



# Ballinamere National School

## Newsletter

### September 2017

#### Welcome

A sincere and warm welcome to all pupils, parents and staff of Ballinamere National School. We hope 2017/2018 will be an enjoyable and rewarding year for all. A special welcome to all our new pupils. Our new Junior Infants have settled in very well and are a happy and enthusiastic young group.

#### Our Staff for 2017/2018 is as follows

**Principal:** Deirdre Cusack

**Deputy Principal:** Mary Margaret Guinan

**Junior Infants Teacher:** Evelyn Brennan

**Senior Infants Teacher:** Alison Quinn

**First Class Teacher:** Mary Margaret Guinan

**Second Class Teacher:** Fiona Brennan

**Third Class Teacher:** Johanne Hogan

**Fourth Class Teacher:** Claire O'Sullivan

**Fifth Class Teacher:** Mary Guest

**Sixth Class Teacher:** Bríd Murphy

\*Ms. Evelyn Brennan, our Junior Infant Teacher, is currently on maternity leave. Ms. Karen Maxwell is filling this vacancy. We wish Evelyn well and welcome back Karen who has worked with us previously.

#### Support Teachers

Susan Fitzsimons

Maeve O'Donovan

Mike Forde

#### Esker Autism Centre

Emer Boland

Deirdre Sheridan

Oran Fahey

#### SNAs

Siobhan Gorman, Michelle O'Brien, Mary O'Toole, Liz Molloy, Sharon Hctor, Yvonne Tierney, Breda Hackett, Evelyn Maloney, Geraldine O'Gorman, Keith Mealiffe.

\*Keith, who has subbed with us in the past, has joined our staff in a part time capacity. We extend a very warm welcome to him.

**Visiting Music Teacher:** Majella Killeen

**Secretaries:** Dolores Molloy and Ann Marie Quinn

**Cleaner:** Maria Daly

**Caretaker:** Greg Cusack

#### Procedures

- School hours are from 9.15am to 3pm. Junior and Senior Infants hours are 9.15am to 2.00pm. Punctuality before and after school is very important. **Late arrivals can cause disruption to class timetabling and work.** We strongly recommend that children not be dropped excessively early or left waiting excessively long as **the Board of Management cannot accept responsibility.**

If your child travels to school by bus, please inform bus drivers if he/she is not travelling i.e. if they are sick or have alternative arrangements. Failure to notify bus drivers causes anxiety and delay

We also request that children participating in after school activities e.g. camogie / football training be collected on time. Failure to do so causes unnecessary delay and hassle for those involved.

- Parents should drop/collect all children, including infants, at school gate. This allows for closer monitoring of people on school grounds and fosters a greater level of independence. Children to use rear doors for entry to and exit from school. However, parents who need to collect children **during school hours** please come to front door. Parents / Guardians collecting children during school hours will be required to complete a 'Signing Out Book'. Children will not be permitted to wait outside front door / gate unaccompanied. For security reasons, a coded lock has been installed at the front door. Please ring bell for entry.
- Parents are welcome to discuss any concerns they may have about their child. In order to facilitate this please make an appointment for before or after school hours. It would be appreciated if an indication of the purpose of the meeting could be given.

Children should wear full uniform at all times unless requested to do otherwise by class teacher. Tracksuits to be worn on P.E. days only. **PLAIN navy tracksuit bottoms** may be worn but branded tracksuit bottoms e.g. 'Canterbury' or other branded names are **not** to be worn. Please respect the above procedures. They are in place to ensure the smooth running of class and school. All children should have black/navy slippers for indoor use.

## Parental Contribution

To support the school in meeting ever increasing costs we politely ask for parents to make a contribution. This contribution helps cover the cost of

Pupil insurance  
 Standardised tests  
 Art and craft materials  
 Music lessons (1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> classes)  
 Buses to sports events  
 Photocopying  
 Classroom resources  
 I.T. purchase and maintenance

The rates are as follows:

- €40 per child in Junior and Senior Infants
- €70 per child from First to Sixth Class
- €150 max per family

The option to pay electronically via DebaPay will be available over the coming days. For those parents who are new to the system you will receive an email requesting bank details and a password. Once these details have been entered all future requests will require password only to approve. Please contact the school if you have any queries.

*\*Parents of new pupils who have not paid Book Rental for 2017/18 will be contacted shortly with the option of paying via DebaPay.*

## Policies

Copies of curriculum and organisational policies are available in the school on request. Some policies can also be viewed on the school website [www.ballinamerens.ie](http://www.ballinamerens.ie). We strongly encourage parents to adhere to our Healthy Eating Policy. We recommend that re-usable bottles be used in preference to cartons which cannot be sealed and add to waste. Pupils are encouraged to bring home their own waste and recycle / compost as appropriate. Also, we ask that pupils, especially those in the junior half of the school, not be given yoghurts or frubes as part of their lunch as more often than not they finish up on the floor!

**Please note our school's Mobile Phone Policy which is attached to this Newsletter. We ask for your support and co-operation in implementing this Policy.**

## **Nut Allergies**

We have a number of children with nut allergies in the school. We would greatly appreciate if children were not given nuts or nut products as part of their lunch. We will be creating awareness in the classes as part of S.P.H.E programme so that other children understand this condition. We ask for your support.

## **Property**

**PLEASE LABEL** all children's clothing and personal belongings. Every effort will be made to return found items which are clearly labelled to their owners. Unclaimed clothing will be accessible in the school foyer at regular intervals over the year e.g. Parent Teacher meetings, school holidays.

## **GAA**

School football matches have started and training for boys and girls from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class will begin this week in the school. Girls training will be on Wednesdays from 3 – 4pm. Boys training time has yet to be confirmed. A sincere thank you to Carina Carroll, Alan Scully and Orla Carey who provide the coaching at these sessions.

## **School Calendar**

Please see attached list of days off during the year. We note that parents like to avail of cheap holidays but the standardised tests will be administered between the 21<sup>st</sup> May and the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2018. If at all possible please ensure that your child is at school at this time. Tests are given in a class setting and if a child is missing special arrangements have to be made.

Thanking you for your co-operation.

The Staff

## **Dates to Remember 2017 / 2018**

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> & 23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	-	Parent Teacher Meetings
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
21 <sup>st</sup> April	-	Confirmation
7 <sup>th</sup> May	-	May Bank holiday
8 <sup>th</sup> May	-	School holiday
13 <sup>th</sup> May	-	First Communion
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

# **Parents Association**

## **Clothing Collection**

We are having a clothes collection Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> October. The school will open on the evening of Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> October 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 for the school. A reminder will be sent beforehand with details of school opening times on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **Christmas Cards**

This year the school will again participate in the Christmas Cards for Schools fundraiser. For parents unfamiliar with the process, in the classroom each child designs their own Christmas card. The children produce their work on a template provided by the printing company, which are then sent onto the printing company. Parents are then provided with one printed card (their own child's design) as a proof and can place an order. Cards come in a pack of 10. This fundraiser involves a huge amount of work for the teachers so a big 'thank you' in advance from the Parents Association.

## **Easter Cake Sale**

For the past couple of years we have held an Easter cake sale in the school. This also has proven to be a worthwhile fundraiser. Details will follow at a later date but we will be inviting pupils and parents to bake. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

## **Special Olympics**

This year the Parents Association will be making a donation to the Special Olympics. Further details to follow when a donation is made.

## **AGM**

The Parents Association AGM will be held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September in the school at 8.00pm. All are welcome.

