

## March 2024 Newsletter.

### Ballina Primary School.

#### St. Patrick's Day:

The school will be closed on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> of March for St. Patrick's Day. School will re-open on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> of March at 9am.

Tá Seachtain na Gaeilge ar siúl ó 1ú – 17ú Márta 2024. Tá cúpla focail ag gach duine. Bain úsáid as.

We will hold our annual Lá Glas on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> of March. Children are encouraged to wear green on this day to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

#### Easter Holidays:

The school will close for Easter holidays on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> of March at 12pm. The school will reopen on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> of April at 9am.

We will be holding a non-uniform day fundraiser on the day of the Easter holidays for Ballina Handball Club. All funds raised will go towards repairing the roof of the handball alley. If you wish to donate a payment request will be sent via Aladdin or children can bring cash on the day.

#### Parents Association:

- Clothes Drive: The Parents Association will be collecting unwanted clothes, shoes, handbags, belts, curtains and bed linen after Easter which we can turn into cash for our school activities. So please keep us in mind as you spring-clean your wardrobe! Bags will be accepted from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> of April, with collection on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> of April.
- Just a reminder that First Penance takes place this Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm in Ballina Church. Parents and children are invited to the school afterwards for a cup of tea and light refreshments. This event is kindly hosted by the Parents Association.

#### Green School News:

Between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of March as part of Green Schools initiative children in Ballina Primary School will participate in The Big Travel Challenge. We are encouraging children to travel to school in a sustainable way. Children can walk, cycle, car pool or park and stride. If walking or cycling please ensure that your child wears a "hi viz" and a cycling helmet if cycling. We are however trying to emphasise **Walking** and **Park and Stride**.

There will be a **WOW Day On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March.**

We will have the usual meeting points at;

- THE GAA FIELD
- THE HANDBALL ALLEY
- THE CHURCH

where the children can meet at 8.45am onwards and walk to school as a group with the teachers. Thank you for your continued support of Green Schools in Ballina Primary School.

### **FAI 5-a side Soccer:**

Well done to our girls' teams who took part in the FAI 5-a side soccer blitz in Ballymackey on the 26<sup>th</sup> of February. They represented our school so well displaying great soccer skills and teamwork. Players included Alisha Ryan, Kayla Moroney, Ava Moroney, Tess Noonan, Emma Kenny, Íde Maguire, Evie Finn, Lily Crowe, Lucy McCall, Caoimhe Coughlan, Ashling Walsh, Sofiya Kol, Hayley Hammond, Rosie O' Donovan, Molly Sheeran and Anisha Grant.

Well done also to all the boys who took part in the FAI 5-a side soccer blitz in Ballymackey on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March. Our first team of Dáire O' Malley, Conor Stritch, Marcin Tomala, Connor Kaczorak, Aaron Hickey, Danny Houlihan, Toryn Grant and Michael Elliott were very competitive on the day. Congratulations to our second team who qualified for and won the county final in Two Mile Borris on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March. They will now represent Tipperary in the Munster Finals on the 16<sup>th</sup> of May in Cahir Park AFC. The team members were Henry O' Connell, Ryan Noonan, Fergal O' Shaughnessy, Cillian Coughlan, Packie Gallagher, Tiernan Farr Ó Maoláin, Jason Bissette and Sam Crowley.

### **Scór na bPáistí:**

Congratulations to all our pupils who took part in Scór na bPáistí at parish level in Boher, in Portroe and more recently in Newport at the North Final last weekend. Congratulations most especially to Emily Monaghan who won the solo singing event and our Ballad Group comprising of Ruán Hyland, Emily Monaghan, Lucia Neary, and Cuileann Gallery. These children will represent Ballina GAA and North Tipperary in the County Final on March 24<sup>th</sup> in Cashel.

### **Annual Engineering Competition.**

This year pupils from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Classes were asked to design and build a car that could travel 5 metres in a straight line while carrying a golf ball. The entries were a joy to see. There were so many different ideas. Not everything worked, but everyone learned from the experience and had a good time. To see these wonderful cars, visit the school website and check under the Curious Minds Science tab.

**Éile Ronayne (3<sup>rd</sup> Class)** made the overall winning entry with a truly impressive car. Well done to everyone who participated and thanks to our Chairperson, Tom Moore, for judging the entries on the day.

Entrants were as follows:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> class: **Clara Gale & Liliana Baczkowska - 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Winners**

Well done also to Sammy Robinson, Ostap Vyshtykaliuk, Ryan Quigley, Matthew Cunningham, Alan Costello, Skylar Koyce and George Fitzgerald.

- 4<sup>th</sup> class: **Joni Ryan - 4<sup>th</sup> Class Winner**

Well done also to Fiadh Hogan and Kate Woulfe.

- 5<sup>th</sup> class: **Peter Hanna - 5<sup>th</sup> class winner**

Well done also to Sam Sheedy, Lakota Koyce, Oran Morgan, Anisha Grant and Conor Gibbs.

- 6<sup>th</sup> class: **Sophia O'Brien and Amy Minihan - 6<sup>th</sup> class winners.**

### **Participation of 5th Class Children in Ennis Chess Tournament**

Children from Ballina Primary School made history by participating in the inaugural Féile Fichille Chess Tournament held in Ennis. A total of 160 enthusiastic children from over ten schools all over Tipperary and Clare eagerly took part in the event.

Two teams entered from Ballina, each comprising of eight children, who demonstrated remarkable dedication and sportsmanship throughout the event. Despite being the first-time entrants, the children displayed commendable enthusiasm and determination.

Each participant engaged in six matches, showcasing their strategic thinking, problem-solving skills, and resilience in the face of challenges. The children embraced the opportunity to test their abilities on the chessboard, experiencing both the thrill of victory and the valuable lessons inherent in defeat. Team members- Soren Houghton, Oran Morgan, Zach Lennon, Ryan Darcy, Alba Bernal O'Brien, Killian Allison, Alex Moloney, Molly Fitzgibbon, Daniel O' Connor, Oskar Luettge O' Flynn, Sam Sheehy, Patrick Cullinane, Conor Gibbs, Peter Hanna, Pawel Zielinski and Seán Harte.

### **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

### **Agreed Report by the Board of Management 21<sup>st</sup> of February 2024:**

- The Board of Management hopes to upgrade the yard surfaces of the school during their term 2023-2027.
- The Board of Management would like to thank parents for the feedback given on the recent school survey on Wellbeing. A School Self Evaluation and Improvement Plan are being drafted based on data collected from pupils, parents and staff.