

# BALLINABRANNA NATIONAL SCHOOL

Milford

Co. Carlow

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**7<sup>th</sup> of February 2022**

**Gymnastics** – Children from all classes are enjoying our Gymnastics sessions with Jennifer from School Fitness Ireland. We have one final session next Wednesday. As part of our Creative Schools project, “We’ve Got Moves,” the children will experience a variety of different types of creative movement this year, with thanks to our Creative School’s Associate Mary Bourke, Creative Schools and the Arts Council of Ireland.

**GAA** – On Fridays local GAA coach Ben McDonald is working with Junior Infants to 2<sup>nd</sup> class teaching them key G.A.A. skills as part of the clubs-schools link with Ballinabranna GFC and Carlow GAA Coaching and Games. Thank you Ben!

**Swimming** – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> class will have their last session of swimming on Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> of February. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class will begin their 6-week block of swimming from Monday 28<sup>th</sup> of February. The 6 sessions including the pool, fully qualified instructors and bus transport are just €45 per child. We are delighted to see the children finally returning to swimming lessons.

**French Classes** - The children from 3<sup>rd</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> class finished their French classes with Audrey Howard Bowles this week. Our school was very fortunate to have been selected to participate in the Pilot Project for Modern Languages in Primary Schools and to have been able to work with Audrey, a fully qualified French teacher from Tyndall College, Carlow who brought great enthusiasm and expertise to the role. Merci beaucoup Audrey!

**Crazy Feet Day** - Our Student Council organised a wonderful "Crazy Feet Day" on Wednesday the 26<sup>th</sup> of January to raise money for more equipment for playing with on yard. They raised €400, an amazing total and everyone loved seeing all of the "Crazy Feet!" Thank you to all who helped with the creations and to those who donated.

**First Aid and Fire Safety** – In January and February our school staff completed after school retraining in both Fire Safety and Paediatric First Aid.

**Bird Boxes**- If you look around our school grounds you may spot five new bird boxes. Thank you to the families who donated them to the school and to Noel our caretaker for putting them up in our trees. Incredibly, we have already spotted some birds making use of the boxes for shelter and we hope that we may see some chicks arriving later in the year!

**Fairtrade Fortnight 2022 (21st February – 6 March)** Fairtrade fortnight is fast approaching and the theme this year is “Choose the World You Want”.

*“The climate crises, and COVID-19 pandemic, are showing us more than ever how interconnected we are globally and deforestation is another example. This interconnection is at the very heart of the Fairtrade message and is where your role begins. You are part of the Fairtrade movement, and you have the power to drive long-term change, not only with your shopping choices but with your support in spreading the message.*

*Since last Fairtrade Fortnight we have seen the COP26 take place in Glasgow. But frustration came as the wealthiest nations failed to recognise the urgent need to invest in farmer expertise, including in areas like forestry maintenance, by delaying their promised \$100bn annual funding to the most climate vulnerable countries until 2023. “A frustrating conclusion to a summit filled with hope.” said Mary Kinyua, Fairtrade flower farmer and Fairtrade chief representative’s verdict at the climate conference.*

*Can you help us get the small scale farmers voices out even louder this Fairtrade Fortnight? (Fairtrade Ireland)”*

Our school Fairtrade committee will be meeting to discuss ways to help promote the buying of Fairtrade products where possible. There are some activities and competitions in the pipeline to help promote Fairtrade in our school and in our community.

**St. Brigid** - Well done to 3<sup>rd</sup> class and 2<sup>nd</sup> class who made St. Brigid's crosses on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February. Thank you to the families who supplied the reeds and well done to the children and their teachers Mrs. Agars and Mr. Mahon.

**Daisy Dalton** - Congratulations to Daisy Dalton in 4th class. Daisy represented Ballinabranna NS in an inter-schools show jumping competition in Killossery, Co. Dublin. Daisy won in the teams section and came 4th in the individual show jumping event. Great work Daisy, well done!

This weekend, Daisy represented out school again and she won her individual competition for Ballinabranna NS in Killossery Equestrian Centre, Swords, Co Dublin. Congratulations Daisy!

**Lunch Bag** – In February we look forward to welcoming the Lunch Bag service to our school. Details have been sent out to parents through Funky Frog. The Lunch Bag is a school lunch delivery service that families can opt to avail of if they would like to. On February 15<sup>th</sup> families will receive a small lunch sample so that parents can check out the packaging, with the first ordered lunches delivered on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February. Lunch must be ordered by 12 noon on the previous day through the app.

**Catholic School Week** - the theme for this year's Catholic Schools Week was 'Living Life to the Full'. Though we were disappointed not to be able to welcome our grandparents into our classes for Grandparents Day, the children took part in lessons, art activities and online masses throughout the week. Well done to all!

**Primary Language Curriculum** – This term, our teaching staff will attend a half day's inservice training for the new primary language curriculum. This session's theme is "Inclusion". School will close at 12 noon on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> of March to facilitate the staff training.

**CTYI** – Congratulations to Marcell Papp (Senior Infants). Marcell will work with the Centre for Talented Youth in Ireland (CTYI) having recently excelled on their entrance assessment. If you are interested in finding out more about the Centre for Talented Youth in Ireland please contact 01 7005634 or visit [www.dcu.ie/ctyi](http://www.dcu.ie/ctyi)

**Change of details** – Please let the school know if you have changed any of your contact details recently (phone number or address). Thank you.

**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 next draw is on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> of February.

The January winners were:      €80 Anthony McDarby                              €85 "Louie" Brenda  
  €80 The "Coffey" Gang

#### Upcoming School Events/Closures

February Midterm – School Closed Monday 21<sup>st</sup> to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> of February

School will close at 12 noon on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> of March to facilitate staff training for the new Primary Language Curriculum.

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

Sacrament of Confirmation - 11am Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 2022

Sacrament of First Holy Communion - 11am Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> of May 2022.