

December 2023 Newsletter

Ballina Primary School

Student Council News:

The Student Council have organised a “Christmas Jumper Day” as a fundraiser for Pieta House. This will take place on Friday 22nd of December. Payment can be made via Aladdin next week if you wish to donate.

At a recent meeting, the Student Council decided to take part in a “Food Drive” to work with Eddie O’ Gorman in Killaloe in his endeavours to help local families around Christmas. Children from Rang 3 to Rang 6 were given a list of food items/ hygiene products and asked to bring in what they could, to help make hampers. A large amount of goods has been donated. Thanks to all the families for their generous contributions.

Members of the Student Council are also preparing themselves to read Christmas books to the younger classes. Múinteoir Yvonne and Priomhoide Bernice are delighted with the help the Student Council are giving each morning. The members have been designated a class to supervise on the yard before school. They are doing a wonderful job of minding these classes every day.

Junior Infants and Senior Infants Shows:

Senior Infants will perform their Christmas play “Santa’s Hat” for parents and family members on Tuesday 19th of December at 12pm in the school hall. Senior Infant pupils will finish school early after the play that day.

Junior Infants will perform their Christmas play “Penguin Pete” for parents and family members on Wednesday 20th of December at 12pm in the school hall. Junior Infant pupils will finish school early after the play that day.

Tea/ Coffee will be served in the Halla after both shows.

Panto Trip:

Pupils from 3rd Class will attend Sleeping Beauty in the UL Concert Hall on Thursday 21st of December. They will return to school at approximately 1pm.

School Admissions 2024/25:

The school will commence accepting applications for admissions into Junior Infants 2024/25 on 8 January 2024. The Annual Admission Notice and updated Admissions Policy have been uploaded to the school website. If you have registered an interest in your son/daughter attending Junior Infants in this school next year an application form will be posted to you on January 8th 2024.

Christmas Cards for The Lakes and Ashlawn Nursing Homes:

Well done to the pupils of Rang 5 and Rang 6 who made beautiful Christmas cards for the residents of The Lakes and Ashlawn Nursing Homes. Thanks to Sarah Devane for co-ordinating the delivery of cards to the residents.

Green Schools News:

For the month of December, the Green Schools Committee is running a competition to see who can make the best Christmas decoration from recycled materials. Best of luck to all those who entered!

Wellbeing Questionnaire:

The link to our School Self-evaluation Parent Survey on Wellbeing remains open until the 22nd of December. Thank you to the parents who have already responded. Please use this link if you wish to add a response. <https://forms.office.com/e/pVWaBbADhh>

Allergies:

Some pupils in school have a severe nut allergy. In the interest of health and safety no nut or coconut products or any products containing any traces of these will be allowed in the school. Please check all lunch boxes. Thank you for your co-operation and your continued support and vigilance on this matter for the safety of everyone

Cumann na mBunscol Handball:

Well done to Molly Joyce, Ava Carey, Emily Monahan, Ella Slattery, Faye Ryan, Killian Jackman Broaders and Rhys Carey who represented our school in the Cumann na mBunscol Munster Handball last Sunday in Nenagh and Kilcoleman. Thank you to everyone in Ballina Handball Club for all their help and support to the school this term.

Agreed report from the Board of Management Meeting 13/12/23.

- Our Board of Management Chairperson, Tom Moore, welcomed our new board members as they begin their term from 2023 until 2027.
 - Patrons' Nominees: Tom Moore (Chairperson) and Eugene Power (Treasurer).
 - Teacher Nominee: Ciara O' Sullivan
 - School Principal: Bernice O' Connell
 - Parents' Representatives: Laura Darcy and John Wallace
 - Community Representatives: Emily Ryan and Joe Gilmartin.

- The Board of Management are delighted with the completion of the extension to our school consisting of two ASD classrooms, sensory room and resource room.
- The parental complaints procedure was revised and agreed by the Irish National Teachers' Organisation and the management bodies of primary schools. It is designed to provide an open and clearly defined process to facilitate parents/legal guardians in raising concerns about their own child/children in an agreed, fair and transparent manner. The procedure has been added to our school website under the policy tab.

Prayer Service:

All classes will come together in the Halla on Thursday 21st to celebrate Christmas through prayer, poem, story and song.

Message from Parents Association:

As another year draws to a close the Parents Association would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all their help and support this year.

Since September, the PA has been busy having organised a sponsored walk, supported the Halloween Disco and has raised funds for students activities through the children's Christmas cards and school calendars. There are still a few calendars remaining so if you are quick you may be able to get one from the office before January!! A special word of thanks must go to Agata and all at "Scoops" for their generous sponsorship of vouchers for the Halloween disco.

Along with their fundraising efforts, the Parents Association have worked on introducing a mobile phone/ social media voluntary code for parents.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Bernice and all the staff for their hard work and consistent effort for our children. Nollaig Shona daoibh go léir.

Christmas Holidays:

The school will close on Friday December 22nd at 12pm for Christmas holidays and will re-open on Monday 8th of January 2024 at 9am. Junior and Senior Infants will finish at 11:50am on December 22nd and will perform some Christmas carols outside the front of school (weather permitting) at 11:40am approximately. We would like to wish all families a very happy and peaceful Christmas and look forward to seeing the pupils back to school in 2024. Thank you all for your continued help and support.

