants to 2nd class this Friday 16th of April.

Creative Schools – Thank you to our Creative Associate, Mary Bourke, who has been supporting the school through the first phase of the Creative Schools Project, where we seek to understand where our school is in relation to Creativity. A survey has been sent to all parents and guardians via Funky Frog inviting feedback which will help to shape the school's creative plan going forward. Thank you to all who have completed the survey so far. You can still access the survey at <https://bit.ly/creativeschoolsurvey> if you would like to contribute.

Upcoming School Events/Closures

May Bank Holiday – School closed Monday 3rd May to Friday 7th of May 2021

June Bank Holiday – School closed Monday 7th of June 2021 only.

Friday 25th of June 2021 is the last day of school for this school year.