



Ballinamere National School

Newsletter - May 2016

As we look forward to our final seven weeks of this academic year we would like to remind you of some recent school events and inform you of upcoming activities.

All of the following illustrate our school community working together so thank you to our Board of Management, our Parents Association, you our parent body, our staff and most of all our pupils.

First Communion and Confirmation

Congratulations to our pupils in Second Class who received their First Communion last Sunday. They all looked beautiful on the day, the sun shone and the occasion was enjoyed by all. A special word of thanks to Ms. Brennan who prepared the pupils for their special day, to Miss O'Sullivan and our school choir for their wonderful contribution to the celebration and to the Parents Association for providing refreshments afterwards.

Congratulations also to Sixth Class who were confirmed on Saturday 16th April in the Parish Church, Tullamore. Thank you to Ms. Murphy for her work in preparing the pupils for this sacrament.

GAA

Well done to all the boys and girls from 3rd to 6th class who represented the school in football, hurling and camogie over the course of the year. A very special word of thanks to Carina Carroll and Alan Scully who coached all our teams and to Ms. Guest, Ms. O'Sullivan, Mr. Forde, Mr. Fahey and Ms. Murphy who assisted with training and supervision.

Basketball

Many of our pupils have also been busy playing basketball. In early June a Boys and Girls Team will compete in the Tullamore Credit Union Offaly Mini Basketball Primary Schools Finals in Mucklagh Community Centre. Good luck to all involved and thanks to Maireád Keenan, Julie Slattery, Bronagh Crowley and Catherine Redmond who generously gave of their time and talents to coach our pupils and accompany them on outings.

Swimming

Pupils in First to Sixth class have just completed a very successful five week programme of swimming lessons in Clara Pool. Fitness and technique have improved all round. We are very grateful to our Parents Association for covering the cost of transport making this initiative much more affordable for all.

Green School

Four members of our Green School Committee Ms. Maxwell, Ms. Brennan, Rachel Hand and Adam Flattery travelled to Athlone on Tuesday last to collect our second Green Flag. Though we will fly only one flag we will continue to promote targets for both flags in waste reduction / recycling and energy awareness.

Intergenerational Activities

Our sixth class pupils have met with members of our local Active Retired Group on a number of occasions over this year. Together they have shared stories, played music and enjoyed tea and buns. Thanks to Esther Corble for her role in organising these very enjoyable meetings.

Fís

Fifth class will travel to Portlaoise on Tuesday 24th May for the screening of their film 'Beware of Ted the Bear'. Good luck to the class and Ms. Guest who guided the pupils through this production.

Tours

All classes will go on school tour over the coming weeks. Though plans have been made and bookings confirmed no details are being released at this stage!

Babies, Babies, Babies!

Congratulations to three members of staff who had new babies over this academic year. Ms. Alison Quinn welcomed a baby boy in October, Ms. Evelyn Brennan welcomed a baby girl in December and Ms. Mary Guest welcomed a baby boy in April.

Traffic and Parking

We would like to thank parents for their cooperation with parking outside the school and to urge you to continue taking care when driving / parking in the vicinity of the school. We all need to work together to keep our pupils safe.

Bicycles

Some pupils are travelling to school by bicycle and this number may increase towards the end of the year. Please ensure all cyclists know the rules of the road, wear high vis. bibs and take every precaution.

Uniform

As the weather improves more and more jumpers, cardigans etc. are discarded in the school yard. Please label all uniforms. Labelled items are far more likely to be returned to their owners.

Staff Training

A new Primary Language Curriculum will be introduced in all primary schools in 2016 / 2017. In cooperation with the Department of Education schools will close for staff training. The first of these dates for our school is Tuesday the 7th June. Please note the date of this closure as it is not listed on original 2015 / 2016 school calendar issued at the beginning of this school year. Also for your information, please note school holidays / closures for next year. You will be notified re additional closings for staff training when these dates become available to us.

School Calendar 2016 / 2017

| | | |
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| 1 st September | - | School opens |
| 20 th Sept – 22 nd Sept | - | School closed (Ploughing Championship) |
| 31 st Oct – 4 th Nov | - | Mid-term break |
| 22 nd December | - | School closes for Christmas holidays |
| 9 th January | - | School reopens |
| 23 rd / 24 th February | - | Mid Term break |
| 17 th March | - | St. Patrick's Day |
| 7 th April | - | School closes for Easter holidays |
| 24 th April | - | School reopens |
| 1 st May | - | May Bank Holiday |
| 2 nd June | - | School Holiday |
| 5 th June | - | June Bank Holiday |
| 28 th June | - | School closes for summer holidays |

Parents Association

Clothing Collection

We are having our final clothes collection for the year on Thursday 2nd June. The school will open on Wednesday 1st from 6.30pm to 7.30pm for anyone who wishes to donate and also help the National Council of the Blind Ireland – a very worthy cause. We will take all your new and used unwanted clothing, shoes, belts, handbags, linens, household textiles etc. Thank you for your support this year - it has been a great success.

First Communion and Confirmation

We extend congratulations to second class who recently received their First Communion in the school. Sixth class received their Confirmation in April. We wish them and their families all the best as they leave Ballinamere National School to begin the next stage in their education.

End of school year

As we come to the end of the school year the Parents Association wish to thank the teachers and staff of our school, the parents, the pupils and anyone who helped in any way during the past year. A special thanks to Dolores and Annemarie in the office for all their help during the year. Our Christmas card fundraiser and our Easter cake sale were a great success and we thank everyone for their great support.

A big thank you and best wishes to Mary McDonald and Sineád Wyer who have been invaluable members of our Parents Association for many years. Both ladies have done Trojan work, making a huge contribution and will be greatly missed as their kids move on to secondary school.

We wish you all a happy and restful summer break.