

February 2024 Newsletter

Ballina Primary School

❖ **Referendum Closure:**

Ballina Primary School will be closed on Friday 8th of March as the school will be used as a polling station for the referendum.

❖ **St. Patrick's Day Closure:**

The school will also be closed on Monday 18th of March for St. Patrick's Day.

❖ **Easter Holidays:**

The school will close at 12pm on Friday 22nd of March for Easter Holidays. School will reopen on Monday 8th of April at 9am.

❖ **Alice In Wonderland:**

The pupils and teachers in Rang 6 have been busy over the last number of weeks preparing for their upcoming show "Alice in Wonderland". They will perform the play for their parents and families on Thursday 29th of February in the school hall at 7pm.

❖ **Handball:**

Congratulations to Molly Joyce who reached the Cumann na mBunscol All Ireland Final (Under13) last weekend. Molly beat opponents from Connaught and Ulster but was narrowly defeated by her Leinster opponent in her final game. We are so proud of Molly and thank her for representing our school so well at Munster and All Ireland level.

❖ **Confirmation:**

Pupils preparing for Confirmation will attend a retreat in Holycross Abbey on Friday 15th of March. A payment request link is now on Aladdin to cover the cost of the retreat and the bus.

The Sacrament of Confirmation will take place on Friday 26th of April at 11am. Candidates for Confirmation and their sponsors are to be seated in the church by 10:45am. Due to the large number of pupils receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation numbers are limited in the church to two parents and a sponsor per pupil.

❖ **Rang 2 News:**

First Penance will take place on Thursday 14th of March at 7pm in Our Lady and St. Lua Church, Ballina.

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 Michelle Ryan, Múinteoir Fiona Kennedy and Múinteoir Michelle O' Gorman and the pupils of Rang 2!

❖ **Clare FM Visit:**

We had a lovely visit from Colm McGrath from Clare FM recently. He recorded our Banna Ceol playing a few pieces of music and Rang 6 singing a song from their upcoming show. He also interviewed some pupils on their interests and school activities. They featured on his morning show on Clare FM for a week. Thanks to Colm for crossing the bridge into Tipperary to include us on the show!

❖ **School Tours:**

A number of school tours have already been organised by class teachers and the payment link is available on Aladdin. There is no rush with payment, it is to allow parents to spread the cost out if needed.

❖ **Green Schools News:**

We are currently renewing our energy saving programme in Ballina school. The committee and pupils are monitoring energy use and making sure lights and interactive boards are switched off when not needed.

We hope to plant some flowers and plants in the coming weeks. If anyone wishes to donate seeds or plants to the school they would be greatly appreciated.

❖ **Science News:**

As a part of our school's application for a Gold Curious Minds Award for Science we are running an engineering competition for 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th classes. The competition is voluntary and will be completed outside of the classroom. Pupils bring in their creation on the appointed day and we will test them all.

In order to enter the competition pupils will need to design and build a car-like machine that can travel for at least five metres in a straight line. It must be capable of carrying an object (a golf ball) without it falling off. The ball will be supplied on the day.

What the device looks like and is made of is up to each individual. However, a shop-bought kit is not permitted. The device must be homemade (although you may use motors, batteries, Lego, recycled materials and other little components that may be lying around). The first week of March (Engineer's Week) is the deadline. Family members are allowed to help. Projects can be worked on individually or in groups no larger than two. Best of luck to everyone.

Reminders:

- **Office Opening Hours:** Monday- Friday 9am-10:45am, 11:00am-12:00pm, 12:30pm- 2:40pm
- **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. Thank you for your co-operation and your continued support and vigilance on this matter for the safety of everyone.
- **Morning Supervision:** Children are supervised from 8:45am only each morning. The Board of Management is not responsible for children's safety

before 8:45am. Please do not drop your child to the school before 8:45am as supervision is not in place.

- **Uniform for 3rd to 6th Classes:** Full School uniform / school tracksuit to be worn on appropriate days. This includes school jumpers, ties and school tracksuit tops where appropriate. Shorts are not permitted until after the Easter Holidays.
- **Medical Needs:** If your child has medical needs/ issues the school needs to be made aware of this. Please contact the office to set up an appointment to discuss a medical care needs plan (eg asthma, diabetes, epilepsy). Parents are reminded to update the school of any changes to current medical care plans.