

BALLINABRANNA NATIONAL SCHOOL

Milford

Co. Carlow

Roll No. 17756D

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10th of January 2022

Welcome back to all, we hope you had an enjoyable break at Christmas, and we wish you every happiness in the New Year ahead!

Christmas Jumper Day – Our Christmas Jumper Day on the 20th of December, raised €290 for the Simon Community. Thank you everyone for your generosity. The Simon Community provide services to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, from emergency accommodation to treatment and supported housing.

Christmas Treat – Children and staff enjoyed a special end of term treat on Tuesday the 21st of December organised by our Parents Association. Santa and Mrs Claus came to visit our school, along with Barrow Brew, there was hot chocolate and treats for all, Christmas songs being sung and happy smiles all around. With thanks to "In Safe Hands" creche who helped to sponsor the treats, to Barrow Brew for the delicious hot chocolate and thank you to all our parents and guardians!

Food Collection – Thank you to all who contributed to our non-perishable food collection for St. Clare's Hospitality Kitchen Graiguecullen. St. Clare's Hospitality opened it's doors in May 2015 serving food to those who needed it most in our community. There are currently upwards of 70 meals being provided daily. All meals are provided free of charge, no questions asked. They welcome anyone & everyone to use the service & would encourage anyone in the community to visit, taste the food & if they wish, pop a donation in the box! The Kitchen is run predominantly by volunteers & is located directly across from the historic Carlow Castle.

Enrolment 2022 The school has published our Admissions Notice for 2022 on our website. Applications will be accepted from the 13th of January 2022.

The school's Admission Policy and the Application Form for the 2022/2023 school year are available on our website, by emailing ballinabrannans@gmail.com or by writing to Ballinabranna NS, Ballinabranna, Milford, Co. Carlow R93T9N4. The closing date for applications is the 3rd of February 2021.

Green Schools - During the month of December, we ran a used battery collection competition. In total we collected 51 kilograms of used batteries, 37 kilograms of this was from 4th class alone well done! The batteries have been collected by WEEE and this will go towards supporting the Laura Lynn Children's Hospice. Please feel free to send in anymore you may have throughout the year as we have plenty of boxes waiting to be filled.

Helix Panto – The Children enjoyed a very special viewing of the Helix Panto, Red Riding Hood with their class in December.

Super Running! - Congratulations to Laura Ayres (5th class) and Zoe Dunne (4th class) who ran at the All-Ireland Athletics Final in Gowran Park in December. Laura came 10th overall in Ireland in the Under 11 Girls' Race. Their club, St Abbans AC, were 9th overall in the race and Laura was part of the Leinster Provincial Team who took gold. Great running girls!

Fairtrade Christmas Decoration Competition

Many thanks and congratulations to all of the children who took part in the Fairtrade Christmas decoration competition. There was a fantastic response and a phenomenal standard. Thank you also to the Fairtrade Committee who had the difficult job of trying to pick winners from each class. A special thank you to the Leighlin Fairtrade group who sponsored the prizes. The winners were:

Junior Infants - Holly Dennehy

First class - Anna Kiszyner

Third class - Finn Ryan

Fifth class - Dara Tunstead

Senior Infants - Jamie (JI) and Jack Brennan

Second class - Kayden Carter

Fourth class - Jake Brennan

Sixth class - Naomi Picovici and Grace McDonald (joint first)

Thanks again to all the children who took part and for their efforts in promoting Fairtrade.

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. Our final draw in December was a double draw meaning that two names were drawn, and the entire pot was split between the two winners.

The December winners were: Cathal Stedman €95 Hannah Carey €90
 Double Draw Lucy Byrne €180 Jean Purcell €180

Raffle –Thank you to all who supported our Christmas Raffle which raised an amazing €3560 for the school. We are extremely grateful to all who helped in any way, selling tickets, buying tickets or sponsoring a prize, with a big thank you to Brenda in the office for all her hard work!

The prizes winners and sponsors were:

Prize	Sponsor	Winner
Christmas Draw Winners		
43" Samsung Smart T.V	Clogrennane Lime	Phillip Hutton
€200 One For All Voucher	Ronan Byrne & Co	Seán Foley
€100 Cash	Parents Association & Donation	Kathleen McDonald
€25 Voucher	Ray Whelan	Selina Lawlor
€100 Voucher	Arboretum	Roland Dalton
€25 Jones Business Voucher	Jones Business Systems	Tom Bolton
€100 One for All Voucher -	Grass Tech	Callum Byrne
€30 Swans Voucher	Woods Contract Cleaners	Selina Lawlor
€50 Lord Bagenal Voucher	Cathal Lawlor Carlow Electrical	Fergal Doyle
€150 One for All Voucher	Brealeys Windows	Amira O' Toole
€25 Voucher	Lord Bagenal Hotel	Lynch Family
€50 Voucher	Serendipity Holistic Therapy	Gabrielle O' Neill
€50 voucher	Macs Menswear	Layla Byrne
Hp Printer and paper	Donated	Brealey Family
Jewellery	Douglas Jewellers	Coffey Gang
Hamper	Loretta & Olivia McNally	Arnie Mahon
Hydrfacial	Dr Brenner Aesthetic Medicine	Ciara O' Gorman
€25 Dunnes Stores Voucher	Barrow Valley Cleaning	Fenella Amond
€100 Voucher	Detail Menswear	Arnie Mahon
€25 Voucher	Ray Whelan	James Dunne
Drinks Hamper	Tullys Carlow	Brian O' Donaghue
Hp Printer and paper	Donated	Sandor Kisznyer
Afternoon tea for 2	Talbot Hotel	Aoise Gould
€40 Voucher	John Paul Payne Makeup	Cathy O' Keefe
Wine & sweets	Annie Geraghty	Dylan Kehoe
Wine & sweets	Annie Geraghty	Talon Doyle

Sellers Prizes

Kitted Hamper & chocolates	Catherine Ayres	Caitlin Amond
Cuddly Toy	Donated by Tara Byrne	Dara Tunstead
€25 Easons Voucher	Donated by the P.A.	Amelia Flanagan

Christmas Playlist We were delighted to be able to share a link to our Christmas 2021 Playlist with the school community in December. The children are working very hard with their class teachers and Music Generation Ceatharlach Tutors, Ali Behan and Ailbhe Kehoe.

We wish Ali Behan every happiness as she commences her maternity leave. Ailbhe Kehoe will be working with all our classes this term.

Swimming Lessons - will commence on Monday 10th of January 2022 for 2nd and 5th class. They will go swimming for 6 weeks. 3rd and 4th class will start swimming on Monday 28th February for 6 weeks.

Each class will travel on their own bus to the pool and the classes will have separate changing areas.

The children benefit from excellent tuition by fully qualified swim coaches

Our policy is that all pupils participate, as swimming is part of the revised primary school curriculum as laid down by the Department of Education.

We are delighted that the children can have this opportunity having missed out on swimming lessons last year both in school and privately due to the pandemic.

Dates for the Diary –

February Midterm – School Closed Monday 21st to Friday 25th of February

St Patrick's Day – School Closed Thursday 17th and Friday 18th of March 2022