

December 2020 Newsletter

Ballina Primary School

Christmas Holidays:

The school will close on Tuesday 22nd of December for Christmas holidays. Collection times for that day are as follows:

- Junior Infants and Senior Infants 11:45am.
- Rang 1, Rang 2, Rang 3 will finish at 12:00pm
- Rang 4, Rang 5, Rang 6 will finish at 12:15pm

Ballina Primary School will re-open on Wednesday 6th of January 2020 at 9am.

School Admissions 2021/22:

The school will commence accepting applications for admissions into Junior Infants 2021/22 on the 18th of January 2021. The Annual Admission Notice and updated Admissions Policy have been uploaded to the school website.

The Sacrament of Confirmation:

The proposed date for the sacrament of Confirmation for the pupils of Rang 6 is Friday February 26th 2021. In the current circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic this date is provisional and subject to change depending on the General Directives of the Government at any specific time over the coming months.

Changes to Staffing in January 2021.

Múinteoir Cáit Clarke returns from maternity leave to Rang 6 after Christmas. Thanks to Múinteoir Michael Hurley for all his hard work with Rang 6 since September.

Múinteoir Máiréad O' Neill (Rang 3) will be replaced by Múinteoir Michael Hurley from January to June 2021 as she begins maternity leave. We wish Múinteoir Máiréad all the best and thank her for all she has done with Rang 3 this term.

Green Schools:

We would encourage all pupils to wear their high-vis jackets coming to school on these dark mornings. Many thanks to those who continue to bring used batteries for recycling. Also a big thank you from the Green Schools Committee to all the pupils who made Christmas decorations from recycled materials for the school Christmas tree.

Parents are asked not to leave the engine of their cars running when parked at the front of the school while collecting pupils due to air pollution concerns.

St. Anne's Transition Year Art Competition:

The Transition Year pupils from St. Anne's Community College, Killaloe ran an art competition recently for local schools. Congratulations to Amy Minihan (Rang 3), Lucy Bourke (Rang 4), Eden McMahon (Rang 6) and Evie Hass (Rang 6) who were all prize winners.

Christmas Cards for The Lakes and Ashlawn Nursing Homes.

Well done to the pupils of Múinteoir Claire's (Rang 6), Múinteoir Michael's (Rang 6) and Múinteoir David's (Rang 5) who made beautiful Christmas cards for the residents of The Lakes and Ashlawn Nursing Homes. Thanks to Anne Sheehy for co-ordinating the delivery of cards to the residents.

Run to Lapland Challenge:

Well done to all pupils on the Run to Lapland Challenge. We are currently at 2913km so we should reach Lapland before the holidays. This run challenge is part of our Active Flag submission for 2021.

Christmas Jumper Day:

We will have a Christmas Jumper Day on Tuesday 23rd of December. Children are asked to donate €2 and money raised will go to Down Syndrome, Thurles. A link will be sent via Aladdin epayments on Monday next if you wish to donate.

Wellbeing:

Wellbeing Wednesday is a new initiative which began in the school recently. On this day, children in the junior classes listened to stories which had a message to share. Simple mindful gratitude tricks and strategies to help the anxious child were explored. The senior classes worked on feelings and emotions and the connection between exercise and feeling good was discussed. We hope to continue this initiative in the New Year.

Zoom Prayer Service for Christmas:

In these unprecedented times it is difficult for us to meet as a school community and so we are continuing to use Zoom to connect with other classes. Father Tom joined us for our November prayer service and we hope to meet on Monday next for another prayer service to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

A note from the Parents Association:

Unfortunately, due to current restrictions our annual Christmas fundraising activities could not take place. This year, we are holding a 50:50 raffle, with 50% of all money collected going towards funding for the school and 50% going to the lucky prize winners. The draw will take place on Friday, 18th December.

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and sincerely thank, Bernice and all the staff, for their enormous efforts in ensuring a safe school environment for all.

As 2020 comes to a close, we would like to wish everyone all the very best for the Christmas break, may it be a safe, healthy and happy one and whatever your holiday plans are, may they be most enjoyable.

Agreed Report from the Board of Management 09/12/2020:

The Board of Management met on the 9th of December at 7:30pm.

- Múinteoir David Hickey has been appointed Assistant Principal 1. We wish him well in this new role.
- An “Integration and Inclusion of Pupils from the Special Classes into Mainstream Classroom Settings” was ratified.
- The Board of Management of Ballina Primary School would like to thank our School Inspector for visiting our school and for completing a “Supporting the Safe Provision of Schooling” Inspection on the 17th of November 2020. The content of the Department of Education and Skills Report is a timely and fitting acknowledgement of the highly effective manner in which the school community of Ballina Primary School is responding to the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. In this regard the Board of Management wishes to place on record its sincere gratitude to the children and parents of our school and to all who work in the school for their steadfast leadership and ongoing commitment at this most difficult time.

We would like to wish all families a very happy and peaceful Christmas and look forward to seeing the pupils back to school in 2021. Thank you all for your help and support since September. It has been a very successful term for all classes and we thank all our school community for working together in these unprecedented times to keep our school open safely.

