



# Ballinamere National School

## Newsletter

### May 2017

As the 2016 / 2017 academic year draws to a close we would like to report on some recent school events and inform you of upcoming activities.

#### **End of Year Reports**

Please forward a **S.A.E. per child** to the school to facilitate posting of reports in mid-June. *School reports are primarily for parents.* While it may be beneficial to inform your child of some element of the report, much of the content and in particular the results of standardized tests are for parents only. Please note the standardized maths test administered this year is different from previous years so comparisons may not be accurate.

#### **First Communion and Confirmation**

Congratulations to our pupils in second class who celebrated First Eucharist on the 8<sup>th</sup> May and to our sixth class pupils who were confirmed on 13<sup>th</sup> May. Both ceremonies went beautifully with the school choir performing at each. Thanks to Miss Brennan, the second class teacher and Ms. Murphy the sixth class teacher for preparing their pupils for their respective celebrations. Thanks also to Miss O'Sullivan, Miss Hogan and Miss Killeen for all their work in preparing the choir. Finally, a special thank you to the parents who provided and served refreshments in the school following First Communion and who stayed long after everyone else to clean and tidy.

#### **GAA**

Well done to all the boys and girls from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> 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**

Well done to our girls' basketball team who competed and performed very well in competitions in early Spring. Good luck to them on Wednesday next when they participate in the girls Primary Schools Basketball Finals in Mucklagh Community Centre. Thanks to Dinah Doyle and in particular Mairéad Keenan who generously gave of their time to accompany the girls to their competitions.

#### **Athletics**

Good luck to our athletes who will compete in the Colin Dunne Offaly Primary Schools Athletics Championships on the 8<sup>th</sup> June in Tullamore Harriers. Our school won both the girls and boys competitions last year so our expectations are high!

#### **Special Olympics**

Well done to our Special Olympics Team who brought back gold, silver and bronze medals from the Leinster Finals in Kilkenny recently. This team, which comprises of past and present pupils, did us all proud and enjoyed the two day competition. A big thank you to Deirdre Sheridan and her team of SNAs who trained the team and travelled to Kilkenny.

## **Swimming**

This year, on a trial basis, we are running a one week swim camp where all pupils from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class will have a daily swim session. This week is booked for 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> June in Clara swimming pool. The cost will be €15 per pupil. The option to pay via DebaPay will become available next week. An email will inform you of same. We are very grateful to our Parents Association who will cover the cost of transport making this valuable activity much more affordable for all.

## **Intergenerational Activities**

As in recent years our sixth class pupils have met with members of our local Active Retired Group on a number of occasions. Together they have shared stories, played music, danced and enjoyed tea and buns. Thanks to Ms. Murphy for facilitating this initiative and a special word of thanks to Esther Corble for her role in organising these very enjoyable get togethers.

## **Tours**

All classes will go on school tour over the coming weeks. We hope to have all money for trips collected by the end of this week. Class teachers will forward further details nearer dates of tours.

## **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.

## **Cycling to School**

Some pupils are travelling to school by bicycle and this number may increase towards the end of the year. Pupils should be discouraged from cycling in groups. If your child is cycling to school, please ensure he/she knows the rules of the road, wears a helmet and high vis.bib and takes every precaution.

## **Uniform**

At this time of year when the weather improves more and more jumpers, cardigans etc. are discarded in the school yard. Please label all items of uniform as labelled items are far more likely to be returned to their owners. For the remainder of the school year our **Lost and Found clothing box will be available to parents in the foyer**. You are welcome to browse through these items to reclaim lost clothing. Any items remaining after school closure will be collected for recycling.

## **Operation Transformation Walk**

A big thank you to the organisers of and walkers who participated in the Ballykilmurry Operation Transformation Walk in February. A donation of €1,000 from the proceeds was made to our Esker Centre.

## **Thank you**

The staff of Ballinamere National School would like to thank our Board of Management, our Parents Association, our parent body and the wider community for the support and cooperation we received throughout the year. By working together we all help create a healthy, safe and happy environment for your children.

We wish you all an enjoyable summer holiday!

# Parents Association

## **Clothing Collection**

We had our final clothes collection for the year on Friday 19th May raising €451. Thank-you for your support this year as this continues to be a valuable fundraiser with a total of €1,554.50 raised in total from the three collections (Oct '16, Feb '17 and May '17).

## **Easter Cake Sale**

We held an Easter cake sale in the school on Friday 7th April. This proved highly successful with a total of approx. €1,170 raised.

## **Contributions**

Throughout the year the Parents Association made a contribution to the following costs as follows:

- Padding for basketball poles in school yard - €370
- Communion and Confirmation pins - €50
- 6th class photo - €230
- Catering for Communion - €130
- SkyDome - €600
- Swimming bus - not finalised but usually around €1,500
- Senior Infants literacy programme - €200
- Contribution to Ballinamere/Durrow Feile - €500
- Donation to RNLI - €142

## **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.

We wish you all a happy and restful summer break.

# School Calendar 2017 / 2018

31 <sup>st</sup> August	-	School re-opens
19 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> Sept	-	School closed for Ploughing Championship
30 <sup>th</sup> Oct - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	-	Mid Term Break
22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	-	School Closes for Christmas holidays
8 <sup>th</sup> Jan	-	School reopens
15 <sup>th</sup> Feb – 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	-	Mid Term Break
19 <sup>th</sup> March	-	St Patrick's weekend Bank holiday
23 <sup>rd</sup> March	-	School closes for Easter holidays
9 <sup>th</sup> April	-	School reopens
7 <sup>th</sup> May	-	May Bank holiday
8 <sup>th</sup> May	-	School holiday
1 <sup>st</sup> June	-	School Holiday
4 <sup>th</sup> June	-	June Bank Holiday
27 <sup>th</sup> June	-	School closes for Summer Holidays

## *Please Note*

Unlike previous years when we closed on the Friday prior to the May Bank Holiday, this year the school will be closed on the Tuesday following the May Bank Holiday.