

BALLINABRANNA NATIONAL SCHOOL

Milford

Co. Carlow

Roll No. 17756D

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6th of October 2021

Jasmine Byrne - World Champion – Our congratulations to Jasmine Byrne, a past pupil of Ballinabranna NS who is now a World Champion after winning gold at the WUFK Karate World Championships in Romania recently. Jasmine trains with Noel Amond in Ballinabranna Karate Club. Congratulations Jasmine!

Creative Schools – Our Creative School's Children's Committee met with Mary Bourke from Creative Schools in September to help plan for their activities this year under the children's chosen theme of "We've got moves." There are lots of exciting plans in the pipeline! Watch this space!

PA Calendar – The Parents Association's School Calendar will shortly be available to purchase from the school. Thank you to the Committee members who have put in trojan work organising this. The calendar is a wonderful keepsake of photographs, as well as being a practical guide to school closures during the year. Thank you to all the sponsors, old and new, for their continuous support for our school, without them, the calendar could not have been produced and thank you for your support for this lovely PA school fundraiser.

Garda Safety Talk – Garda Essmay Mannix from Carlow Garda Community Policing Unit visited 6th class recently to talk to them about Halloween Safety and the dangers of illegal fireworks. The children had the opportunity to ask Garda Essmay questions and found the visit very beneficial. Thank you, Garda Essmay!

GAA Thank you to Carlow GAA and Games Development Officer, Robert Samson. The children from 2nd to 6th class are enjoying GAA training and practising their skills each Friday. Robert will be with us for 5 weeks this term.

New Language Curriculum Training – A reminder that school will close for children at 12 noon next Wednesday, the 13th of October, as staff undertake training for the implementation of the new Primary Language Curriculum.

Secondary School Enrolment – October sees the start of the enrolment processes for our local Secondary Schools. In line with the new Admission's Bill, secondary schools can only accept application forms from children who are currently in 6th class, and they cannot accept children from younger classes onto waiting lists for future years. Due to Covid-19 some secondary schools are hosting virtual open nights, with others holding tours by appointment only. If your child is in 6th class, please be sure to contact the secondary school of your choice for an enrolment form early this month and return it to the school as soon as possible.

PDST Support - Eoin Stakelum from the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST) will visit the school next week to provide support for staff with new digital technologies. We look forward to seeing what ideas Eoin will bring.

First Holy Communion. Congratulations to the children of 3rd class who received the Sacrament of the Eucharist, First Holy Communion on the 18th of September in St. Fintan's Church, Ballinabranna. Thank you to their teachers, Ms Kehoe, Ms Fitzharris and Ms Agars who have helped the children to prepare for this special day and to Leighlin Parish Choir for the lovely music. Thank you also to Fr. Hennessy, Deacon Patrick Roche and all of the parish team for everything that they do and for ensuring that the sacramental celebrations could go ahead safely.

Split the Pot – Our Split the Pot Draw resumes this Friday 8th of October. To enter just return the Split the Pot envelope with €2 inside it and your contact details on the front, there will be a box in each class to collect the envelopes. The draw will be 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 if needed. Many thanks for your support!

Halloween Dress Up- We are very excited to have a Hallowe'en Dress Up Day on Friday 22nd of October. Children in all classes (and of all ages!) can wear their Hallowe'en costume to school. If you would like to donate €2 to "Trick or Treat for Temple Street" there will be a tub in each class. Looking forward to celebrating!

Nut allergy - A reminder that the school is a **nut-free zone** as there are children with life threatening allergies to nuts/nut products attending the school.

Bosca Nollaig – Bosca Nollaig is a local project set up to gift Christmas Boxes to local children in need, children experiencing homelessness and poverty. As you are aware this is a huge problem and we wanted to do something small to help make Christmas a bit special for them.

Over the past 2 years we have delivered approximately 300 Bosca Nollaigs to children in County Carlow. This was made possible with the help of local schools, their pupils and families who filled shoe boxes with gifts, gloves, hats, scarves and personal care items. These gifts were so appreciated by all the children who received them just before Christmas. This year we will be delivering Bosca Nollaigs to our local St. Vincent De Paul and to St. Clare's Hospitality Kitchen, Graiguecullen. We hope that you can support this very worthy cause. As usual please indicate on your box whether it is for a boy or girl plus the age range you wish to gift your box to. Boxes can be dropped at the school, they will be collected Friday, 10th December for delivery to the charities in time for Christmas. I hope that we can continue to share these gifts again this year, thank you for your continued support. Kind regards, Nicola Doyle

HSE Hearing and Vision Screening for Junior Infants take place on the 14th of October. The HSE team will also see children who are due a follow up hearing or vision test.

Team Hope Shoebox Appeal - The Team Hope Christmas Shoe Box appeal returns this year following a virtual appeal last year. Information leaflets will be sent home with children before the Halloween Break. If you would like to participate completed shoeboxes can be returned to the school early in November.

Mindful Miles - For the month of October and to coincide with Mental Health week from October 4th to 10th we are, as a whole school, setting ourselves a Mindful miles challenge. Regular exercise, however brief, can have a profound, positive effect on our Mental health, so pupils will work together in their classes to complete laps of the school pitch daily. Then at the end of the month we will tally our distance to see how far we have walked. Watch this space!

Attendance/Punctuality Again this year our top priority is everyone's health. While it is accepted that there is a direct link between school attendance and pupil progress, we must make exceptions this year. We thank you all for erring on the side of caution - keeping children home who are unwell, getting GP advice when the symptoms are on the Covid 19 list and observing all the guidelines around isolation etc. including ensuring children are 48 hours symptom free before returning to school. It will mean attendance figures will be lower. However, if we manage to keep each other well we are doing the right thing. Please keep letting us know details of all absences by email and thank you for following all Covid-19 protocols.

The school is obliged, by law, to inform Tusla when a pupil is absent for a total of 20 school days in one school year. In this report, the reason for each absence is given. When your child is absent, please inform the class teacher by email/note of the reason for the absence so that these reports can be completed accurately.

Medical & Contact Information – A reminder to parents that if your contact details have changed or your child's medical information has changed to please update the school immediately. If there has been a change in family circumstances, for example separation, please speak to the class teacher or principal in confidence.

Upcoming School Events School Calendar 2021-2022

Half Day 12 noon for Teacher Training for the Primary Language Curriculum Weds 13th Oct.
14th October HSE Vision and Hearing Screening – Junior Infants.
22nd of October – Halloween Dress Up Day
October Midterm - closed Monday 25th - Fri 29th of October
November – PA Clothes Collection
Christmas - closed Thursday 23rd Dec – Wednesday 5th Jan (reopens Thursday 6th Jan 2022)
February Midterm - closed Monday 21st of February to Fri 25th of February 2022
St. Patrick's Day - closed Thursday 17th of March and Friday 18th of March
Easter- closed Monday 11th of April to Fri 22nd of April
May Bank Holiday - closed Monday 2nd of May
June Bank Holiday - closed Friday 3rd of June, Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th of June.
Last day of school before summer holidays Thursday 30th of June.