***January 2020 Newsletter***

***Ballina Primary School***

* **County Colours Day Friday 17th of January:**

The Tipperary Cumann na mBunscol have asked schools to host a once off COUNTY COLOURS DAY on Friday the 17th of January 2020 to make all schools aware that they are hosting the National Cumann na mBunscol awards night and AGM in March and to collect funds to offset the costs. As our school teams play in tournaments organised by Cumann na mBunscol we will be taking part in this event. Each pupil may wear their county colours, club colours or ordinary clothes on Friday 17th of January. They are asked to contribute €2 each on the day.

* **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.

* **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.

* **Junior Infants Vaccinations:**

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

* **Attendance:**

The school is obliged under the Education (Welfare) Act 2000 to inform the Educational Welfare Services of the Child and Family Agency if your child has missed 20 or more days in a school year. If your child is absent you must inform the school that your child cannot attend and the reason why. You can do this by writing a note to the class teacher or by telephoning the school. If your child attends the doctor due to illness please provide a medical certificate. For more information our “Statement Strategy for School Attendance” is available on the school website. Letters will be sent to parents highlighting absences once a pupil has reached 11 or more days so that parents are aware of the number of absences during the school year.

* **The Waterman’s Lodge Collection**:

 Rang 2 made a collection for The Waterman’s Lodge at their performance before Christmas and raised €177. Thank you to all who contributed.

* **Speech and Drama:**

Speech and Drama will return on Tuesday 21st January 2020.

* **Images Art Exhibition:**

Exhibition will be held in the school hall on 1st April 2020 to showcase the pupils artwork. Times will allocated nearer the time.

* **Catholic Schools Week:**

Catholic Schools Week is taking place across Ireland from Sunday 26th of January to Sunday 2nd of February. The theme for the week is “Living in Harmony with God’s Creation”. Grandparents’ Day will take place in the school hall for grandparents of pupils in Rang 2 on Friday 31st of January at 1:30pm. Class teachers will provide more details in the coming weeks.

* First Communion will take place on Sunday May 10th 2020 at 1pm in Ballina Church.
* First Penance will take place on Thursday February 27th at 7:30pm in Ballina Church.
* Confirmation will take place on Friday April 24th at 11am in Ballina Church.
* **Green Schools News:**

The Green Schools committee would like to wish everyone a happy and environmentally aware new year. Alongside revising our present green school programs, there will be a focus on marine litter and plastic in the oceans for our next flag. We are going to put a spotlight on the use of plastics throughout the school in the months ahead. Keep an eye out for new posts on the green schools page on our school website for updates as our work proceeds.

***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.
* ***Mobile Phones***: Mobile phones are not allowed in school. However, if it is necessary for your child to have a phone so that they can be contacted after school, phones are to be turned off and kept in school bag until school is over. If a child is found using a mobile phone in school or a phone turned on in school, it will be confiscated. Parents are called in to collect it.
* ***Car Park***: Car Park is only for staff parking. Parents can drop off only at roundabout at end of car park. Please be very careful entering and leaving car park as well as reversing from car park in front of school. Please do not park in the disability parking space unless permitted to do so. Please do not park on the footpath directly opposite the front of the school.
* ***Expenses***: There are a number of families who have not yet paid their expenses for the 2019/2020 school year. If you have not already paid the school expenses, could you kindly do so as soon as possible. Thank you to everyone who has already paid.