

BALLINABRANNA NATIONAL SCHOOL

Milford

Co. Carlow

Roll No. 17756D

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3rd of June 2021

June Covid-19 Advice – As the Covid-19 restrictions are easing around the country, schools have been reminded to hold firm and to continue to follow all the public health advice given to date as cases continue in school age groups. Specific advice has been given to schools around the holding of end of year events, regrettably we cannot yet invite parents to gather and attend these. However, as you will see from our June Fun Days and many school activities we are working within the guidelines to ensure that our students have a rich and varied school experience this month. We thank you for your constant support throughout this year and for continuing to ensure that children/staff who are unwell do not attend school. We pray for a safe and enjoyable June for all.

Enrolment – Our current projected enrolment for September 2021 is 195 pupils, this is very close to the appointment figure for the 8th classroom teacher of 199 pupils. Please share your positive experiences of Ballinabranra NS with others and who knows, we could have an extra teacher for our children in 2022.

Tag Rugby Corey Carty, Community Rugby Officer from Leinster Rugby is providing children in 3rd-6th class with free tag rugby training sessions over the next few weeks in school. Corey visits us on Tuesday mornings (weather permitting) to work with the children. Our thanks to Leinster Rugby for organising this.

Clothes Collection – Our Parents Association are organising a Clothes Collection for the 8th – 11th of June. This is a great opportunity to clear out the wardrobes and also to help the school!

Run As One - Our Parents Association are organising a virtual 5k walk, run or cycle event as a fundraiser for the school. We are encouraging everyone in the school to get out and walk/run during the week of the 14th to 20th of June while wearing the Ballinabranra green and yellow colours and to make a donation via the Go Fund Me page <https://gofund.me/9a3025dc> to the school. Photos can be shared with the school Facebook Page. Any proceeds will go directly to the school and will help us to purchase more i-pads for children to use in school. Thank you to our PA and to all who support this virtual event.

New Infants Welcome Afternoon - On Wednesday the 16th of June our current Junior Infants will finish school at 12:30pm to allow us to welcome next year's Junior Infants to visit the school and meet their teacher Ms Hayden. To ensure everyone's safety, individual appointments have been given to each new child and their parents to attend and Covid-19 safety protocols will be followed.

Classes Next Year – While Covid-19 restrictions and protocols remain necessary our Board of Management have agreed that our current arrangement for teacher allocation which makes use of our 8 available classrooms and SET will continue into 2021-2022 for as long as Covid-19 pandemic measures remain in place. Once Covid-19 measures are no longer necessary we will have 7 classes with split-class divisions at younger levels.

Fun Days in June - This year, we will be bringing the fun to Ballinabranra School for our school tours to ensure that all our children stay safe and enjoy a great day with their school friends without taking any unnecessary Covid-19 risks. On Tuesday 8th of June 2nd to 6th class will enjoy a wildlife show by Dave's Jungle who are Zoo Licensed and have 15 years' experience of presenting to groups. Dave explains how the animals hunt, how they perceive the world, how they use their senses, eat and catch their prey. The students then have the unique experience of handling and touching a crocodile, tarantulas, scorpions, snakes and large lizards (if they wish to!). On Thursday 17th of June, Junior Infants, Senior Infants and 1st class will welcome a children's entertainer for some fantastic fun.

Then on Tuesday 22nd of June, all classes will experience a Drumming Workshop from The Mobile Music School. Through games, activities and performing, the drumming workshop allows pupils to explore the percussion family, develop their understanding of rhythm, improve their rhythmical ability and perform as part of a drumming ensemble. Each class will enjoy lunch from our local Supermacs on the day of their tour (8th or 17th) Brenda has sent parents the menu for parents to choose from in advance.

The total cost for all these exciting activities and food in June is €12. Parents can pay either directly to the school in an envelope to the class teacher, or through Funkyfrog.

Looking forward to some wonderful educational and fun activities in last month of this school year!

Kiernan Milling - Animal Nutrition Specialists Art Competition. Fantastic news to hear that Liliane Picovici, Aoise Gould, Naomi Picovici and Alannah Hennigan were winners in this competition. The children have each received Kiernan Milling bags, hats, lanyards and pens. Well done!

Big Kid Clean Up – We are delighted to hear that Charlie Carter (2nd class) has been highly commended for his entry to the “Big Kid Clean Up” Competition run by Carlow County Council in association with KCLR. Charlie’s entry was chosen from hundreds of entries from across Carlow and Kilkenny and he has received a special prize in the post. Well done to Charlie and to all who entered on their great work spreading the Litter Free Message.

Fairtrade Art Competition Winners During Fairtrade Fortnight Carlow Fairtrade Committee looked for Primary School Children to submit artwork with a Fairtrade theme in it. We are delighted that two of our pupils are winners in this year’s Fairtrade Carlow Art Competition, Charlotte Hutton in 5th class – Highly Commended and Sophie Brennan, Senior Infants – Overall Carlow Winner – Infants Category. A representative from Fairtrade Carlow called to the school to deliver their prizes, plaques and some delicious Fairtrade chocolate. Congratulations!

School Reports and Booklists – Our end of year school reports will be issued later this month, if there is any aspect of the report or your child’s education that you are concerned about, please do not hesitate to make an appointment to discuss this by phone with your child’s teacher. Booklists for next year will be included with the report. If you have changed address, please ensure that you have contacted the school to inform us as reports will be posted to your home address.

GAA - Our 3rd-5th class children did such a wonderful job taking part in the Carlow GAA Sound Supporters Campaign that they have earned a special GAA sports afternoon for 3rd-6th class.

Carlow GAA staff will visit the school on Wednesday the 16th of June from 1-3pm to lead the children in a variety of sports games and drills followed by a games blitz. Thank you to those involved in organising this for our school!

Reconciliation – Children from 2nd class will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Friday the 11th of June at 11:30am in the school. They have been preparing diligently for this all year and we hope they have a very prayerful celebration of the sacrament.

Confirmation Preparation – Children in 6th class preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation will participate in a special Diocesan Confirmation Retreat broadcast from Carlow Cathedral on Friday the 18th of June. They have also thoroughly enjoyed their virtual retreat with Castletown Retreat Centre over the last four weeks in school.

Graduation Mass – On Wednesday the 23rd of June at 11:30am the children from 6th class will participate in a Graduation Mass led by Fr. Hennessy in St. Fintan’s Church, Ballinabranna. This service will be broadcast live on the parish webcam for anyone who would like to watch.

Lámh Signs – Children from all classes have been learning a new Lámh Sign each week. Lámh is a signing system that can help children and adults to communicate. Ask the children to show you how to sign, “hello,” “play,” “ball” and “Would you like to play with me?”

Upcoming School Events/Closures

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

Tuesday 8th of June – Dave’s Jungle and Supermacs – 2nd-6th

Tuesday 8th -11th of June- PA Clothes Collection

Friday 11th of June – 11:30am Sacrament of Reconciliation – Children from 2nd class.

Monday 14th – Saturday 20th of June – Run as One – PA Virtual 5km Event

Wednesday 16th of June - New Infants visit by appointment – Current Junior Infants finish at 12:30pm.

Wednesday 16th of June – GAA Sports Afternoon 3rd-6th class.

Thursday 17th of June – Children’s Entertainer and Supermacs – Junior Infants – 1st class

Tuesday 22nd of June – Drumming Workshop – All classes

Wednesday 23rd of June - 6th Class Graduation Mass 11:30am

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

Return to School - Monday 30th of August 2021 will be our starting date for the 2021-2022 School Year.