

# BALLINABRANNA NATIONAL SCHOOL

Milford

Co. Carlow

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**3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2021**

**Féile an Fhómhair Winners** Congratulations to Oran Lowry and Rían Connolly from Senior Infants, who were winners in this year's Comórtas Ealaíne for 2021! Féile an Fhómhair, Rían and Oran were thrilled to receive their prizes for their hedgehog and squirrel artistic creations. Maith sibh Oran agus Rían!

**Diabetes Awareness Day** – Well done to Ms Fenella Amond's 1<sup>st</sup> class and Ms Stacey Amond's 6<sup>th</sup> class who went Blue for Type 1 Diabetes Awareness on Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> of November. Nessa Fitzpatrick and Sophie Brennan who live with Type 1 Diabetes also spoke to the Carlow Nationalist to share their experiences with others and Sophie made a wonderful explanatory video which clearly explains what Type 1 Diabetes is. The children in 1<sup>st</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> class and staff were very grateful to receive some delicious cupcake treats from the Fitzpatrick and Brennan families on the day! Thank you!

**Colder Weather** – Now that the winter weather has arrived, we are encouraging the children to layer up, we have increased the ventilation in our classrooms by having the windows and doors open regularly throughout the day to reduce the risk of Covid-19. The children are outside more often, engaging in outdoor lessons and physical activity. The school's heating system is also in operation. In light of this, during colder weather some children may find more comfort in wearing additional layers, such as thermal vests/underwear, base layers, extra leggings or tights along with their school uniform or tracksuit. Every child is different, some may feel too warm, please check with your child to see how they are feeling and help them to dress appropriately.

**Green School's News** - Ms Fitzharris, our Green School Committee and Ballinabranna/Milford/Raheendoran Development Group held a poster competition to promote awareness of Climate Change and to inspire action. The winners were presented with their prizes by Bernadette Power from Ballinabranna/Milford/Raheendoran Development Group in an outdoor ceremony. The winners are -

Junior Infants – Nathan McDonald      Senior Infants – Davy Condell      1<sup>st</sup> class – Alex Brealey

Overall Junior Winner – Marcell Papp – Senior Infants

2<sup>nd</sup> class – Samuel Keehan      3<sup>rd</sup> class – Evanne Lynch      4<sup>th</sup> class – Amber McDonald

5<sup>th</sup> class – Comhal Murphy      6<sup>th</sup> class – Eva Dooley      Overall Senior Winner – Naomi Picovici -6<sup>th</sup> class

The children were delighted to receive Eason's gift vouchers that were sponsored by the development group.

Well done to everyone who took part and keep spreading the important message that we all need to take action on Climate Change!

Our Green School Committee are Naomi Picovici, Lexie Finn, Zoe Dunne, Dara Foley, Jamie McDonald, Lily Farrell, Marcell Papp, Dylan Brennan and Ms Fitzsharris.

**Orchard Arrival** - Our school is delighted to be part of the DC for Bees, Orchard Planting Project.

Gary Watson and Bríd Saruwatari of Keppel Data Centres visited our school on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> of November bringing with them five fruit trees for planting, the trees will be monitored by the National Biodiversity Data Centre to help improve biodiversity.

6<sup>th</sup> class were on hand to help out with the planting with clear guidance from Aidan Lowry our local landscaper.

We look forward to seeing the fruits of our labour! You can find out more about the project on [www.orchards.ie](http://www.orchards.ie)

**French Lessons** – The children from 3<sup>rd</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> class are thoroughly enjoying their weekly French classes with Audrey Howard Bowles. There are 2 sessions remaining from our six-week block which has been grant funded as part of the pilot project for modern languages in Primary Schools. Merci beaucoup Audrey!

**Fair Trade Committee** – Our Fair Trade Committee for this school year is Eva Dooley, Seán Foley, Katie Jordan, Hannah Carey, Megan Byrne, Isabella O' Meara, Lucas McGee, Tom Ó Cathasaigh Adam Brown, Mylo Keating, Makayla McNally, Jim Kehoe, Ella Rose Ryan, Jamie Brennan and Mrs Agars. They have sent home details this week of an exciting Christmas Competition that they are running to promote Fairtrade Products in the run up to Christmas. To enter, you must make a Christmas decoration using the wrappers from Fairtrade products. The closing date for entries is Friday 10<sup>th</sup> of December. There will be a winner picked from every class. We are really looking forward to seeing your creations!

**School Band** – Thank you to Mr Mahon who has been working with children from 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> class who play a musical instrument to help set up a school band. It has been fantastic to hear the children practising on their instruments and making great progress.

**Heritage in Schools** - 6th class really enjoyed their visit from Heritage in School's expert Sarah Myer on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November. Sarah is a historian who has studied Ireland's Ancient Manuscripts and through crafts and stories she helped to bring them to life for the children. Thank you Sarah!

**Christmas Raffle** – This is a major fundraiser for the school with fantastic prizes. We are extremely grateful to our local sponsors who have generously donated these. Please return this favour by giving them your business where you can. The prizes and sponsors are:

42" Samsung Smart Television	Clogrennane Lime
€200 One4All Voucher	Ronan Byrne & Co
€100 Cash Prize	Donated
€150 One4All Voucher	Brealey Windows
€100 Detail Voucher	Detail Menswear Carlow
2 x €25 Ray Whelan Voucher	Ray Whelan
Jones Business Systems Voucher	Jones Business Systems
One4All Voucher	Grass Tech
Aboretum Gift	Aboretum Home & Garden Centre
Voucher	Woods Contract Cleaners
Lord Bagenal Voucher	Carlow Electrical – Cathal Lawlor
€50 Voucher	Macs Menswear
Jewellery	Douglas Jewellers
Afternoon Tea for 2	Talbot Hotel
€25 Lord Bagenal Voucher	Lord Bagenal Hotel
Voucher for Facial Treatment	Dr Eithne Brenner Aesthetic Medicine
€50 Voucher	Serendipity Holistic Therapy
€25 Dunnes Voucher	Barrow Valley Cleaning Products
Drinks Hamper	Tully's Carlow
Christmas Hamper	Loretta & Olivia McNally
Voucher	John Paul Payne Makeup Studio
2 x HP Printers	Donated

#### **Sellers Prizes**

Christmas Knitted Hamper- Catherine Ayres      Cuddly Toy-Tara Byrne      Voucher -Parents Association

Each family has received two cards for our Christmas Raffle. Please return all cards sold and unsold to the school by 3pm on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> of December. The draw will take place on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> of December in the school hall. Good luck to all and thanks to Brenda for organising the raffle!

**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. The children are delighted with the extra equipment for playtime that we have been able to purchase using Split the Pot funds. Our next draw is on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> of December. If you are not in, you can't win!

Our November winners were:

Michelle Tunstead €145      Adam Kisznyer €90      Ann Glynn €143 and      Charlotte & Victoria Hutton €110

**Junior Infants Immunisation** will take place on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> of December in The Dolmen Hotel Carlow. Parents will be notified of their appointment times later this month by the immunisation team.

**Team Hope Shoebox Appeal** – Thank you to all who donated, 64 shoeboxes were sent from the school to children across the world this Christmas. It was lovely to see this kindness and generosity from our families.

**Christmas Card Fundraiser** – Thank you to all who supported our Christmas Card Fundraiser. We have raised an incredible €1000 for the school. The children were delighted to receive their mugs, cards and labels this week with plenty of time to post for Christmas!

**PA Clothes Collection** – Congratulations and thank you to all who helped out with our recent Parents Association Clothes Collection at the school and thank you to all who donated. €232.23 was raised for the school and €23.22 for the charity partner Laura Lynn. Great work all!

#### **Upcoming School Events**

Christmas Raffle      Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

Christmas Holidays      School closes Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> of Dec (half day)