



Ballinamere National School

Newsletter

February 2017

As we progress through our Spring Term at school and look forward to our Summer Term we would like to inform you of some recent events and some upcoming activities.

Credit Union Quiz

On the 3rd February a Junior Team comprising of Diarmuid Cadden, Áine Varley, Orlaith Garvey, Emily Walsh and Cillian Gaffey and a Senior Team comprising of Hannah Walsh, William Corble, Eoin Gaffey, Cian McConnell and Joe Hughes participated in the Offaly Credit Union Table Quiz. Both teams scored highly with our Senior Team placing second out of sixteen teams. The Senior Team now goes forward to represent Tullamore at the National Finals in Blanchardstown on the 4th March. Congratulations to both teams and good luck to our Senior Team in March.

Basketball

Our Girls Team are participating in a school league which is being played in Mucklagh Community Centre this term. Our Girls Team has also been invited to participate in Dublin Primary Schools Mini Basketball Competition on the 13th March. This invite comes as a result of winning this competition last year. We wish the girls well in all their games and thank Mairead Galvin and Mike Forde for their support. Unfortunately, there is no competitive schools basketball for boys this year.

Free Dress Day

As part of the Killina Zambia Immersion Programme some past pupils from our school travel to Kaoma to visit and help the Presentation Sisters there with some of their projects including the Cheshire Home for Children with Disabilities. To support this worthwhile initiative we will have a Free Dress Day on Wednesday 22nd February and would appreciate if pupils would bring in €1 / €2.

Sacraments

The dates for sacraments for pupils in our school this year are as follows:

First Penance: Monday 13th March

First Communion: Sunday 7th May

Confirmation: Saturday 13th May

Our school choir has begun to prepare for these very special celebrations and we hope as many pupils as possible will participate. In particular we will require support for Saturday 13th May when our school has the responsibility of providing the choir for the 3p.m confirmation ceremony. As our sixth class pupils will not form part of the choir for this ceremony, we will be relying on our pupils in 3rd, 4th and 5th class.

Primary Language Curriculum

A new Primary Language Curriculum has been developed by the NCCA in collaboration with the education partners. We will begin to implement this curriculum from infants to second class from September 2017. Whole-school professional development for all staff will take place on Monday the 8th May. **School closure for this day has been sanctioned.**

Operation Transformation

An invitation is extended to all families to participate in Ballykilmurry family walk / run in aid of our Esker Centre. This walk / run takes place on Sunday next February 19th. Registration from 10.30 a.m. with walk / run starting at 11 a.m. All abilities will be catered for with 3 km / 5 km / 6 km and 7 km marked distances. Operation Transformation participants are free and the charge for all others is as follows –

U. 16's €5; Adults €10; Families €20.

All participants are invited back to the Community Centre for refreshments.

Swimming

This year we are trying a different approach to swimming lessons for our pupils. We have booked a Swim Camp in Clara Pool for the week 12th – 16th June. Each class from 1st to 6th will have a lesson every day for the week. Again the Parents Association have very kindly offered to pay transport costs. We will be in contact nearer the camp date with details re cost of lessons.

Congratulations

Congratulations are extended to Majella Killeen, our visiting music teacher, and her husband Joe who welcomed baby Beth in November and also to Oran Fahey, a teacher in our Esker Centre, and his wife Lisa who recently welcomed baby Isabelle into the world.

Parents Association of Ballinamere National School

Clothing Collection

We are having our clothes collection Thursday 16th February. The school will open on Wednesday 15th from 7.00 pm to 7.30pm for anyone who wishes to donate. We will take all your new and used unwanted clothing, shoes, belts, handbags, linens, household textiles, etc. Thank-you for your support as this continues to be a valuable fundraiser, with €588 raised from the last collection in October 2016.

Christmas Cards

This year the school again participated in the Christmas Cards for Schools which raised €1,500 approx. for the school. Many thanks to each of the teachers who facilitated and aided the design of the cards in each class. A big thank-you also to you, the parents for supporting this fundraiser by purchasing cards in huge numbers.

Padding for Basketball Poles

In the interest of safety, padding has been purchased for each of the basketball poles in the school yard. The cost amounted to €370 which was funded by the parents association.

Easter Cake Sale

We are holding an Easter cake sale in the school on Friday 7th April. We would invite pupils and parents to bake something for it please. Your support would be greatly appreciated. More details to follow.