

# BALLINABRANNA NATIONAL SCHOOL

Milford

Co. Carlow

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**4<sup>th</sup> of March 2022**

**Handwriting Competition Winners** – We held an in-school handwriting competition to promote good penmanship. This year's winners were -

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Junior Infants: Ella Rose Ryan, Tommy O' Donaghue                | Senior Infants: Rian Tunstead, Jack Brennan         |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> class: Áibhín O' Sullivan, Lily Farrell          | 2 <sup>nd</sup> class: Clara Duffy, Jamie McDonald  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> class: Kayleigh Woods, Dara Foley, Hassaan Ahmed | 4 <sup>th</sup> class: Conor Ryan, Jake Brennan     |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> class: Katie Farrell, Logan Coleman              | 6 <sup>th</sup> class: Lucy Byrne, Charlotte Hutton |

**Credit Union Art Competition** - We were delighted to have three winners from our school in the 2021 Credit Union Art Competition. The theme for the competition was "Imagine!" The winners are

|              |                |         |              |         |            |
|--------------|----------------|---------|--------------|---------|------------|
| U7 1st Place | Samuel Keehan, | U10 1st | Rhys O'Toole | U10 2nd | Conor Ryan |
|--------------|----------------|---------|--------------|---------|------------|

Congratulations to all three boys.

**Leabharlann na nÓg** – We were delighted to receive An Bosca Leabharlainne, a box of 25 original Irish language books specially chosen by laureate na nÓg, Áine Ní Ghlinn. These books will be a fantastic addition to our expanding library of books in English and Irish.

**Green Schools-** As part of our Green School initiative we are taking part in the SuperValu Save the Bees Campaign. 1/3 of the food we eat is pollinated by bees; yet 30% of Irish bees are threatened by extinction. We believe that when we all work together to raise awareness of the importance of bees and take simple steps, we will make a positive difference to the biodiversity of our beautiful island. If you shop in Supervalu you will receive stickers, if we collect these we will be in with a chance of winning €50,000 for our school!

**Gardening Club** - As the new buds of Spring begin to bloom our new whole school gardening club along with their teachers are busy preparing our school grounds. As part of the Incredible Edibles project, 2nd and 4th class are planting strawberries, onions, peas and potatoes in our new vegetable patch.

Junior infants, Senior infants and 1st class are preparing a new wildflower bed.

3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> class are taking part in the Woodie's Budding Gardeners project and will bring new life to several bedding areas around the school.

**Green Schools Day of Action** – We are excited this week to have our Green School's Day of Action on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> of March. Janette O' Brien Environmental Awareness Officer, Carlow County Council will do a Green Schools workshop with 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class and Ger Heary, Horticulturist from the Aboretum Home and Garden Centre, Carlow will offer gardening advice to our 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class children. All students are learning about the Global Goals with a particular focus on 10- Reducing Inequalities, 12 - Responsible Consumption and 13- Climate Change. Our Green School's Motto is "Think Global, Start Local"!

**Basketball** - We are delighted that Carlow Sports Partnership are offering 6 weeks basketball coaching to our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class children from next Monday the 7<sup>th</sup> of March. Each class will have one hours coaching with a fully trained Basketball Ireland Coach at a cost of just €2 per session. We look forward to basketball lessons starting next week.

**GAA** – Thank you to Ben McDonald GAA coach who will be finishing up his 6-week block with Junior Infants to 2<sup>nd</sup> class this Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> of March. We look forward to welcoming Ben back later this year. Next week, Tracy McNally will work with our Junior classes to help develop their camogie and hurling skills. Thank you Tracy. Ben and Tracy are part of the club-school link with thanks to Carlow GAA Coaching and Games and Ballinabranna GFC.

**Creative Schools** – In March and April we look forward to welcoming three dance teachers to our school to work with the children. Each of these teachers is a local professional dance teacher and performer. Junior and Senior Infants will work with Lauren Oman, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> classes will work with Róisín Whelan, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class will work with Ruairí Curran. The cost of these classes has been kindly funded by Creative Schools in association with the Arts Council of Ireland and we are very grateful to our Creative School's Associate, Mary Bourke for organising them.

**Sacrament of First Penance** – On Thursday the 10<sup>th</sup> of March 2022 at 7pm children from 2<sup>nd</sup> class in Ballinabranna NS will receive the sacrament of First Penance in St. Fintan’s Church Ballinabranna. We wish the children and their families a very special and prayerful celebration with thanks to their teacher Mr Arnie Mahon and Fr Pat Hennessy for preparing the children.

**Swimming** – Children from 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class started their 6-week block of swimming lessons on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> of February. Each class will travel on their own bus to the pool and 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.

**World Book Day** We are delighted to be celebrating World Book Day in Ireland on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022. World Book Day is Ireland’s biggest annual event promoting the enjoyment of books and reading for children and young people and this year is the 25<sup>th</sup> celebration! The main aim is to encourage children to explore the pleasure of books and reading. Children will receive a €1.50 World Book Day voucher that can be exchanged for one of the World Book Day free books or used towards a book of their choice.

**Food Dudes are back!** For one week from the 28<sup>th</sup> of February to the 4<sup>th</sup> of March the children will receive 5 days of free fruit and veg to taste in school. This is our second year of involvement, our first was back in 2019/2020 and the emphasis this time is on maintenance and enjoying eating fruit and veg. There are Food Dudes videos to watch each day in school and our junior children who are new to Food Dudes have received a free Food Dudes lunch box.

**RSA** – Children from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class will have a virtual road safety lesson on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March with Alexandra from the Road Safety Authority of Ireland.

**Fairtrade Fortnight 2022** is in full swing. All classes have been taking part in lots of Fairtrade activities to help raise awareness of buying Fairtrade products when possible. There were online cookery demonstrations, Fairtrade lessons, quizzes on Fairtrade chocolate, art competitions and videos of fairtrade farming on during the week. A big thank you to the Fairtrade committee (Ella Rose Ryan, Jamie Brennan, Makayla McNally, Jim Kehoe, Adam Browne, Milo Keating, Tom O Cathasigh, Lucas McGee, Isabella O'Meara, Hannah Carey, Seán Foley, Reece Walker, Karen Ayres and Eva Dooley) for organising the Art Competition. Winners will be announced soon!

**Tesco Blue Tokens** Tesco blue tokens are back, and our Parent’s Association have organised a collection for our school, don't forget to take a blue token and tell all your family and friends. Funds raised will go towards the yard improvements. Thanks for your continued support - Ballinabranna N.S Parents Association

**International Epilepsy Day**- February 14<sup>th</sup> was International Epilepsy Day. Epilepsy Ireland’s key message is TIME – SAFE – STAY.

**TIME** – If you are responding to a seizure, the first thing you must do in all cases is TIME the seizure. This is because if a seizure goes over 5 minutes, it is classed as a medical emergency and an ambulance will need to be called.

**SAFE** – Keep the person having the seizure SAFE. If a person is having a convulsive seizure, cushion their head with something soft if possible and remove any harmful objects from around their vicinity – i.e, if they are in danger of hitting off a chair, move the chair. NEVER put anything in a person's mouth or restrain them during a seizure. These are myths when it comes to seizure first aid!

Be aware that there are also types of seizures where a person could be fully upright and walking aimlessly. In this type of seizure, guide the person away from danger – i.e, from walking onto a busy road. Like above, NEVER restrict the person’s movements – this is a further myth when it comes to responding to these types of seizures.

**STAY** – After the seizure passes, STAY with the person. Often after a seizure, a person with epilepsy will be dazed, confused and in many cases, exhausted so stay with them, talk gently to them, and let them know everything will be okay.

For more information check out the Epilepsy Ireland Website at <https://www.epilepsy.ie/content/children>

**Primary Language Curriculum** – This term, our teaching staff will attend a half day’s in-service 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.

**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 4<sup>th</sup> of March.

The February winners were: €100 Stephen McCarthy €105 Jake and Sophie Brennan €95 Jo Ayres

**Upcoming School Events/Closures** Sacrament of First Confession – 7pm Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> of March  
School will close at 12 noon Wed 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