***February 2020 Newsletter***

***Ballina Primary School***

* **Enrolment for September 2020:**

Parents wishing their child to attend Ballina Primary School are requested to fill in the **Enrolment Application Form** and return it to the school by **2pm on Thursday 5th of March 2020** for entry into Junior Infants September 2020. Application Forms are available from the School Office and from the school website www.ballinaprimaryschool.com. It is the parent(s)/guardian(s) responsibility to ensure they receive and return the Enrolment Application Form by the specified date. The completion and submission of an Application Form, or the placement of your child’s name on a list, however early, does not confer an automatic right of place in the school. We will follow the Admissions Policy, which is available on the school website.

* **Hope Foundation Non-Uniform Day:**

Nine students from St Annes Community College, Killaloe, including past pupils from Ballina Primary School, will be travelling to Kolkata, India in April for a school immersion programme to help the children and families of this highly underdeveloped city. There will be a non-uniform day in school on Wednesday 19th February to raise funds in support of this initiative. Each pupil is asked to donate €2 on the day.

* **February Mid-Term Break:**

The school will be closed for Mid Term Break on the 20th and 21st of February inclusive. School will reopen on Monday 24th of February at 9:00am.

* **St. Patrick’s Day Closure:**

The school will close at 12pm on Friday 13th March 2020 to facilitate a staff training webinar on the Primary Language Curriculum. This is compulsory for all schools in Term 2 this year. The school will also be closed on Monday 16th of March and Tuesday 17th of March (bank holiday). School will re-open on Wednesday 18th March at 9am.

* **Junior Infants Vaccinations:**

Vaccinations will take place for Junior Infants in the school on the 12th of February. Times have been allocated by the Public Health Nurse.

* **Rang 2 News:**

First Penance will take place on Thursday 27th February 2020 at 7.30pm in Ballina Church. Tea/ Coffee will be served in the school after the sacrament takes place. Thanks to the Parents Association for organising the refreshments.

Thank you to all the grandparents who attended our recent Grandparents Day celebration. It was a great success. Thanks to the hard work of Múinteoir Yvonne, Múinteoir Ciara, and the pupils of Rang 2.

* **Images Art Exhibition:**

Exhibition will be held in the school hall on 1st April 2020 to showcase the pupils artwork. Parents can view and purchase artwork from 1.30pm – 3.15pm and again from 6.30pm-7.30pm.

* **Irish Dancing Display:**

This term Junior Infants, Rang 1, Rang 3 and Rang 4 will attend classes. The Dancing Display will take place on Friday 27th March 2020. Times for specific classes will follow nearer the time.

* **Allergies:**

Some pupils in school have a severe nut allergy, therefore in the interest of health and safety no nuts or any products containing any traces of nut will be allowed in the school. Please check all lunch boxes. We ask that no fish products be included in lunch boxes for the same reason. Thank you for your co-operation and your continued support and vigilance on this matter for the safety of everyone.

* **Uniforms:**

Pupils must wear a **full** school uniform to school unless it is a designated school tracksuit day.

* **Scór na bPáistí:**

**Ballina GAA club will hold the Parish final of Scór na bPáistí in Boher Hall on Sunday February 16th 2020 at 2pm. This is a great opportunity for children to get onstage and showcase their talents. For any enquiries contact Catriona on 0869729167. Children participating must be members of BALLINA GAA CLUB. For more information, please see the school website, www.ballinaprimaryschool.com.**

* **Green Schools News:**

This month we are focusing on water waste. In school, we are going to promote sensible water use. We will focus on using the mecon buttons on toilets when appropriate, turning off taps and reporting leaks and dripping taps. The Green Schools (national) water poster competition deadline is the beginning of March. Please go to the Green Schools page of our website for further details. Thank you to everyone who has made the effort to wear their hi-vis vests to school on these dark mornings.

* **Board of Management:**

Agreed report of the Board of Management Meeting 04/02/2020.

* The Anti-Bullying Policy, Special Needs Assistant Policy, Admissions Policy, and ASD Class Enrolment Policy were reviewed and ratified.
* The Whole School Music Plan was reviewed by staff and ratified by the Board of Management.
* The Board of Management would especially like to thank Eugene Power for his continued hard work and dedication as School Treasurer.
* The Board of Management wishes to express its appreciation of the continuous and varied professional development initiatives undertaken by members of the Staff of Ballina School.
* Planning permission has been approved by Tipperary County Council for a two-classroom ASD extension. Subject to approval by the Department of Education and Skills, the project should move to the tender stage in the coming months.