

BALLINABRANNA NATIONAL SCHOOL

Milford

Co. Carlow

Roll No. 17756D

Registered Charity No: 20109301

Phone: 059 9146253

e-mail: ballinabrannans@gmail.com

6th of April 2022

Covid-19 – During March we saw a high level of Covid-19 cases affecting both students and staff at our school. We hope that all affected are now recovering well. With the ongoing substitute crisis, it has been extremely difficult to ensure that staffing numbers have been maintained in the school and that all classes keep running with teaching and SNA support. Across the board, our staff have risen to the challenges of an extremely difficult month. They've given above and beyond, to their own students and to others. It is to their credit that the children have been able to continue to attend school and learn, to take part in activities such as Gaelic Football training after school and school blitzes, to receive sacraments, create dance videos, go swimming and continue to receive their education without disruption.

We are blessed in Ballinabranna NS with our staff and our children.

As we head into the Easter break, I wish all of them a very well-deserved holiday and once again thank all parents in our school and our Board of Management for every step you take, every antigen test you have administered, that has helped to reduce the impact of Covid-19 on the school community.

Sandra Corrigan
Principal

Sacrament of Confirmation Congratulations to our 6th class pupils who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday, 2nd of April 11am in St. Fintan's Church, Ballinabranna. Thank you to Fr. Hennessy, Ms S Amond and all who helped to prepare the children for the Sacrament. We hope the children and their families had a prayerful and joyous celebration on this special day!

Fairtrade Art Competition - A big thank you to all the children who took part in the Fairtrade Art competition. Thank you also to the Fairtrade Committee who had the difficult task of picking the winners. The Fairtrade Committee did a fantastic job both organising and judging the entries. Congratulations to our winners who each got a certificate and some Fairtrade chocolate.

Junior Infants - Holly Dennehy
Second Class - Kayden Carter
Fifth Class - Blair Doyle

Senior Infants - Rían Connolly
Third Class - Kayleigh Woods
Sixth Class - Charlotte Hutton

First Class - Alex Brealey
Fourth Class - Sofía Duffy

Lá Glas - Bhí lá iontach againn ar an 16ú lá de mhí na Márta. We had lots of Irish Dancing, quizzes, hip hop and Green School activities such as gardening and litter picking going on on our Lá Glas 🍀

The children also raised €400 for Unicef. Unicef are working directly with children in the Ukraine.

While we celebrated Ireland's National Holiday, we were thinking of other children around the world who are not as fortunate.

Sacrament of Penance – Well done to our 2nd class children who received the Sacrament of Penance on Thursday the 10th of March. Thank you to Fr. Hennessy, Fr. Byrne and their teacher Mr. Mahon. Well done to all the children and their families.

Sunflowers- The sunflower is the national flower of Ukraine and has become a symbol of hope and solidarity. Thank you to the Doyle Family who donated sunflower seeds, compost and pots to the school so that every child could grow a sunflower. As they grow, we pray for peace in the Ukraine!

Irish Dancing – Dargan School of Irish Dancing – After School classes returning every Wednesday from Wednesday 27th of April 2022. Junior & Senior Infants from 2pm-3pm, 1st - 6th class from 3pm-4pm. Classes €7 per child. Please text Claudia on 0857199026 to register for classes.

Basketball – Thank you to basketball coach Lauren LaPlant who has taken the children in 5th and 6th class for 4 basketball sessions so far. Lauren, who is from America, is working with Carlow Sports Partnership while on a basketball scholarship with Carlow IT.

Mini 7's - Congratulations to Oliver Walsh, Isabelle Farrell, Cormac Lowry and Abby Condell from 6th class who represented Ballinabranna NS at the Cumann na mBunscol Hurling, Camogie and Football Mini7's in Fenagh during March.

Gaelic Football – Children from 5th and 6th class represented our school at a Cumann na mBunscol Football Blitz in Ballyboley on Monday 4th of April. We are delighted to see the return to sporting games for primary school children. A huge thank you to our teachers Mr Mahon, Mr O’ Connor and Mr Breen who have volunteered for lunch break and after school training for children from 4th-6th class! The boys team have progressed to the semi-final which will take place after Easter.

Hurling/Camogie Coaching - Thank you to Tracy McNally who is working with our Junior classes to help develop their camogie and hurling skills on Fridays. Tracy is part of the club-school link with thanks to Carlow GAA Coaching and Games and Ballinabranna GFC.

Mathletics – Well done to our Third class who took part in World Maths Day Mathletics activities. The children were competing with pupils internationally and loving Maths.

Engineers Week activities. We were delighted to receive free Engineer’s week activity packs for 3rd-6th class children from Calmast STEM Engagement Centre. The children thoroughly enjoyed the robotic and balloon car activities. The children also participated in the Carlow Library Engineer’s Week Invention Competition and 3rd class designed and made their own model playgrounds from recycled materials. Well done all!

Old Leighlin LGFA Thank you to Old Leighlin Ladies Gaelic Football Club and to Donal Nolan, Grace Byrne and Ella Kennedy who visited our school and made a fantastic donation to the school of Gaelic Footballs, cones, ladders, bibs, hurdles and poles to help our pupils train! The equipment was sponsored by the club in association with Carlow Sports Partnership. For more info and for how to register contact oldleighlin.carlow@lgfa.ie

Creative School Dance – In March and April the children have benefitted from dance lessons with three local dance teachers. 4th, 5th and 6th class worked with hip hop dance teacher Ruairí Curran. They made a short video of their dance moves which was shared with parents on Funkyfrog. Junior and Senior Infants have been working with Lauren Oman on Thursdays and 1st, 2nd and 3rd class have just started working with Róisín Whelan. Thank you to Creative Schools and the Arts Council for enabling us to do this.

Swimming – We had our final swimming session for 2022 on the 4th of April. Thank you to Carlow Swimming Pool and our excellent swimming tutors. A reminder if you have not yet paid the swimming fees to please do so as soon as possible as the school must now pay for the pool, tutors and swimming buses.

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 8th of March. As it is the Easter draw it is a double draw where two winners are pulled and the entire pot is split between them! Best of luck!

The March winners were: €70 Eli Ted Seger €85 Daniel Daly €86 Paula Connolly €77 Makayla McNally

Upcoming School Events/Closures

Easter Holidays – School closes at 12 noon on Friday 8th of April, reopens Monday 25th at 9.20am.

May Bank Holiday – School closed Monday 2nd May 2022

June Bank Holiday – School closed Friday 3rd of June Monday 7th of June and Tuesday 8th of June 2022.

Wednesday 29th of June 2022 is the last day of school for this school year.