

BALLINABRANNA NATIONAL SCHOOL

Milford

Co. Carlow

Roll No. 17756D

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10th of May 2022

Green School Flag – We are delighted to have been awarded our sixth Green Flag following a recent Greenschools visit to our school. The theme of this year's flag is Global Citizenship-Litter & Waste. The children have worked really hard to reduce, reuse and recycle and have learned lots about the Global Goals. A big thank you to our Greenschools Co-ordinator Ms Fitzharris & all the staff for all the lovely activities the children have enjoyed this year. Well done everyone!

Cumann na mBunscol Champions 2022! – Congratulations again to our boys' football team on their victory in the Division 2A final. The boys beat a talented Borris NS team by 3-4 to 0-9. It is wonderful to have matches played again & even better to win a final. Well done all and thanks to Mr Breen, Mr O'Connor & Mr Mahon for all their work with both girls & boys football this year.

Ballinabranna GAA – Many thanks to Ballinabranna GAA who kindly presented shorts & socks to our football finalists & crested t-shirts to our 6th Class. We were delighted to welcome Majella, Ben, Mark, Cormac & Jack back to our school and the children were thrilled with their new Ballinabranna gear.

Amber Flag – This year the children have been taking part in lots of well-being activities as part of our Amber Flag. On Friday 6th May we held a fundraiser in school for Pieta House. The children wore bright colours to school and raised an impressive €390 for Pieta House. Well done all and many thanks for your support.

Climate Change Talk with Ballinabranna Water Cooperative – we welcomed Roberta from DWR Uisce to our 5th & 6th Classes recently for a workshop organised by Ballinabranna Water Scheme. The children learned about the impact of water usage on energy consumption. Many thanks to Gail Fitzgerald from Ballinabranna Water Scheme for organising the visit.

Birthday Invites – A reminder that we can only facilitate distributing birthday invitations where there is one for every child in the class. We do this, as children can be very upset in school if they are left out. Parents can distribute invitations outside of school as they wish.

School Tours - Each class received their school tour note this week providing details of where they are going and the cost. Payments can now be made through Funky Frog or sent into school with your child's name on envelope.

After School Guitar lessons – Mr Mahon will be teaching guitar to children from 5th class who are interested on Tuesday afternoons from 3-4pm for 4 weeks. The cost per session is €10.

PA Clothes Collection - Many thanks for the support of the PA Clothes Collections. €210.80 was raised for the development of the school playground. A 10% donation was also made to Laura Lynn of €21.08.

A Musical Medley – 6th Class enjoyed a trip to St Leo's on Thursday 5th May to see their upcoming musical 'A Musical Medley'.

Wellbeing Survey – Our school has been randomly selected to participate in the 2022 World Health Organisation (WHO) study – Health Behaviour of School-aged Children (HBSC) survey, which focuses on the health and health behaviour of pupils. It is part of a larger WHO study which is being conducted in 51 countries this year.

Children from 3rd-6th class will be invited to take part through a paper survey that children complete confidentially in the classroom (30 minutes), a letter to parents providing information about the study will go home this week. Parents/children can opt out of the study if they wish to.

The WHO, the EU, the European Commission and the UN have used the findings from previous surveys to help develop policy to improve children's lives.

Thank you to all who participate.

GAA - Lots of GAA action in school at the minute with the junior classes working on their hurling & camogie skills with Tracy McNally & the senior classes taking part in hurling & camogie training with Ben McDonald.

Standardised Testing - will take place this year at the end of May - start of June. The results of the tests from 2nd, 4th and 6th class will be communicated to the Department to help them in their future planning for schools. Results for children in 2nd to 6th class will be communicated to parents on the child's school report.

We remind parents that standardised tests only provide a snapshot of a pupil's performance on one day, on one type of test, they should not be taken as an absolute result and form only one part of the "jigsaw of information" about your child's overall progress. Results should always be framed in a broader context. The school glean important information from a variety of sources e.g. routine observation, class/ individual tests, class participation, assignments/homework and other teacher designed tests/reports/feedback. All of this information helps us to plan and work to maximise your child's learning. Our class teachers communicate directly with parents when they are concerned about a child's progress.

Swift Boxes - We have turned the calling system on for our Swift Boxes and hope that we may see the boxes used for nesting by a family of swifts this year! The calling system operates from May to September.

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 'Critical Literacy'. School will close at 12 noon on Thursday 2nd June to facilitate the staff training.

Tesco Blue Tokens – Tesco Blue tokens are back and our Parents 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. Thank you for your continued support – Ballinabranna N.S. Parents Association

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 Friday 13th of May. Best of luck!

The April winners were:

Makayla McNally €77

Easter Double Draw – Josh and Amelia €135

Catherine Cheevis €65

Nathan Stedman €135

Swim Certificates – Congratulations to the children in 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th class who received their PAWS swim awards this week.

Upcoming School Events/Closures

Sacrament of First Holy Communion – Saturday 21st of May at 11am.

Staff training for Primary Language Curriculum half day – Thursday 2nd June school closes at 12pm

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

14th of June – Junior Infant and Senior Infant School Tour

15th of June – 5th and 6th class School Tour

22nd of June – 1st and 2nd class School Tour

23rd of June – 3rd and 4th class School Tour

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